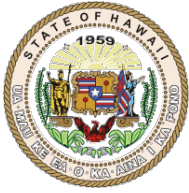


David Y. Ige
Governor



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
WAI'ANAE HIGH SCHOOL

85-251 Farrington Highway Wai'anae, Hawaii 96792
Phone 697-9400•Fax 697-7018
EIN 99-0266482

Disa Hauge
Principal



March 15, 2016

To: Parents & Guardians of Wai'anae High Students
Fr: Disa Hauge, Principal
RE: Update on Terroristic Threat Written on a Bathroom Stall

Although the situation has been handled, I want to let you know the sequence of events that happened and to thank all of the parents who called or came in to let us know of the incident.

1. Just over a week ago, a bomb threat attributed to an unknown WHS freshman who claimed to be the child of 'Isis generals' was posted on social media. The picture was of a student from another school. The administration of that school was contacted to follow up with the student depicted in the picture as we had received no reports of such language written on our campus.
2. Last night, there was a post of the same threat and subsequent reposting by other students. We received multiple notices beginning at 6 am this morning of the posted threats.
3. School Administration isolated each student who posted or reposted the threat in order to determine whether the threat was credible or not and attempted to identify the possible writer. We checked the campus for suspicious packages and found none. We were able to confirm that a threat was written in a stall in a building restroom. Apparently, the message had been written there and several students had seen it but did not consider it serious enough to report it to a school staff member.
4. HPD followed standard protocol, took evidence, swept the campus, and found no credible leads.
5. When school resumes after spring break, all classes will receive information about the responsibility when using social media and the law.
6. Specifically, the following information will be shared with all students:
 - a. In order to keep our campus safe, everyone needs to report to a teacher or an administrator anything they see or hear that might be a threat to the safety and wellbeing of everyone on the WHS campus. It is not ok to post it: the threat is a crime.
 - b. Everyone is responsible for whatever he or she posts on social media.
 - i. It is not ok to post a threat as it is a criminal violation, say, 'I didn't post it first.' because if you reposted it, you may be considered responsible as it can be perceived as a threat or a danger to others.
 - c. Under the law, you cannot say 'I didn't know.' You are still responsible.
 - d. These are the most common crimes committed on social media:
 - i. Harassment: Cyberbullying that repeatedly makes someone feel intimidated.

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

- ii. Threats & terroristic threatening: Making people believe they are going to be hurt.
- e. When the police respond to a threat to public safety because the posting causes significant community fear and alarm, then it is a crime and perpetrators will be prosecuted.
- f. There is no such thing as ‘deleting the posting’ because the police can trace the threat electronically, especially when it is a felony.

Please discuss the responsible use of social media with your teenager and make clear your expectations for their behavior and maintaining the pride and honor we all feel for our school. Also, we thank you for partnering with us to address this issue and sharing the postings so we could identify students and deal with the concern. Our goal is to continue to work with you to keep all of our children safe. We will continue to monitor social media for any concerns and ask that you report to us any situations that may jeopardize the health and wellbeing of our students.