

# Ka Lau


February 6, 2018

2017/2018, Issue 9



## Almost Half a Million is Coming Our Way!

In December, LCPCS was informed that it is to receive almost half a million dollars of additional funding from the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE). That funding will be used through next year (starting now!), and additional funding will be available for the 2019/2020 year as well, although that amount will depend on a HIDOE progress review next fall. How did this happen?



HAWAII STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS  
**TITLE I SCHOOLWIDE PLAN**  
SY 2017-2018, 2018-2019, 2019-2020  
*Prepared in collaboration with the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission*

School: Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter School  
School Address: PO Box 189, Laupāhoehoe, HI 96764  
School Phone Number: 808-962-2200  
School Website: [www.lcpcs.org](http://www.lcpcs.org)

Submitted by Romeo Garcia  
Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Pam Elders  
Local School Board Chair's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledged by Charter School Commission's Executive Director  
Executive Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by HIDOE – School Transformation Branch  
STB Director's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To back up a bit, HIDOE, as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (which basically replaced the No Child Left Behind Act), has to put aside 7 percent of the Title 1 Part A funds it receives from the Federal Government to give to schools engaged in a Comprehensive School Improvement process. Laupāhoehoe is one of 18 schools in Hawai'i eligible for those funds, because it has low graduation rates. Of course, this is largely due to LCPCS's very small graduating class sizes; if just one student doesn't graduate, our "graduation rate" drops significantly.

However, nobody hesitated when LCPCS was asked to provide a three-year plan to "enhance and accelerate" our improvement efforts. Primary team members (Director Garcia, Māhea Yamashita, Jessica Kaneakua and Kau'i Trainer), along with secondary team members (Kaulana Smith, Kurtis Sherer, Clif Johnson, Josie Harding, Savin Knoblauch and Tracy Jardine), came together under the leadership of project manager Kāhele Nahale-a to work out a plan. The timing was good, said Ms. Nahale-a, because it gave the team a chance to revise the LCPCS Academic Plan with Director Garcia, who had just barely come on board when the previous Academic Plan was written.

First, the teams completed a Comprehensive Needs Assessment, which included consideration of recommendations provided by the WASC Visiting Committee in April 2017. During this process, the teams identified three major needs: 1) a better understanding of demographic, academic and school process data to maximize student learning; 2) intervention systems for academics and behavior to remove roadblocks to student advancement; and 3) greater college and career readiness. Next, a plan was put together to address these focus areas with practices that are evidence-based (a requirement of the application, which just means that these practices have been shown to work elsewhere). "We were purposeful in seeking strategies that could provide impact across multiple areas, creating coherence and maximizing resources," said Ms. Nāhale-a.



In a nutshell, the money will be used for:

- Contracting an intervention specialist in academics

- 6 part-time teacher positions in elementary math, literacy, and English language arts (ELA), and secondary math, science and ELA
- Hiring a coordinator for the Waipunalei Program (social/emotional behavior support)
- Establishing a school counselor position for college and career readiness
- Professional development in project-based learning, social and emotional learning, and career and technical education pathways
- A school database administrator

What’s really special about this funding, said Director Garcia, is that we, unlike many schools, got everything we asked for. (LCPCS’s three-year request was for \$798,458, although the exact funding for the 2019/2020 school year depends on the progress review.) “I would say the school did a very thorough revision to their CNA,” said Cindy Henry, Education Specialist with the School Transformation Branch of HIDOE, “focusing on problems/solutions that the school can impact/control, and having a clearly articulated plan to implement, monitor, and meet their desired outcomes.” Way to go teams!

## Another Newsletter Makes an Appearance

### The Laupahoehoe Rad Kids News

A Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School Elementary Special Education Project  
Fall/Winter Semester 2017

### A New Playground!

An interview with Mr. Garcia  
By Adeliza Torres and Victor  
Rivero

Adeliza: Is it true that there is going to be a new playground built for us kids?  
Mr. Garcia: Yes, there is going to be a new playground built for the elementary side and one for preschool too.

Victor: When is the playground going to be started?  
Mr. Garcia: We’ve started looking at plans. Because we’re working with a larger organization, the Department of Education, which is a group that is in charge of all the school, we don’t know exactly when the construction will start. I’m hoping the construction can start next semester.

Adeliza: When is the playground going to be finished?  
Mr. Garcia: It would be great if it could be finished by the start of next school year.

Adeliza: Is it going to be made from wood, plastic or metal?  
Mr. Garcia: I think it’s going to be a combination of plastic and metal.

Victor: That’s what I see a lot of the other schools replacing their equipment with.



The newspaper staff on our current play equipment.

Adeliza: How tall is it going to be?  
Mr. Garcia: Probably a little taller than the old one.

Adeliza: Can there be a teeter totter?  
Mr. Garcia: A new thing I remember from the plans is that there will be a disc that kids can sit on that spins around. Only two kids can get on a teeter totter at a time but the disc will hold a lot of people.

Adeliza: Can we have trees planted around the playground for shade?  
Mr. Garcia: I don’t know. One thing is when we start to plant trees we have to think about how much space is available and what kind of trees to plant that will give shade. One of the ideas we have is to put a canopy or tent that’s open at the sides for shade.

Victor: How big is it going to be?  
Mr. Garcia: It will need to fit in the same area as the playground that is there now, so it will be about the same size.

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Ka Lau has some competition!

As part of her elementary class, Special Education Teacher Alisa Tripp has some of her students editing their own newsletter! Fourth and fifth graders have put out one issue so far, covering such diverse topics as plans for a new playground, the piggery, and how to make a pizza. It also contains cartoons, interviews and a Dear Abby column with a kid actually named Abby. “They really enjoyed (making) it,” says Ms. Tripp, “and loved interviewing.” The students came up with questions, wrote them out, and practiced reading them as part of an emphasis on functional reading and writing skills, following directions, solving real-life puzzles, and communicating with the community. They shared their newsletter with friends and teachers, and posted it near the school office.

## Seasider Spotlight



Food Service Manager  
Anthony (Tony) Nunez

LCPCS Food Service Manager Anthony (Tony) Nunez says he has been in the cooking business for about 15 years. Get this: for awhile he was the lead cook for Apple Computers in Cupertino, California. Talk about a big budget. “It was pretty fun, but a lot of stress,” Mr. Nunez says.

Born and raised in San Jose, Mr. Nunez moved to Hawai’i about two and a half years ago with his wife, Maile, and two beautiful daughters, Jasmine (9) and Carly (5). They were ready for a change of pace, and for Maile, who has family here, it was like coming home. He loves to fish, and has recently started making jewelry out of large ‘opih shells. He says he and the kids pick up trash at local beaches to teach the girls to take care of the land, and to set a good example. Kudos to the Nunez(es)!