



# Waimea Canyon Middle School



School Code: 464

Grades 6-8

## School Status and Improvement Report School Year 2007-08



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### School Address:

Waimea Canyon Middle School  
9555 Huakai Road  
Waimea, Hawaii 96796

### Focus On Standards

This School Status and Improvement Report has been prepared as part of the Department's education accountability system to provide regular, understandable accounts of our schools' performance and progress, as required by §302A-1004, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

This report describes the school and its setting; provides information about the school's administrators, teachers, students and facilities; summarizes progress made based on the school's improvement plan, and reports student achievement results along with other vital signs.

### School Description

Waimea Canyon Middle School (WCMS) is a public school located in the town of Waimea on the western side of the island of Kaua'i. The school began as a K-8 school from 1972 and during the school year 2007-2008, the school transitioned to a middle school for grades 6-8. Students from the neighboring communities of Kekaha, Waimea, Pakala, Makaweli, Kaumakani, and 'Ele'ele make up the school population. Students from Kalaheo may join WCMS as sixth graders.

The community includes historical sites such as Russian Fort, Captain Cook's Landing and Menehune Ditch. Other notable facilities includes West Kaua'i Technology and Visitor Center and West Kauai Medical Center.

WCMS serves an economically disadvantaged community. WCMS has been a Title I school for eight years. In spite of our efforts, we have had difficulty attaining Adequate Yearly Progress. To help our students become proficient in the standards, we identified barriers to learning and began to target the use of specific interventions. Based on the Hawaii State Assessment data, the school decided to focus on improving students' constructed responses. This school year, we had two external providers working with our school. Dr. Pascarella helped to set middle school practices and structures in place and Dr. Lippiatt worked with our teachers on the use of instructional strategies to promote student learning.

The principals in the West Complex are part of the Change Leadership Group and work together to create a seamless K-12 comprehensive continuum in curriculum, instruction and assessment.

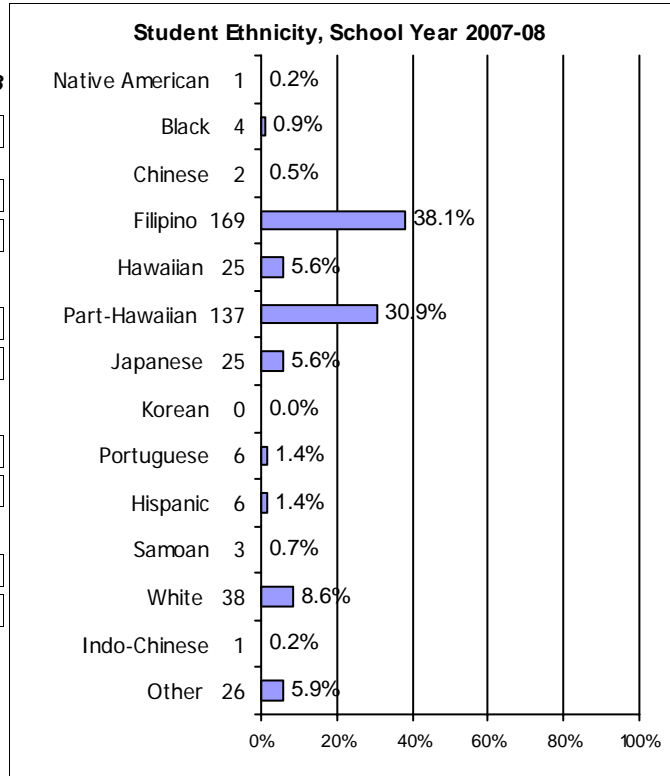
The School Community Council has representatives from six component areas who meet monthly to address school improvement topics and along with the needs of the school. Topics of discussion have included the Hawaii State Assessment data, the academic and financial plans, feedback from the accreditation visiting team, intervention programs for students, parent involvement opportunities, implementing school-wide behavioral expectations, etc.

Ties to the community are through the Parent Community Networking Center, School Community Council, the Parent Teacher Student Organization, parent conferences, "Family Night" activities and middle school team events. Through the Adopt-A-School initiative, WCMS community partner is Science Applications International Corporation. To promote career awareness, community members in different occupations are invited to participate in our school wide Career Day. Because Waimea Canyon School understands the important influence families have in their children's learning, the Family Focus Team has initiated programs such as Parent Project, Parent Literacy Nights, Family Summit.

School Setting

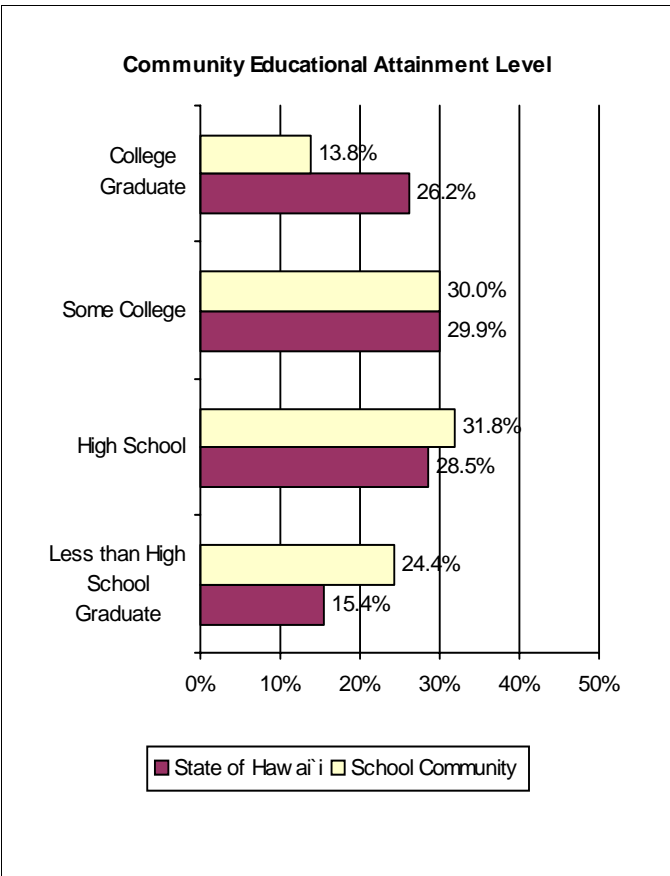
Student Profile

School year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Fall enrollment	486	460	438
Number and percent of students enrolled for the entire school year	468 96.3%	441 95.9%	418 95.4%
Number and percent of students receiving free or reduced-cost lunch	224 46.1%	214 46.5%	197 45.0%
Number and percent of students in Special Education programs	46 9.5%	37 8.0%	25 5.7%
Number and percent of students with limited English proficiency	20 4.1%	18 3.9%	23 5.3%



Community Profile Based on the 2000 U.S. Census

West Kauai Complex	School Community	State of Hawai'i
Total population	10,683	1,211,537
Percentage of population aged 5-19	24.0%	20.6%
Median age of population	38.5	36.2
Number of families	2,683	287,068
Percentage of families with children under 18	45.8%	45.0%
Percentage of families with children headed by a single mother	17.7%	18.3%
Average family size	3.3	3.42
Median household income	\$43,132	\$49,820
Percent of households with Public Assistance income	11.0%	7.6%
Percent of families with children living in poverty	12.5%	11.2%



## School Improvement

### Summary of Progress

**Inclusiveness:** Focus groups meet throughout the school year to discuss and review the goals in our Academic/Financial Plans. The FOL process involves members of all stakeholder groups. Our School Community Council discussed and shared the Academic/Financial Plan with the general school community. Student Voices, a student organization composed of representatives from each advisory has taken the role of sharing, discussing and advocating issues and concerns from a student's point of view.

**Purposefulness:** Posters of our school's vision, mission and the General Learner Outcomes have been placed in prominent campus locations and in the classrooms. The school's vision and mission statements will be emphasized at school functions to instill sustainability. Our Quality Student Support Focus Group revised our Positive Behavior Plan to ensure that our plan addresses the needs of our students and that supports are in place for students who would benefit from additional assistance.

**Student-Focused Efforts:** The Hawaii State Assessment data is organized in a database to identify trends as well as students needing additional support. Based on this data, teachers identified constructed response as an area for school-wide focus. All content teachers worked with Academic Coaches to develop writing strategies in classrooms to help improve students' constructed responses. Teachers met by departments to analyze students' writings through the use of a rubric. Additional support was provided for students based on teachers' recommendation through the use of reading interventions and after school tutoring.

**Action-Orientation:** Ongoing support is provided by Title I, KWP (Kauai Writing Program), Migrant Education Grant, ACHIEVE 3000 and CSSS so all students have a standards-based education. An external provider, Marilyn Lippiatt, through Quality Education Solutions continues to work with the school in the attainment of student proficiency through the standards and benchmarks as assessed in the Hawaii State Assessment. Dr. Pascarelli continued to work with the Leadership Team in establishing and implementing middle school practices and structures.

**Accountability:** Hawaii State Assessment data provided teachers the information needed to identify students as well as subgroups needing support to reach proficiency. Teachers and support staff used this information to plan interventions. Articulation days were available for departments to use to provide discussion time for student work and assessment.

Benchmark Tracker/Learner continues to be the means to measure school-wide proficiency in meeting the benchmarks for each quarter. The results provided the teachers the opportunity to examine test questions through item analysis and the vehicle to articulate and to formulate a plan to support student learning.

**Leadership:** The school continues to receive support from the Critical Ally Team (CAT) which is composed of the West Complex School Renewal Specialist and Resource Teachers in the implementation of standards-based practices and in the facilitation of the FOL process. Representatives of the School's Leadership Team facilitated discussions with their focus groups. It is the school's intent that Teacher-Leaders continue to be nurtured and developed.

Evaluate the implementation of the Academic Financial Plan. The majority of the goals in the Academic Financial Plan were either met or ongoing. Meeting in focus groups ensured that goals were assessed and modified as needed. As a school, we plan to continue working on the goals to ensure depth and sustainability.

Describe changes, adjustments, and/or modification to the plan.

We continued to focus on constructed responses as a school-wide effort, but pulled in other elements such as critical thinking and academic vocabulary into the content areas. We received assistance from the Academic Coaches, the West Complex SRS and Resource teachers along with Lippiatt, our external provider. The academic coaches met with the departments and individual teachers in an effort to improve classroom instruction. Math intervention and reading intervention will be offered as electives next year to provide support for students who are below proficiency. Professional development concerning Middle School practices as well as effective instructional strategies will continue.

## School Resources

### Certified Staff

#### Teaching Staff

<b>Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>		29.5
Regular Instruction, FTE	88.1%	26.0
Special Instruction, FTE	10.2%	3.0
Supplemental Instruction, FTE	1.7%	0.5
Teacher headcount		31
Teachers with 5 or more years at this school		17
Teachers' average years of experience		13.0
Teachers with advanced degrees		5

#### Professional Teacher Credentials

Fully licensed	74.2%	23
Provisional credential	22.6%	7
Emergency credential	3.2%	1

#### Students per Teaching Staff \*

Regular Instruction	15.6
Special Instruction	8.3

\* Regular instruction includes both regular and supplemental teaching staff and does not include mainstreamed special education students. Therefore, these figures do not indicate class size.

#### Administrative and Student Services Staff

Administration, FTE *	4.0
Librarians, FTE	1.0
Counselors, FTE	2.0
Number of principals at this school in the last five years	2

\* Administration includes Principals, Vice-Principals, Student Activity Coordinators, Student Services Coordinators, Registrars, and Athletic Directors

### Facilities

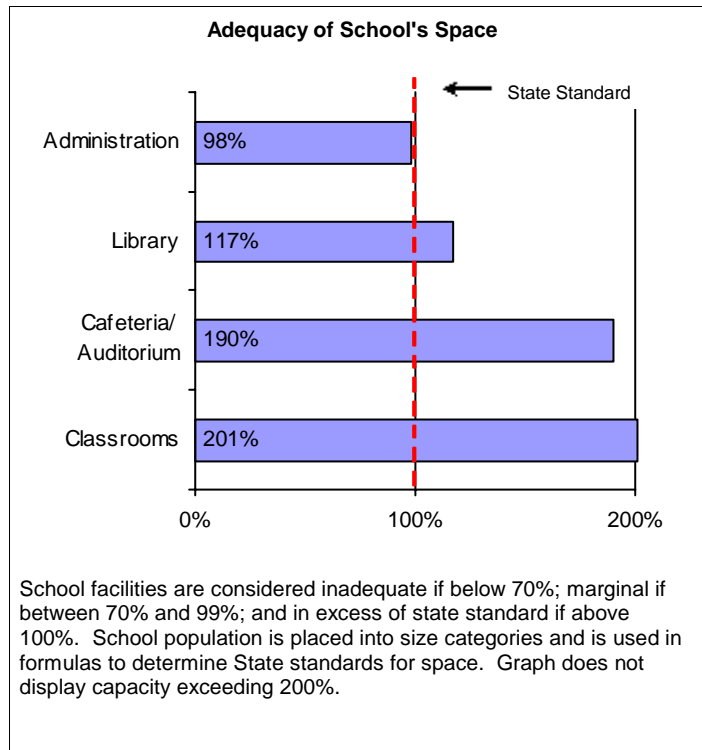
School Year Ending 2008

Classrooms available	38
Number of classrooms short (-) or over (+)	9

	Score		
	1	2	3
Grounds			3
Building exterior			3
Building interior			3
Equipment/Furnishings			3
Health/Safety			3
Sanitation			3
<b>Total</b>		18	

For each category:  
1 = Unacceptable; 2 = Satisfactory; 3 = Very Good

**For Total:**  
6-8 = Unacceptable; 9-15 = Satisfactory;  
16-18 = Very Good



## Vital Signs

### School Quality Survey

The School Quality Survey (SQS), administered periodically by the System Evaluation and Reporting Section, is used for strategic planning and to comply with state accountability requirements.

#### Percent of Positive Responses

School Quality Survey <sup>*</sup>		Teachers		Parents		Students	
		School	State	School	State	School	State
Dimensions							
Standards-Based Learning	2007	83.4%	86.2%	74.9%	68.7%	53.6%	56.9%
	2008	87.3%	86.7%	66.3%	68.1%	61.0%	63.1%
Quality Student Support	2007	60.9%	73.2%	64.2%	60.9%	39.6%	43.3%
	2008	53.6%	70.5%	60.1%	62.9%	46.2%	48.6%
Professionalism & System Capacity	2007	50.0%	67.3%	74.1%	67.2%	55.1%	60.3%
	2008	56.3%	74.1%	57.1%	66.7%	60.7%	65.3%
Coordinated Team Work	2007	58.5%	72.9%	64.5%	52.0%	54.0%	50.1%
	2008	64.3%	67.1%	60.4%	56.7%	63.6%	61.1%
Responsiveness of the System	2007	55.6%	75.2%	61.3%	57.4%	There are no student items for this dimension	
	2008	58.3%	74.7%	54.3%	58.6%		
Focused & Sustained Action	2007	56.7%	72.2%	63.2%	51.1%	48.7%	48.8%
	2008	57.1%	71.3%	51.9%	52.8%	61.1%	63.6%
Involvement	2007	54.8%	76.2%	58.9%	56.2%	54.6%	53.5%
	2008	46.9%	64.3%	55.5%	59.4%	50.8%	54.2%
Satisfaction	2007	30.0%	58.8%	62.4%	59.5%	45.8%	49.0%
	2008	20.8%	60.8%	64.8%	68.2%	53.6%	59.1%
Student Safety & Well Being	2007	65.6%	75.6%	60.4%	59.0%	41.2%	43.1%
	2008	57.1%	72.8%	59.9%	62.2%	45.9%	47.6%
Survey Return Rate <sup>**</sup>	2007	40.0%	75.8%	20.4%	18.9%	87.4%	85.1%
	2008	29.6%	75.8%	24.9%	18.9%	60.6%	85.1%

<sup>\*</sup> State Teacher and Parent positive response figures are one of 4 grade spans (Gr. K to 5/6, Gr. 6/7 to 8, Gr. 9 to 12, and Multi-level) that best correspond to this school's grade span. The Student positive response figures for the State and this school are those of the highest grade level surveyed at this school.

<sup>\*\*</sup> State Return Rate for Teachers, Parents, and Students are for one of 6 grade spans (i.e., Gr. K to 5/6, Gr. K to 7/8, Gr. K to 12, Gr. 6/7 to 8, Gr. 6 to 12, and Gr. 9 to 12) that correspond to this school's grade span.

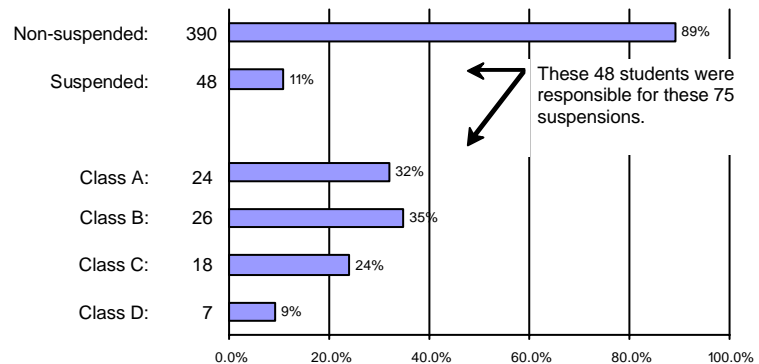
Vital Signs

Student Conduct

Attendance and Absences

School Year			State Standard
2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
Average Daily Attendance: % (higher is better)			95.0%
95.1%	94.8%	94.2%	
Average Daily Absences: in days (lower is better)			9
8.6	9.2	10.3	

Suspensions, School Year 2007-2008



Examples of class of suspension:

- Class A: Burglary, robbery, sale of dangerous drugs
- Class B: Disorderly conduct, trespassing
- Class C: Class cutting, insubordination, smoking
- Class D: Contraband (e.g. possession of tobacco)

School Retention

Retention for elementary schools include students in all grades except kindergarten who were retained (kept back a grade). Retention for middle/intermediate schools include only eighth graders who were not promoted to ninth grade. Starting in 2004, eighth grade retention calculations that conform to NCLB requirements are used.

	Retention		
	2006	2007	2008
Total number of students	154	155	149
Percent retained in grade	0%	1%	0%

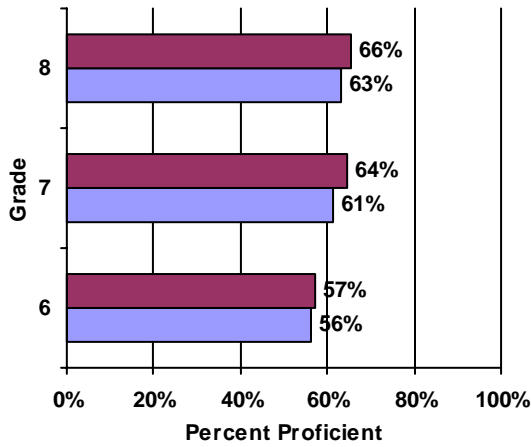
Note. "--" means missing data.

"\*" means data not reported to maintain student confidentiality (see FERPA).

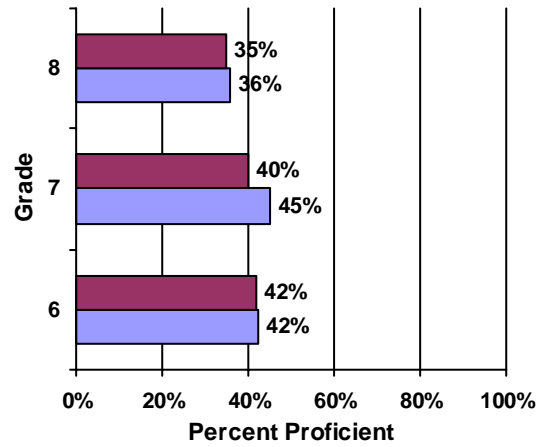
Vital Signs

Hawaii State Assessment

HCPS Reading



HCPS Mathematics



School State

A bar may not be shown to maintain student confidentiality (see FERPA).

HCPS Science

Grade	Percent Proficient	
	School	State
7	31%	37%

The HCPS Science assessment is given in grades 5, 7 and 11.

HCPS Writing

Grade	Average Score	
	School	State
6	2.1	2.3

Writing scores range from a low of 0 to a high of 4. The figures show the average score for each grade level tested. The HCPS Writing assessment is given in grades 4, 6, 9, and 11.

TerraNova, 2nd Edition

Percent Average and Above

Grade	Reading National Norm is 77%		Mathematics National Norm is 77%	
	School	State	School	State
6	80%	77%	77%	73%
7	65%	70%	71%	72%
8	81%	80%	80%	76%

The TerraNova is a national norm-reference assessment with 9 stanine levels. Scores in stanines 1 to 3 represent "Below Average," and scores in stanines 4 to 9 represent "Average and Above."

Note. From 2006-2007, the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards (HCPS) III and TerraNova assessments were used.

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## Other School Information

Waimea Canyon Middle School was accredited in 2006 by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges for a period of three years with a mid-term review.

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System Evaluation and Reporting Section, Systems Accountability Office, Office of the Superintendent, Honolulu, HI: Hawaii State Department of Education.