



# Waimea Canyon Middle School



School Code: 464

Grades 6-8

## School Status and Improvement Report School Year 2008-09



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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, Hawaii'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 is located in the town of Waimea on the western side of the island of Kaua'i. The community includes historical sites such as Russian Fort, Captain Cook's Landing and Menehune Ditch. Other notable facilities include West Kaua'i Technology and Visitor Center and West Kauai Medical Center.

Waimea Canyon Middle School (WCMS) is a public school which services students from grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Because Waimea Canyon Middle School services students from economically disadvantaged communities, it has received Title I funding for the past eight years. In spite of our efforts, we have had difficulty attaining Adequate Yearly Progress. This year, our staff worked with School Turnaround in developing 6 areas (Diagnosis, Target Setting, Message and Brand, Data Use, Alignment, and Successful Classrooms) in an effort to help our students become proficient in the standards.

Celebrations this year include a visit with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) with WCMS receiving a 3 year accreditation. Our students received recognition in the Fine Arts...art and music, in the scientific arena (Science Fair, robotics, etc.) in academic achievements and in the General Learner Outcomes.

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. Preparing our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is the foundation of the initiatives we pursue.

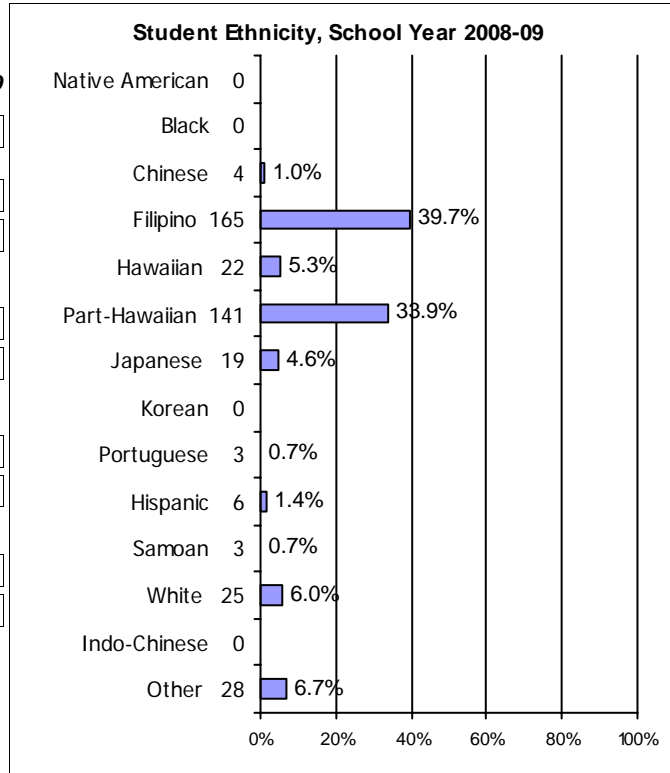
The School Community Council meet monthly to address school improvement topics and along with the needs of the school. Topics of discussion include the Hawaii State Assessment data, the academic and financial plans, feedback from the accreditation visiting team, intervention programs for students, parent 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 partners with community businesses to support student learning. Because Waimea Canyon School understands the importance families have in their children's learning, the Family Focus Team continues to initiate programs such as Parent Project, Parent Literacy Nights, Family Summit, etc.

## School Setting

### Student Profile

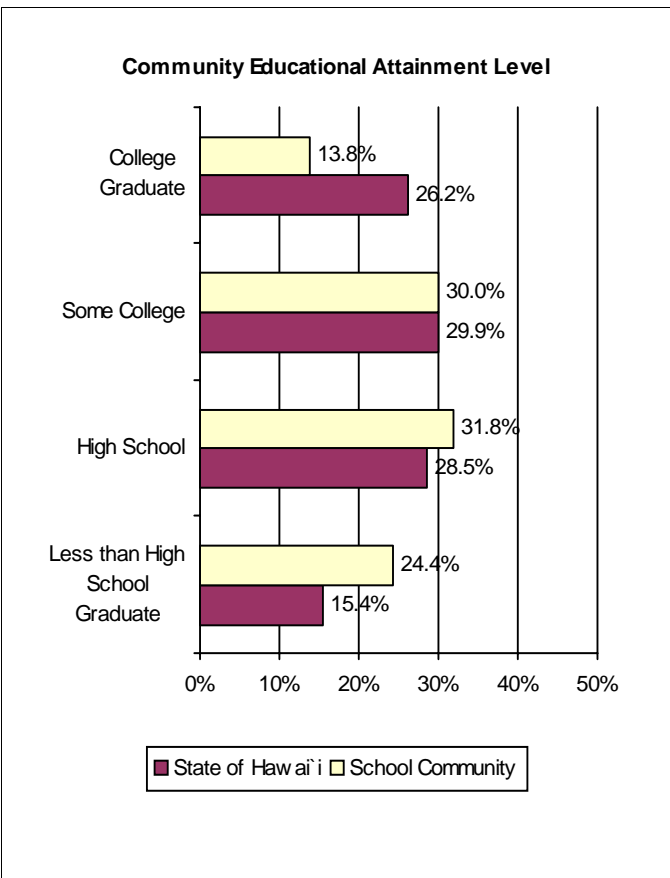
School year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Fall enrollment	460	438	411
Number and percent of students enrolled for the entire school year	441	418	396
	95.9%	95.4%	96.4%
Number and percent of students receiving free or reduced-cost lunch	214	197	180
	46.5%	45.0%	43.8%
Number and percent of students in Special Education programs	37	25	27
	8.0%	5.7%	6.6%
Number and percent of students with limited English proficiency	18	23	26
	3.9%	5.3%	6.3%



n = 416

### 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 (standards based, comprehensive support, and continuous improvement) met throughout the year to discuss and review progress of the goals and enabling activities in our Academic/Financial Plan. The FOL process involved members of all stakeholder groups. Our School Community Council shared the Academic/Financial Plan with the general school community and asked for input. Student Voices, a student organization, composed of representatives from each advisory has taken the role of sharing issues and concerns from students' perspective with administration.

**Purposefulness:** Posters of our school's vision and mission statement, General Learner Outcomes and Positive Behavior Support are placed in prominent campus locations and in classrooms. Our Quality Student Support Focus Group ensures that enabling activities and supports are in place to address the needs of **all** students.

**Student-Focused Efforts:** The Hawaii State Assessment data is organized in a database to identify trends as well as students needing additional academic support. Based on this data, teachers selected to work on constructed response as an area for school-wide focus. Teachers met by departments to analyze students' writings through the use of a common rubric. Additional support was provided for students based on teachers' recommendation through the use of reading and math interventions. After school tutoring was provided by Supplemental Educational Services and a Homework Center.

**Action-Orientation:** Ongoing support is provided by Title I, KWP (Kauai Writing Program), Migrant Education, ACHIEVE 3000 and CSSS so all students receive a standards-based education. An external provider, Eric Nelson from School Turnaround, worked with the school using data and mini-lessons as a means to promote student proficiency. Ms. Elkins provided professional development in the use of 'mandated direction' as a means to assure that all students have learned the concept being taught.

**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 for content teachers and Teams were used to discuss student work and progress and to plan for student learning.

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

**Leadership:** Representatives of the school's Leadership Team facilitated discussions in their focus groups. It is the school's intent that Teacher-Leaders continue to be developed and nurtured.

**Evaluate the implementation of the Academic/Financial Plan.** Meeting in focus groups ensured that the enabling activities within the goals were assessed and modified as needed to meet students' needs. As a school, we continue working to ensure depth and sustainability.

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

We continue to focus on student learning. The school wide focus on constructed response needs to be re-emphasized as an entire faculty due to staff change over. Critical thinking, vocabulary and mandated direction were incorporated into the strategies used by teachers. Math intervention and reading intervention were offered as electives to provide extra support for students who fell in the 'below proficiency' based on the Hawaii State Assessment. We received an additional 3 year WASC accreditation with the transition to a middle school and will address the recommendations in the development of the 2009-2010 Academic/Financial Plan.

## School Resources

### Certified Staff

#### Teaching Staff

<b>Total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>		27.0
Regular Instruction, FTE	85.2%	23.0
Special Instruction, FTE	11.1%	3.0
Supplemental Instruction, FTE	3.7%	1.0
Teacher headcount		28
Teachers with 5 or more years at this school		17
Teachers' average years of experience		13.1
Teachers with advanced degrees		6

#### Professional Teacher Credentials

Fully licensed	82.1%	23
Provisional credential	17.9%	5
Emergency credential	0.0%	0

#### Students per Teaching Staff \*

Regular Instruction	16.0
Special Instruction	9.0

\* 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 2009

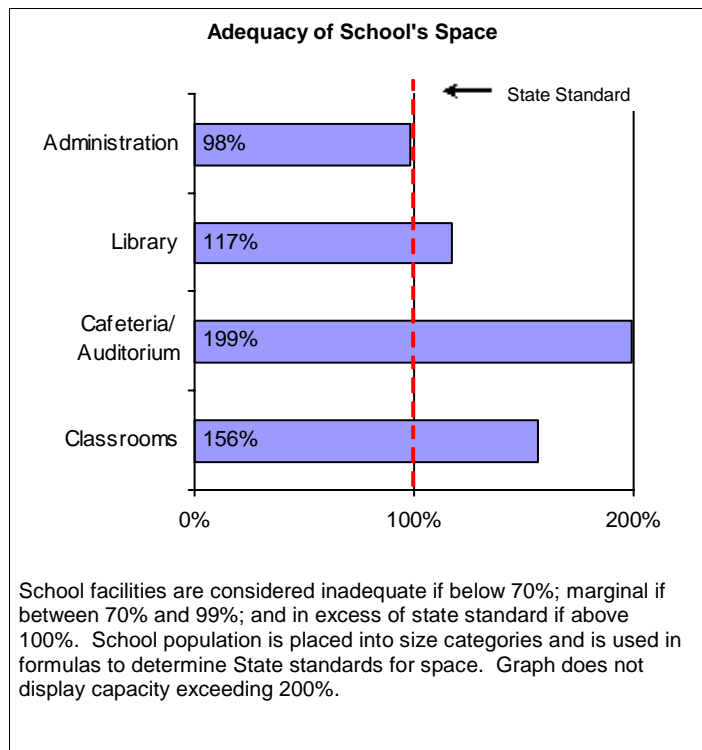
Classrooms available	38
Number of classrooms short (-) or over (+)	-1

#### School facilities inspection results

	Score		
	1	2	3
Grounds	[ ]	2	[ ]
Building exterior	[ ]	[ ]	3
Building interior	[ ]	2	[ ]
Equipment/Furnishings	[ ]	[ ]	3
Health/Safety	[ ]	[ ]	3
Sanitation	[ ]	[ ]	3
<b>Total</b>		16	

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 *		Teachers		Parents		Students	
		School	State	School	State	School	State
Standards-Based Learning	2008	87.3%	86.7%	66.3%	68.1%	61.0%	63.1%
	2009	84.1%	88.4%	**	**	57.5%	63.7%
Quality Student Support	2008	53.6%	70.5%	60.1%	62.9%	46.2%	48.6%
	2009	61.8%	74.5%	**	**	43.8%	49.9%
Professionalism & System Capacity	2008	56.3%	74.1%	57.1%	66.7%	60.7%	65.3%
	2009	74.2%	78.4%	**	**	58.5%	66.6%
Coordinated Team Work	2008	64.3%	67.1%	60.4%	56.7%	63.6%	61.1%
	2009	64.9%	69.7%	**	**	64.2%	64.1%
Responsiveness of the System	2008	58.3%	74.7%	54.3%	58.6%	There are no student items for this dimension	
	2009	69.5%	76.7%	**	**		
Focused & Sustained Action	2008	57.1%	71.3%	51.9%	52.8%	61.1%	63.6%
	2009	58.7%	75.2%	**	**	60.2%	65.3%
Involvement	2008	46.9%	64.3%	55.5%	59.4%	50.8%	54.2%
	2009	60.3%	66.2%	**	**	54.3%	55.4%
Satisfaction	2008	20.8%	60.8%	64.8%	68.2%	53.6%	59.1%
	2009	43.8%	68.7%	**	**	52.9%	60.3%
Student Safety & Well Being	2008	57.1%	72.8%	59.9%	62.2%	45.9%	47.6%
	2009	66.1%	76.0%	**	**	45.7%	49.6%
Survey Return Rate ***	2008	29.6%	76.9%	24.9%	23.0%	60.6%	89.1%
	2009	59.3%	78.0%	**	**	69.2%	86.4%

\* 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.

\*\*

The Parents survey for the school year 2008-09 was cancelled.

\*\*\*

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.

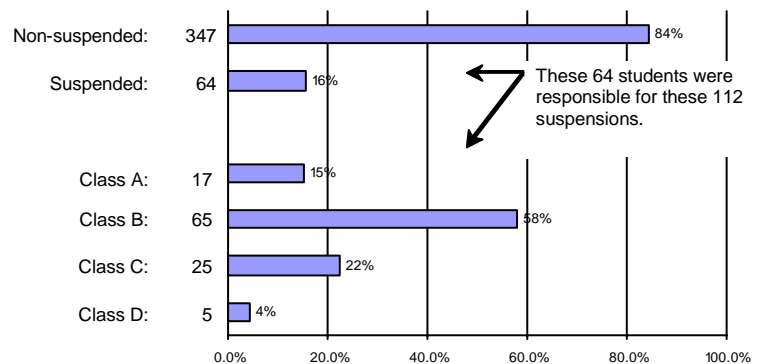
## Vital Signs

### Student Conduct

#### Attendance and Absences

School Year			<b>State Standard</b>
2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
<b>Average Daily Attendance: %</b> (higher is better)			
94.8%	94.2%	95.1%	<b>95.0%</b>
<b>Average Daily Absences: in days</b> (lower is better)			
9.2	10.3	8.7	<b>9</b>

#### Suspensions, School Year 2008-2009



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		
	2007	2008	2009
Total number of students	155	149	128
Percent retained in grade	1%	0%	0%

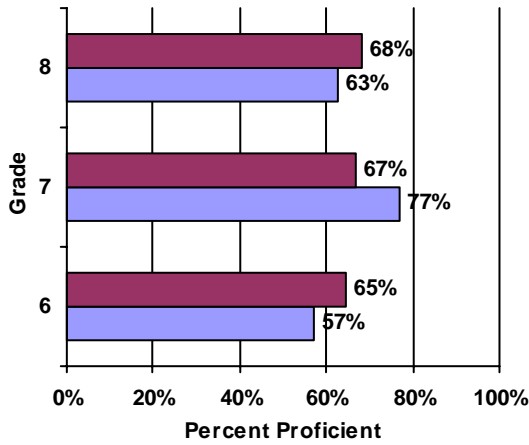
Note. " -- " means missing data.

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

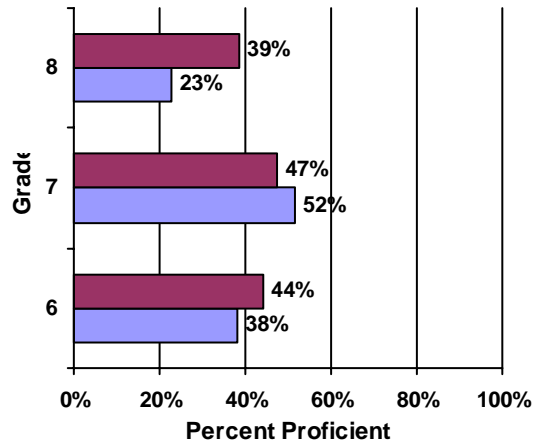
**Vital Signs**

**Hawaii State Assessment**

**HCPS Reading**



**HCPS Mathematics**



School
  State

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

**HCPS Science**

Grade	Percent Proficient	
	School	State
7	45%	37%

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

**HCPS Writing**

Grade	Average Score	
	School	State
6	2.2	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	87%	79%	71%	74%
7	78%	71%	84%	72%
8	83%	81%	81%	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.  
 "--" means missing data.  
 "\*\*\*" means data not reported to maintain student confidentiality (see FERPA).

## Other School Information

Waimea Canyon Middle School was accredited in 2009 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.