

## **Kauai Complex Area Secure Storage Notification Resolution**

The Kauai Complex Area Superintendent and Kauai Complex Area Schools hereby resolve the following:

**WHEREAS**, evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component of any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe;

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm;

**WHEREAS**, every year, nearly 350 children under the age of 18 unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That is roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 77 percent of these incidents take place inside a home.

**WHEREAS**, another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member;

**WHEREAS**, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and 78 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or friends;

**WHEREAS**, research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes;

**WHEREAS**, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and which encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns;

**WHEREAS**, school districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices;

**WHEREAS**, keeping students, teachers, and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites;

**WHEREAS**, state law imposes penalties on adults when a child gains unauthorized access to an unsecured stored firearm;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Kauai Complex Area Superintendent, hereby declares the following:

1. All Kauai Complex Area public schools shall update their school's website to include Be SMART secure storage information.
2. All Kauai Complex Area public school's "Back to School / Registration" packets shall contain a Be SMART secure storage letter or flier.
3. All Kauai Complex Area public schools shall digitally distribute Be SMART secure storage information via email or social media platforms.
4. All Kauai Complex Area public schools shall share Be SMART secure storage information during in-person family nights, "Back to School" nights, and any events where parents and guardians are present.

APPROVED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024



Daniel S. Hamada, Kauai Complex Area Superintendent