



Turnaround Specialist

Wade Araki grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii and attended Chaminade University of Honolulu, where he earned a Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education and Social Studies, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he earned his Masters degree in Educational Administration.

In 2003, Wade became the principal of Reverend Benjamin Parker Elementary School in Kaneohe, Hawaii, a campus serving 66% economically disadvantaged kids, with a large Special Education population (95 of 320 students qualified for IDEA). Under his leadership, the school has been recognized for its high achievement based on rapid and dramatic increases in student performance in reading. In 2007, Benjamin Parker received the Alaka'i Na Keiki Award for Reading. The school was one of only 13 schools statewide that had achieved more than a 25% gain in student proficiency in their overall reading scores during the course of three years (2004-2006).

Wade continues to sustain a turnaround that has lifted his school from one that had never made Adequate Yearly Progress, to one that is now in good standing for reading and has made AYP for math three out of the last five years. Wade's efforts and the success of the school have been highlighted in the media. In April of 2008, Wade was one of six state nominees for the National Distinguished Principal Award. He is currently serving as the specialist at Heeia Elementary and Nanakuli High and Intermediate.