



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

JUN 26 2007

Ms. Patricia Hamamoto
Superintendent of Education
Hawaii Department of Education
1390 Miller Street, #307
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms Hamamoto:

On July 7, 2006, the Hawaii Department of Education (HDE) submitted its State outline for a revised highly qualified teacher (HQT) plan. The peer reviewers found serious deficiencies in the plan, and the Department of Education asked that it be substantially revised and re-submitted. HDE submitted a revision on October 31, 2006, and Department staff went to Honolulu in November to provide technical assistance to HDE in revising it. Subsequent to the visit, HDE submitted a further revision of the plan on December 15, 2006.

A Department internal peer review committee reviewed the December 15 plan. While the plan was improved, deficiencies remained. To resolve outstanding questions and concerns raised in the internal review, Department Program Officer Margaret Miles corresponded with and spoke to Robert Campbell from the HDE on many occasions. In March 2007, HDE created a Planning and Implementation Team, which included the Superintendent of Education, Complex Area Superintendents and State Agency of Higher Education representatives as well as HDE staff. This team was able to bring together the necessary constituents to reformulate the plan so that it more closely matched the Department's expectations. On March 26, 2007, Mr. Campbell and HDE staff met with Department officials to present the changes the team was planning, and a new plan was submitted on April 30, 2007. The Department made a few additional suggestions, and HDE submitted a final version on May 21, 2006.

In the judgment of the Department, the plan submitted on May 21, 2007, meets all six requirements and is now approved. We recognize the substantial challenge required in preparing this plan, and are encouraged that you were able to submit a complete and comprehensive plan. Because this plan meets all requirements, the Department has removed the high-risk designation that was imposed on HDE in August 2006 as a result of deficiencies in the original submission.

However, because the delay in formulating an approvable plan has made it impossible for HDE to implement the plan during the 2006-07 school year, as originally intended, the Department will place conditions on Hawaii's ESEA Title I, Part A and Title II, Part A grants for FY 2007. To satisfy these conditions, HDE must report to the Department on the progress of its implementation of the approved plan. Reporting requirements and due dates will be fully spelled out in the grant condition attachments. The conditions will remain in force until such time as the HDE has completed all reports—the final report will be due on July 1, 2008. If the State fully

complies with this requirement, we do not anticipate imposing any additional sanctions or penalties on the HDE regarding this issue.

We will post the May 21, 2007 version of the plan on the Department's Web site in place of the plan that is currently posted. We look forward to our continued work together, including intensive monitoring to ensure that Hawaii implements the activities described in the plan to meet the HQT goal for the benefit of all students in Hawaii. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact James Butler (202-260-9737, or james.butler@ed.gov), or Margaret Miles (202-260-2531, or margaret.miles@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Briggs', written over a horizontal line.

Kerri L. Briggs, Ph.D.