



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

JUN 05 2014

The Honorable Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent of Education
Hawaii Department of Education
PO Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

Dear Superintendent Matayoshi:

I am writing in response to Hawaii's April 29, 2014 letter requesting to extend approval of its ESEA flexibility request through the end of the 2014–2015 school year. Currently, Hawaii's ESEA flexibility request is approved through the end of the 2013–2014 school year, subject to the condition that Hawaii submit to the U.S. Department of Education (ED), by May 30, 2014, clear and compelling evidence of substantial progress in the areas of its Race to the Top plan that were on high-risk status, resolve its remaining School Improvement Grant (SIG) monitoring findings, and demonstrate that it has continued to comply with all conditions on its SIG funds.

The April 29, 2014 letter that ED received contained evidence addressing each part of the condition on Hawaii's approved ESEA flexibility request. Hawaii submitted clear and compelling evidence of substantial progress in the areas of its Race to the Top plan that are still on high-risk status in the form of a July 29, 2013 letter from ED removing Hawaii's Race to the Top grant from high-risk status. Hawaii submitted clear and compelling evidence of resolving its remaining SIG monitoring findings in the form of a July 23, 2013 letter from ED indicating that all SIG monitoring findings that were outstanding at the time Hawaii's ESEA flexibility request was approved have been resolved. Hawaii also has complied with the special conditions on its SIG funds. In light of the foregoing, I am lifting the condition on the Hawaii's approved ESEA flexibility request and granting Hawaii's request to extend approval of its ESEA flexibility request through the end of the 2014–2015 school year.

Hawaii continues to have an affirmative responsibility to ensure that it is in compliance with Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age in their implementation of ESEA flexibility, as well as their implementation of all other Federal education programs. These laws include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

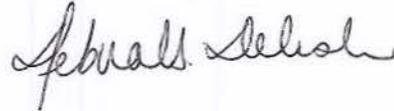
400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Page 2 – The Honorable Kathryn S. Matayoshi

I am confident that Hawaii will continue to implement the reforms it proposed under its approved ESEA flexibility request, as amended, and advance its efforts to hold schools accountable for the achievement of all students. If you have any questions regarding the implementation of Hawaii's ESEA flexibility request, please not hesitate to contact Collette Roney or Matthew Stern of my staff at: collette.roney@ed.gov and 202-401-5245 or matthew.sern@ed.gov and 202-453-6451.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah S. Delisle".

Deborah S. Delisle
Assistant Secretary

cc: Lyndsay Pinkus