



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

February 21, 2013

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Office of the Governor
State Capitol, Executive Chambers
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Abercrombie:

I am writing in response to Hawaii's request to amend its approved Race to the Top grant project. Between December 14, 2012 and January 31, 2013, the State submitted an amendment request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such a change does not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On October 4, 2011, the Department sent a letter and revised "Grant Amendment Submission Process" document to Governors of grantee States indicating the process by which amendments would be reviewed and approved or denied. To determine whether approval could be granted, the Department has applied the conditions noted in the document, and compared it with the Race to the Top program *Principles*, which are also included in that document.

On December 21, 2011, the Department placed Hawaii's Race to the Top grant on high-risk status due to unsatisfactory performance in the first fourteen months of the grant. On February 8, 2013, the Department removed high-risk status from Assurance Areas B and C. The State remains on high-risk status for Assurance Areas A, D, E and STEM. Please note that the Department considers Hawaii's high-risk status when reviewing amendments, in addition to the principles mentioned above.

I approve the following amendment:

- For the evaluation systems project, increase contractual funds by \$810,273 in Year 3 and Year 4 to support the State's efforts to build capacity and accelerate training with Complex Areas. For Complex Areas and schools participating the State's second pilot year, these additional funds will support

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

professional learning communities for Complex Areas, trainings and professional development materials, training on educator evaluation system data and additional trainers. Funds will also support planning and early capacity building efforts for statewide implementation in the 2013-2014 school year. These funds were made available through Year 2 cost savings across the State's Assurance D budget.

It is our understanding that these amendments will not result in a change in your State's performance measures and outcomes, nor will they substantially change the scope and objectives of the work. Please note that this letter will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendment.

If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact Hawaii's Race to the Top Program Officer, Monika Bandyopadhyay, at 202-260-2531 or monika.bandyopadhyay@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen
Director, Policy and Program Implementation
Implementation and Support Unit

cc: Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi
Tammi Chun
Stephen Schatz