



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

October 14, 2011

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. On July 22, 2011 and August 29, 2011, the State submitted amendment requests 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.

I am pleased to approve the following amendments:

- For the project area of State Success Factors, for the Reorganization of Offices project, reallocate funds to hire two additional Educational Officers to provide high-level support to the Assistant Superintendent for Strategic Reform in overseeing individual projects across the Race to the Top plan. These positions will be supported by \$454,366 in unused year 1 personnel costs due to late hiring and \$351,401 from pre-kindergarten subsidies that will now be supported by State funds. In total, \$805,767 will be used to support salary and fringe benefits for these positions over the course of the grant.
- For the project area of State Success Factors, for the Community Engagement project, reallocate \$160,000 to hire a Communication Specialist II for years 2 and 3 of the grant. The Communication Specialist II will be responsible for developing content for collateral materials, articles, social media, websites, and other related items, and managing the community engagement portal content. Funds will be reallocated from neighbor island travel expenses for three councils and five advisory groups. The councils and advisory groups will continue to meet and fulfill their purpose via teleconferencing.

<http://www.ed.gov/>

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If you need any assistance or have any questions regarding Race to the Top, please do not hesitate to contact your Race to the Top Program Officer, Melissa Siry, at 202-260-0926 or [Melissa.Siry@ed.gov](mailto:Melissa.Siry@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

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

cc: Tammi Chun  
Stephen Schatz