



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

May 14, 2012

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Office of the Governor
State Capital, 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. As you are aware, the U.S. Department of Education (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 because the State had not demonstrated adequate progress implementing its approved plans in the first year of the grant as evidenced by the Department's on-site program review in June 2011, monthly reports, and the amendments requested by the State between July and December, 2011. In that letter, the Department indicated its concern regarding the State's ability to fulfill its commitments within the grant period. After the March 2012 on-site review, the Department determined that Hawaii's Race to the Top grant would remain on high-risk status, as indicated in the Department's May 4, 2012 letter. Please note that in addition to the principles mentioned above, the Department considers Hawaii's high-risk status when reviewing amendments.

The following amendment is approved:

- For the Aligned Planning project, reallocate cost savings in the contractual, travel, and other categories from year 1 to support additional travel in year 2. This shift in funding will allow the State to provide training to Complex Area personnel on project management structures in year 2. The overall project budget remains the same. The Department notes that this budgetary shift is a result of a timeline delay in year 1. The

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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.

Department will continue to maintain transparency around the original approved timeline for this project.

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. As is our practice with all Race to the Top amendments, this letter will be posted on the Department's website.

Sincerely,

//s//

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

cc: Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi
Tammi Chun
Stephen Schatz