



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

September 10, 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. Between July 30, 2012 and August 31, 2012, the State submitted documentation to and held conversations with the U.S. Department of Education to support amendment requests to its approved Race to the Top plan and budget. 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 due to unsatisfactory performance in the first fourteen months of the grant. Please note that the Department considers Hawaii's high-risk status when reviewing amendments, in addition to the principles mentioned above.

The following amendments are approved:

- For the P-20 Longitudinal Data System item within the Longitudinal Data Systems (LDS) project, shift timelines to reflect a delay in contracting and revise task descriptions to reflect the Hawaii P-20 Council's current priorities. Reports under the contract will focus on cross-agency data analysis by providing reports on the K-12 to University of Hawaii transition, the University of Hawaii to workforce transition, and K-12, University of Hawaii and career and technical education transitions. Forthcoming educator effectiveness data and student achievement data will be mapped in the P-20 LDS, thereby making it available for future data analysis. While program review will no

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longer be a specific deliverable, the data reports this system generates may support such efforts in the future. Rather than start in December 2010 and end in May 2012, the contract was executed in January 2012 and will be completed in June 2014. Based on the scope of work of the final contract, it will take about one year longer than originally planned to develop and run these reports.

- For the Single-Sign On project, shift timelines to reflect a delay in contracting and increase the budget by \$331,833 in Year 3 as a result of contract negotiations. Rather than start in December 2011 and end in August 2013, the contract was executed in June 2012 and will be complete in April 2013. The contract was delayed due to a longer than anticipated period of time to review vendor applications, and because infrastructure work was happening at the same time to inform the final contract. The State was able to reduce the cost of the project through negotiations and by assuming some aspects of the work, but will use cost savings in this sub-criterion budget to add \$331,833 in Year 3 to accommodate the higher contract amount, bringing the total cost of the project to \$2,071,833.
- For the Induction and Mentoring project, use \$476,000 to support the hiring of two resource teachers at the State level. These new positions will provide targeted supports to first and second year special education and mathematics teachers, which the State has found are the two content areas currently being hired in the largest numbers. The additional funds have been repurposed to this project having been made available after the Department's December 21, 2011 amendment letter.

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

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, Monika Bandyopadhyay, at 202-260-2531 or [monika.bandyopadhyay@ed.gov](mailto:monika.bandyopadhyay@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen  
Director, Policy and Program Implementation

cc: Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi  
Tammi Chun  
Stephen Schatz