



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

March 22, 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 March 10, 2011, the state submitted amendment requests to the U.S. Department of Education (the Department). As you are aware, the Department has the authority to approve amendments to your plan and budget, provided that such changes do not alter the scope or objectives of the approved proposal. On January 6, 2011, the Department sent a letter and "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.

All of Hawaii's amendment requests addressed minor timeline adjustments; a complete list of these minor timeline adjustments is attached to this letter. These shifts were based on further review and planning by Hawaii since the original application was submitted. 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.

I am pleased to approve the amendments included in the attached chart. Please note that both this letter and the attached chart will be posted on the Department's website as a record of the amendments.

I am confident that Hawaii will continue its bold, comprehensive reform efforts. 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.

Sincerely,

//s//

Ann Whalen
Deputy Director, Implementation and Support Unit

Attachment (1)

cc: Robert Campbell
Tammi Chun

www.ed.gov

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202

Minor Revisions to Deliverables from original due date stated in RTTT narrative	Original Date Due	SOW revised date	Explanation
Present Final Strategic Plan to Board of Education (BOE)	10/2010	1/2011	Additional time was needed to finalize indicators in strategic plan. The delay will not impact any other deliverables, as HIDOE has been operating under the new plan prior to presentation to the BOE)
Conduct statewide curriculum inventory of primary instructional materials used for English/Language Arts and mathematics	12/2010	1/2011	More time needed to complete task. Next major deliverable is August 2011, so this shift will not impact implementation of new curriculum.
Implement an “online hotline” (co-located with the Common Core Curriculum’s Digital Resources) to enable teachers to submit questions	1/2011	5/2011	<p>Activity is pending hiring of project staff and additional time is needed. No other activities are dependent on this activity’s completion.</p> <p>Related performance measures: math and ELA achievement will increase 1% point. However, the hotline is not the only activity that is related to increases in student achievement, and therefore, HIDOE does not believe the performance measure targets should change.</p>
Present College- and Career-ready Diploma (BOE Policy 4540) proposal to the Board of Education for consideration and approval	7/2010	11/2011	BOE is transitioning in 2011 from an elected board to one appointed by the Governor; therefore, action on this item has been postponed pending the development of the new board. HIDOE and the Governor’s office are currently moving forward with the planning of the diploma. Currently, HIDOE is on track to have students entering high school in 2013 be the inaugural class. HIDOE is on track to meet that goal.
Deploy funds for professional development subsidies and teacher education opportunities to develop more effective STEM teachers	6/2010-ongoing	12/2010-ongoing	Delays in appointing a STEM Project Manager caused by reorganization activities; new project manager in place as of 12/1/2010. Hawaii is still on track to implement the new STEM curriculum. Additional professional development activities aligned with the implementation of the STEM common core are still on track. There are no STEM performance measures.

Collaborate with partner states in the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), to develop a document that will provide a common interpretation and understanding of the CCSS (i.e., “what the CCSS means”)	10/2010	modify according to SBAC timeline	In RTT application, Curriculum Research and Development Group is named as the developer of the curriculum framework. However, as a governing state in the SBAC consortium, HIDOE has elected to use SBAC’s curriculum framework rather than duplicate work.
Post the English language arts and mathematics curriculum framework online on the HIDOE website	12/2010	7/2012	Working with SBAC to develop common framework (see above).
Training on the newly adopted common instructional materials to address the CCSS	10/2012	1/2013	HIDOE would like to spend an additional three months developing the training to ensure success.