



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AND TEACHER QUALITY PROGRAMS

May 26, 2009

Robert Campbell
Hawaii Department of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

Dear Bob:

On April 17, 2009, the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) submitted a response to the monitoring report that resulted from a program review conducted by the Academic Improvement and Teacher Quality Programs office of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program office team reviewed your State's progress in meeting the highly qualified teacher provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and your State's administration of the ESEA Title II, Part A Improving Teacher Quality State Grants program. Thank you for sending this response to the monitoring report.

This response, in combination with additional information submitted on May 13, 2009, satisfactorily addresses the findings identified in the monitoring report. In particular, the HIDOE has implemented measures to correctly determine the highly qualified status of elementary special education teachers, it has implemented measures to ensure that Title I teachers are highly qualified at the time of hire, it has made plans to correct deficiencies in State and local report cards, and it has implemented measures to ensure that equitable services are provided to non-public schools. The Department will follow up with the HIDOE to ensure that progress is being made on these issues and that all agreed upon deadlines are met.

During the State agency for higher education (SAHE) portion of the monitoring review, the program team determined the SAHE was not systematically monitoring its subgrantees. The SAHE has created appropriate monitoring protocols to address this problem. This satisfies the further action requirements for the SAHE portion of the monitoring report.

We commend your excellent work in responding to the concerns raised by the monitoring report. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure that all teachers meet the highly qualified requirements and to help improve the delivery of ESEA Title II, Part A services in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth A. Witt".

Elizabeth A. Witt
Program Officer

cc: Christine Sorensen

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400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202-6200

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