

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



KATHRYN MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AUGUST AHRENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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December 27, 2013

TO: The University of Hawai'i System Board of Regents

FROM: Hanh Nguyen, Principal *HN*
August Ahrens Elementary School

RE: Support for "Established" Status: The University of Hawai'i West O'ahu
Elementary Teacher Education Program

I am honored to write this letter in support of UHWO's request for status as an "Established" Elementary Teacher Education Program.

The partnership between August Ahrens Elementary School (AAES) and the University of Hawai'i, West O'ahu, fosters relationships that ultimately impact students in the classroom. AAES mentor teachers share their experience, knowledge, and skills with teacher candidates who bring enthusiasm, a willingness to learn and a skillset coupled with creative and progressive ideas.

As principal of a school where 20% of student enrollment includes English Language Learners, I need effective teachers who, first and foremost care deeply about children. Second, students thrive with teachers who understand diversity. The program at UHWO requires that its graduates complete 5 field experiences at a variety of public schools with its own unique features. Teacher candidates are able to broaden their perspectives to better understand the needs of all students.

UHWO fulfills a gap for a need for quality teachers in the Leeward areas, producing teachers with a solid teacher preparation program experience. I embrace this partnership wholeheartedly and look forward to an increased focus on developing quality teachers who are committed to the Leeward communities.