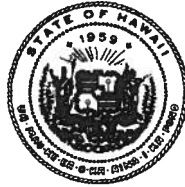


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR




KATHRYN MATAYOSHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Ma`ili Elementary School  
87-360 Kulaaupuni Street  
Wai`anae, Hawai`i 96792

December 19, 2013

TO: The University of Hawai`I System Board of Regents

FROM: Disa Hauge, Principal   
Ma`ili Elementary School

RE: SUPPORT FOR 'ESTABLISHED' STATUS: THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI`I WEST O`AHU  
ELEMENTARY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

Please accept this letter in support of UHWO's request for status as an Established program. As the principal of a low income school in Wai`anae, I have been a primary beneficiary of West O`ahu's efforts to develop high-calibre teacher candidates in multiple ways.

In collaboration with Dr. Stephanie Kamai, Ma`ili teachers have sponsored numerous pre-service teachers and supervised several student teachers. I have been impressed with Dr. Kamai's hands-on approach and the high degree of rigor to which she holds prospective teachers. A close relationship between the UHWO faculty and the schools makes synergistic and tangible the connections between theoretical learning and field experiences. It also challenges the schools to examine its own practices and to keep up with current research.

I have witnessed a dramatic increase in the quality of candidates' readiness for employment over the past five years as an administrator of the DOE's Ventures interview protocol. It is evident that UHWO's program has addressed gap needs and provided its students with opportunities to deepen and round out their educational experiences prior to graduation.

When interviewing for positions at my school, UHWO candidates perform equally well as compared to candidates from any other program.

My primary reason for hiring a UHWO student, especially if he or she lives on or near the Coast, is to further build a stable pool of teachers who know our kids, set high expectations, and can serve as role models for hard work, community responsibility, and hope.

Thank you for considering UHWO's request for Established status. If you have any questions of me, please feel free to contact me at 808-697-7150.