December 26, 2013

To: The University of Hawai`i System Board of Regents

From: Diana Agor, Makaha Elementary Principal

RE: Support for “Established” Status: The University of Hawai`i West Oahu Elementary Teachers Education Program

One of the greatest challenges Hawaii schools face is teacher turnover. This is especially true on the Leeward Coast of O’ahu. As the last public school the west side of the island, Makaha Elementary loses over 10% of its teachers every year. Some of these are teachers who are from out of state and decide to move back to the mainland for various reasons.

UH West O’ahu is a beacon of hope... hope to grow our own local pool of teachers who actually want to teach on the west coast. This past Fall semester 2013, Makaha has hosted 6 teacher candidates from their Elementary Teachers Education Program. Every Makaha mentor teacher had nothing but positive praise for the quality and commitment of their student candidates. We are preparing to host even more for this Spring semester 2014.

My hope is that you see the valuable service this program is providing to ensure that we are producing quality teachers who live the community they one day hope to serve. Please partner with us with a commitment to invest in the teaching profession of the future. Together we can build a legacy worth its weight in gold for generations to come.