




STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – LEEWARD DISTRICT
LEEWARD DISTRICT OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT
601 KAMOKILA BOULEVARD, ROOM 588
KAPOLEI, HI 96707

December 27, 2013

To: The University of Hawai'i System Board of Regents
From:  Ann A. Mahi, Complex Area Superintendent, Leeward District, Nanakuli-Waianae
RE: Support for "Established" Status: The University of Hawai'i West Oahu Elementary Teachers Education Program

This is written in support of the excellent work done by the University of Hawai'i West Oahu (UHWO) Elementary Teacher Education Program Administration and Faculty to produce teacher candidates who are prepared and able to student teach successfully in our Nanakuli and Waianae schools. They are supported by UHWO faculty during their field placement, coursework is relevant and includes current research-based theory and practices and there is much involvement by the mentor teachers in assessing how well each is performing.

We are extremely positive about the Leeward District partnership with UHWO as I currently sit on the Teacher Education Advisory Council as the Complex Area Superintendent Representative. The focus is on how we can improve our work as partners in developing teacher candidates ready to enter the workforce in Leeward Oahu. Much discussion is centered on the transition from the teacher education program to the expectations of the classroom in the DOE public schools. This process is open and there is productive dialogue between the teacher education program faculty and the principals and teacher representatives of the Leeward Elementary Schools centered around the Common Core State Standards, Instructional Strategies, Special Programs and the focus on 21st Century Knowledge and Skills for College and Career Readiness beginning at the Elementary grade levels.

We are always concerned about the teacher candidate pool for the Nanakuli and Waianae Schools as each year we have approximately between 50 to 80 openings for new teachers. We are now seeing approximately 11% of the students currently enrolled in the UHWO Teacher Education Program living in the Waianae Coast area. This will have an impact on our recruitment and retention of teachers in the future and in this way create a consistent learning environment for our children where they will know who their teachers will be for the next year. This is very important as we are trying to create a sense of stability for not only the children, but also the families in our community.

I sincerely ask for your consideration of this recommendation that the status of "Established" be awarded to The University of Hawai'i West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program. I am certain that there will be many more successes as the program continues to grow with the Leeward District school communities of Pearl City, Waipahu, Campbell, Kapolei, Nanakuli and Waianae.