Date: November 6, 2013

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

From: Bob Davis, Principal, Ka‘ala Elementary School

RE: Support for "Established" Status: The University of Hawai‘i West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program

Ka‘ala School has greatly benefited from the relationship we have had and continue to have with UHWO B.Ed in Elementary Education program. For several years we have partnered together to provide mentoring opportunities for prospective teachers in Hawaii. Simultaneously, we have learned from those we have been able to mentor as well.

I believe the quality of the program is where it needs to be in order to have effective teachers enter into the field of teaching as a profession. They begin with new teacher candidates coming to the school regularly to learn from seasoned master teachers where they have the opportunity to experience a classroom first hand which solidifies their decision to go into the teaching field. After observation time the students do practicum work and then student teaching which clearly provides more than enough hands on work at the school level. By the time the UHWO B.Ed student graduates from the program, they have completed their course work; but more importantly, they have been provided more than enough field experience to be prepared.

It is important to continue with such a valuable program because I find it critical to hire teacher candidates from our communities. Teachers from the Leeward and Central areas are a valuable resource as they come to the school with needed background knowledge of the community and credibility within the community.