December 23, 2013

TO: The University of Hawaii System Board of Regents

FROM: Randall Miura, Principal
Leihoku Elementary School - Nanakuli/Waianae Complex Area

SUBJECT: Support for “Established” Status: The University of Hawaii West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program

It is with great honor and enthusiasm that I write my support for the “Established” Status for the Elementary Teacher Education Program at The University of Hawaii West Oahu campus.

The University of Hawaii West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program has a reputation of producing quality teacher applicants, who are ready to “hit the ground running” and have transitioned into successful classroom teachers. I believe this is a result of meaningful and purposeful coursework, along with field experiences and professional support that have made them exemplary new teachers in our public schools. In my experiences of recruiting, hiring, and working with new teachers from not only the other Hawaii teacher education programs, but from programs throughout the continental United States; the University of Hawaii West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program has a proven record of not only producing effective classroom teachers, but also teacher leaders who are able to contribute in school improvement efforts.

Historically, schools in the Nanakuli and Waianae communities have had teacher recruitment and retention concerns due to their geographic isolation along the Waianae coast. A willing and successful partner in helping to remedy this situation has been The University of Hawaii West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program. They have been able to successful recruit and enroll promising members of our Leeward communities, producing quality teacher candidates who have long-term commitments in servicing the communities in which they have grown. The University of Hawaii West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program is a model program that not only partners to fulfill the immediate employment requirements of our schools, but also in producing quality “home grown” candidates that also fulfills our long-term needs to be successful.

With the strong mission and commitment of The University of Hawaii West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program, along with their visionary leadership and support; the potential for growth and increased partnership with the Leeward District Schools is unlimited. It is with partnerships such as this, that will be able to continue to increase student achievement as we strive to have all of our students College and Career Ready.

It is with greatest sincerity that I offer my greatest support for the The University of Hawaii West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program. I ask for your support and consideration of this recommendation that the status of “Established” be awarded to the The University of Hawaii West Oahu Elementary Teacher Education Program.

Thank you for your assistance and consideration. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 697-7100.