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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS

April 11, 2024

TO: The Honorable Ken Kuraya
Chairperson, Finance and Infrastructure Committee

FROM: Curt T. Otaguro
Deputy Superintendent of Operations

SUBJECT: Update on King Kamehameha III Elementary Campus at Pulelehua

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the update provided at the Hawaii State Board of Education's General Board Meeting on March 28, 2024, the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) successfully opened the school to students at the King Kamehameha III Elementary School (KKES) at the temporary location in West Maui.

2. DESCRIPTION

The original KKES site was damaged beyond repair as a result of the Maui wildfires. Students and school staff were displaced and transitioned three different times via various learning environments, the last of which were temporary structures co-located on the Lahaina Intermediate and Princess Nahienaena Elementary school campuses.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assisted with providing funding for the planning, design, and construction of the site at Pulelehua located in West Maui. The Department was aware of this development from a previous Education Contribution Agreement. Additionally, the landowner, Maui Oceanview, LLP, had already begun its initial groundwork on the development. In order to achieve the benefits of FEMA's assistance, only temporary structures were permitted. The urgency to reopen the school quickly was the primary focus for FEMA and the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE). Establishing the temporary school was intended to assist with the ongoing healing process, establish stability for students, and provide a visual example that the government was committed to rebuilding Lahaina. The 95-day project was managed by the USACE with Pono Aina Management who was selected as the general contractor.

The lease for the facilities and maintenance of the office and classroom facilities will be shared between FEMA and the State with 90% of the total expenses paid by FEMA. The remaining 10% will be paid by the State. Based on USACE's cost sharing forecast, the Department expects the State's portion to be between $10 - $12 million, assuming the Department occupies the temporary school facilities for the entire 60-month term. The cost of demobilization will also be incorporated into the total cost sharing, which is currently anticipated between $6 - $6.5 million.

3. UPDATE

The Department accepted the temporary school from the USACE on February 27, 2024, and immediately began preparations for the opening of the school. School, district, and state personnel worked together to get the phones/internet operational as well as bringing in the necessary furniture and equipment from various locations. The Department and the USACE are currently working together with the contractor on any outstanding "punch-list" items as well as ongoing maintenance moving forward. The Department is also working with USACE Honolulu District as they prepare to assume responsibility for the remainder of the 4.5 year maintenance agreement with the State.

The campus offers air conditioning in all buildings consisting of 30 classrooms, of which five are dedicated to Kaiapuni and one for special education pre-kindergarten. This arrangement will last till the rest of this school year, ending May 2024. The campus was built to hold up to 600 students. In addition to the classrooms, the campus offers an administration building, learning resource center, student support center, serving kitchen and student cafeteria, and multiple play areas. These play areas include a covered playcourt, basketball court, and open play field which overlook Kaanapali town and the Pacific Ocean. Playground equipment for students will be installed during the summer months.

The food service, which includes breakfast and lunch, are being provided by neighboring Lahaina Intermediate School. As witnessed by attending staff, students enjoyed their meals in the brand new cafeteria.

On Monday, April 1, 2024, the opening of the King Kamehameha III Elementary School at Pulelehua was welcomed by all, especially the approximately 350 students who attended. For some of these students, this was the first time being back on an actual campus. Volunteers, parents, community members, and staff all welcomed the students to their new environment. General contractors and their subcontractors also welcomed the students and faculty with donated logo items to enjoy as "welcome-back" momentos. Smiles and excitement from all the students, parents, and faculty were thanks enough for all the hard work put in to get this site operational.

CTO:to
c: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent
Audrey Hidano, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Office of Facilities and Operations