

August 15, 2019

Hawai'i Board of Education

General Business Meeting

Catherine Payne, Chair

Brian De Lima, Vice Chair

Aloha Chair Payne, Vice Chair De Lima, and Members,

We would like to comment on item V.C. (3) update on the development of a 10-year Board of Education and Department of Education Strategic Plan.

We are a group of equity in education advocates that represent the voices of Native Hawaiian, parent, disability, higher education, multilingual, social justice, and education reform communities, and are committed to advocate for students who have historically struggled in our public education system.

We look forward to seeing the HIDOE draft of the 2030 Promise plan and appreciate the inclusion of stakeholder feedback throughout this entire process. As we move into the discussion phase on aligning the plan with benchmarks and metrics, we would like to reiterate the message that we have provided in previous testimonies, that in order to track the progress of the Strategic Plan and provide guidance and clarity to schools and the community, the Department should take a **balanced approach of including both quantitative and qualitative measures.**

We also hope to see the Department answer the following questions, which have been echoed by fellow community partners:

1) Moving into the new strategic plan, how does the Department plan to specifically address 2017-2020 Strategic Plan goals that have not been reached, including chronic absenteeism, the achievement gap, and foundational academic proficiency?

2) For any benchmarks and indicators selected for the new strategic plan, will the Department disaggregate data to better show the performance of high-needs students? This includes indicators such as college-going rate and dual credit attainment.

We have come together as signatories on this letter as organizations, identified by the organization name in parenthesis, and as individuals who are not representing affiliated organizations.

Mahalo,

Martha Guinana (SEAC)

Patricia Halagao

Gavin Thornton (Hawai'i Appleseed)

Cheri Nakamura

Paula Adams (Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance)

David Miyashiro (HawaiiKidsCAN)

Pila Wilson

Deborah Zysman (Hawai'i Children's Action Network)