

November 21, 2019

Hawai'i Board of Education
Catherine Payne, Chair
Brian De Lima, Vice Chair

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

We would like to comment on items IV.E.(2) update on the development of a 10-year Board of Education and Department of Education Strategic Plan, The Power and Promise of Public Education: Focus on Phase III feedback; and VI.H, Board Action on Adjustments to Superintendent's Priorities for the 2019-2020 School Year

We are a group of community leaders and advocates who are concerned about students who have historically struggled in our public education system. We strongly believe in the importance of clear public outcomes for our school system, as well as a transparent strategy to reach these goals.

Regarding item IV.E (2) we ask again questions concerning the recent performance results of our public school system, as they should inform the development of the 2030 Promise Plan.

1. How does the Department plan to address the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan goals that have not been reached, including chronic absenteeism, the achievement gap, and foundational academic proficiency?
2. What is being done to ensure that the most high-need students, such as those who receive Special Education services, are English Learners, are enrolled in Kaiapuni schools, or are living in poverty, are being addressed?
3. We support full transparency around subgroup data for all performance measures. Please explain why subgroup performance is not improving, and what specific efforts are being done to address this lack of progress.
4. How are the high impact strategies such as school design, teacher collaboration and student voice making a difference on student data outcomes.

Regarding item VI.H, we would like to know:

1. The Department's revision of the 2019-2020 Superintendent Priorities memo does not appear to directly address Board Members' comments made on June 20, 2019. When will the Board Members' comments be incorporated?
2. We appreciate that there are many considerations when selecting priorities. Why were the three 2019-2020 Superintendent Priorities selected and how will

they specifically support our system to reach the goals set in the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan?

We appreciate the efforts by BOE and DOE to improve the performance results of our public school system and would like to continue to partner and collaborate with the DOE to continue to be part of the solution.

As part of these efforts, 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,

Paula Adams (Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance)
Gavin Thornton (Hawai'i Appleseed)
Deborah Zysman (Hawai'i Children's Action Network)
David Miyashiro (Hawai'iKidsCAN)
Cheri Nakamura (HE'E Coalition)
Martha Guinan (Special Education Advisory Council)
Patricia Halagao
William "Pila" Wilson