



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 4, 2016

Mr. Michael Pecsok
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Leeward Community College
96-045 Ala Ike
Pearl City, HI 96782

Dear Mr. Pecsok:

This is a letter in support of Leeward Community College's Teacher Education Program's effort to create an Alternative Route to Licensure in Special Education. The Hawaii Department of Education (Department) is very excited to hear of this project, as there has been a need to provide additional pathways and programs to afford more individuals across the State the opportunity to become licensed Special Education teachers.

The Department looks forward to collaborating with your institution and providing insight into the qualifications and skill sets that would be required for individuals who go through and complete this program. Special Education has been designated as a Federal Teacher Shortage Area in Hawaii since the 1990-1991 School Year and the need for qualified Special Education teachers continues to rise.

Thank you for your commitment in helping the Department achieve its goal of improving student achievement throughout the state.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Matayoshi", written over the typed name.

Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent

KSM:wh

c: Bobbie Martel, Coordinator/Associate Professor