



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

June 13, 2017

Mr. Jason Botel
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Elementary and Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S. W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Botel:

Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School was the single Priority school that applied for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 School Improvement Grant (SIG) award, in the second round of applications after Kekaha Elementary School declined the first award of the grant, March 2017. Hawaii State Department of Education staff have provided technical assistance to the school to complete the application process, preparation of the Schoolwide Plan and embedded SIG parameters.

I am happy to announce that Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School has been approved for School Years (SY) 2017-18 and 2018-19.

By the way of background and preparation for this competition, SIG requirements have been met or will be met by the beginning of SY 2017-18:

- ✓ Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School was designated as a Priority school in Hawai'i's STRIVE HI index.
- ✓ Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School implements performance-based evaluation of teachers to improve quality teaching, professionalism, and student achievement.
- ✓ The school received 80% agreement of its staff and faculty for extended learning time and a cadre is working on the schedule for implementation in SY 2017-18 and SY 2018-19.
- ✓ Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School's turnaround principal is Po'o Kumu Olani Lilly.
- ✓ A recognition program for individual teachers and teacher teams will need to be developed by faculty and administration.
- ✓ The bell schedule for Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School is also being developed to reflect the 300 additional minutes per week to meet SIG criteria to be implemented in SY 2017-18 and SY 2018-19.

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- ✓ The agreement with unions involved with the school faculty and staff will need to be negotiated by the Governing Board, Principal, and Unions, and communicated with stakeholders in the school with the School Community Council for an extended learning day and the school year.
- ✓ Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School will submit a Schoolwide Plan that includes SIG expenditures to Director Shelley Ferrara, School Transformation Branch by August 1, 2017.

We are excited that with this award, Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School will be able to drive reform efforts and produce measurable growth in student and staff performance. We will continue to provide support and collaborative technical assistance from the state level to help achieve ambitious goals.

We also thank the Office of School Turnaround and those partnering with Hawaii for assisting us in our implementation of this competition.

Very truly yours,



Keith Hayashi
Interim Deputy Superintendent

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c: Deirdra Hilliard, ED Grants Management Specialist
Sione Thompson, Executive Director, State Public Charter School Commission
Lima Naipo, Interim Chair, Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo Public Charter School
Shelley Ferrara, School Transformation Branch Director
Lisa Joy Andres, SIG Program Manager