



January 11, 2023

Branden Kawazoe
Chairperson
Hawaii Teachers Standards Board
Sent via email to: felicia.villalobos@hawaii.gov

Dear Chairman Kawazoe,

The **Findings** provided for the NBI 22-59 state:

iteach recommended twenty teacher candidates for a content field that did not match the content area in which iteachHAWAII was approved.

As a point of reference, 21 iteachHAWAII candidates were identified on the attached spreadsheet provided to iteachHAWAII by the HTSB.

Furthermore, the spreadsheet reveals that:

8 candidates were recommended for an iteachHAWAII approved content area, but had passed a more specific test such as the Mild to Moderate rather than the Special Education Core Knowledge and Application test.

13 candidates passed the Special Education Mild to Moderate test and were recommended for Special Education Mild to Moderate, a content area in which iteachHAWAII is not approved.

As explained during conversations with Director Villalobos, iteach assumes full responsibility for the recommendations. However, had iteachHAWAII at any time be made aware of the errors, iteach would have immediately adjusted its policies. For example on the 2020-2021 audit conducted by the HSTB, documentation for [REDACTED] identified her as a completer in Special Education Mild to Moderate with the passing of the Special Education Core Knowledge ad Mild to Moderate Application test. At no time was iteachHAWAII informed that this was an improper or inaccurate recommendation. All candidates on the audit were approved as recommended.

iteachHAWAII is most appreciate of the Board's willingness to use the "one-of" policy for the 13 identified candidates and would ask the Board to consider extending this policy to the 6 individuals who have been identified as needing retest. In the event this is not an acceptable proposal, iteachHAWAII will work with the Board and the iteach completers to provide test preparation and cover the costs of testing for the 6 candidates who were certified at the k – 6 or K – 12 Special Education level.

It each would also propose to the Board that of the 331 candidates certified in Hawaii by iteachHAWAII since initial approval in 2012, only the a small percentage of Special Education candidate recommendations have had discrepancies as identified by the Director. Therefore, the requirement of an audit of all completers for the 22-23 year might be revised to require an audit of all Special Education completers for the year.

Thank you for your consideration of the iteachHAWAII suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diann Huber'.

Diann Huber, Ed.D.
Founder