

November 18, 2021

By Email: htsb@hawaii.gov
State of Hawai'i
Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board
650 Iwilei Road
Suite 268
Honolulu, HI 96817

To: Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board
Teacher Education Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to the Teacher Education Committee ("Committee") and the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board ("HTSB") for their November 19, 2021 meeting. We write on behalf of Moreland University and McKissock Investment Holding, LLC (McKissock"), the entity which acquired Moreland University on October 12, 2021. Our testimony relates to Agenda items II.D. (NBI 21-20) and II.I (Moreland Letter) on the Committee's agenda and items D. (NBI 21-20) and I. (Moreland Letter) under Teacher Education Committee on the HTSB agenda.

Since McKissock sent its November 5, 2021 follow up letter to the Interim Executive Director (attached to this written testimony), we have retained local Hawai'i counsel to assist us in furthering the goal stated in that letter of collaborative communication with the HTSB and minimizing disruption to the teaching and school communities in Hawai'i while addressing the HTSB's concerns. Towards that end, our local counsel, Bill Kaneko and Louise Ing of Dentons have opened an informative and productive dialog with the legal team from the Attorney General's office representing HTSB. We appreciate the time that the Attorney General's office has afforded to our counsel and the goals at hand.

We reiterate our strong desire to comply with the regulatory requirements of HTSB and to maintain the integrity of the Moreland University programs and Moreland's commitment to train well-qualified future teachers who can meet the needs of the communities they serve.

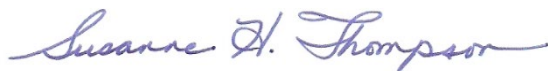
With that said, we have had the opportunity to review the Committee and HTSB agendas. Through our review of the agendas, we became aware of the Committee agenda item II.D., relating to the results of the HTSB's annual audit and, in particular, its findings with respect to the random audited completers of Moreland/Teach-Now's in-state Hawai'i Educator Preparation Program. While Moreland has no objection in principle to the Committee's recommendations #2 and 3 to conduct an audit of all Moreland/Teach-Now completers of its Hawai'i program and report back to the HTSB at its next meeting, we respectfully request time to understand the audit findings with respect to two completers at issue, discuss the bases for the findings internally with Moreland's prior owner and staff and then work with HTSB collaboratively to address questions and concerns, before Committee members or the Board come to any determinations, conclusions or actions with respect to Moreland.

With respect to the Committee agenda item II.I. (Moreland's exercise of its right to eliminate its EPP in Hawai'i), it is Moreland's understanding that the letter is on the agenda for informational purposes for the Committee and HTSB members. As indicated in our November 5 letter, if HTSB requires Moreland to comply with HAR section 8-44-7(b) or other requirements, we also respectfully request time to understand and confirm the steps that need to be taken and to work internally, as well as externally with HTSB, to address requirements.

Therefore, we respectfully request that if the Committee and Board are considering recommending or taking any action or finding with respect to Moreland arising from the annual audit or Moreland's October 19 letter, that such decisions be deferred until the next HTSB meeting to allow Moreland's new owner time to get up to speed and work with HTSB staff and leadership to address any concerns.

Thank you to the Committee and Board members for your consideration of our request. Our local counsel, Bill Kaneko and Louise Ing will attend the Committee and Board meeting on November 19 and will be prepared to testify on our behalf if necessary.

Respectfully,



Dr. Susanne H. Thompson
President, Teacher Education
McKissock Investment Holding, LLC

cc: William Kaneko and Louise Ing