

TITLE: Continuing State Approval for Teach For America's Educator Preparation Unit and Programs

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) grants Teach For America continuing state approval with unit conditions and program areas for improvement for seven (7) years.

As an HTSB approved Educator Preparation Provider (EPP), TFA is reminded that they shall be responsible for all teacher candidates' placements.

If any of the below TFA Unit Conditions and Program Areas for Improvement are not corrected/satisfied, or if additional violations are found during TFA's accreditation term of seven (7) years, the HTSB may take action on TFA's state approval, including suspension or revocation of their program approval in Hawai'i.

TFA's Unit Conditions and Program Areas for Improvement:

1. TFA leadership shall submit documentation for all TFA teacher candidates by July 31 for each academic year, on a form provided by HTSB staff, to verify:
 - License field and grade level of candidate's program
 - Placement subject/teaching lines and grade levels
 - Name of cooperating/mentor teacher
 - Basic skills requirement verification
 - Content knowledge requirement verification
 - Location of placement
2. All Hawai'i Department of Education TFA completers shall be required to turn in their Notification of Personnel Action (Form 5) prior to being issued a license by HTSB.
3. All TFA's teacher candidates shall be audited annually for the next three (3) years.
4. TFA shall send an annual letter to all school administrator(s) with TFA teacher candidates explaining that TFA teacher candidates are not allowed in Special Education lines in accordance with IDEA Federal Law. This letter shall be sent each year for the entire accreditation term of seven (7) years, or until TFA has an HTSB approved Special Education program. HTSB shall be copied (CC'd) on these annual letters.

Rationale/Background:

During TFA's accreditation site visit by the Association for Advancing Quality of

Educator Preparation (AAQEP), HTSB staff learned that some of TFA's teacher candidates were in Special Education instructional lines as teachers of record and care coordinators for Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

TFA does not have program approval in Special Education from HTSB. TFA teacher candidates placed in these teaching lines as a teacher of record is in direct violation of [NBI 12-27 revised](#), [NBI 11-03 revised](#), and the [Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\) Sec. 300.156 \(2\)\(c\)\(1\)\(i\) Personnel Qualifications](#).

AAQEP's leadership and site visit team, which included a local practitioner from Chaminade University, were notified of this violation and took no action. In response, the HTSB approved [NBI 22-102](#).

Since 2013, TFA has allowed approximately 186 of their teacher candidates to accept Special Education teaching lines even though they would be recommended in another licensure field.

Cost:

All costs are included in the current staff job duties/responsibilities.

Submitted by: Branden Kawazoe

Referred to: Teacher Education Committee



Association for **Advancing**
Quality in Educator Preparation

May 11, 2023

Jill Baldemor Esq.
Executive Director
Teach For America - Hawaii

Dear Ms. Baldemor:

This letter serves as formal notification of action taken regarding initial licensure programs of Teach For America - Hawaii by the Accreditation Commission of the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation at its meeting on April 14, 2023.

Action: Based on examination of the case record, including the Quality Assurance Report and the Quality Review Team Report, the AAQEP Accreditation Commission awards **accreditation for a full term of 7 years** to the initial licensure programs of Teach For America - Hawaii.

This action is effective immediately and extends **through June 30, 2030**, or until Teach For America - Hawaii ceases to be a member in good standing of AAQEP, whichever is earlier. Annual Reports are due by December 31 of each year, with the first report being due December 31, 2024. In addition, please refer to our [substantive change policy](#) for guidance on program changes that must be reported.

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark LaCelle-Peterson'.

Mark LaCelle-Peterson, Ed.D.
President and CEO

cc: Alyson Emrick, Director, TFA-Hawaii Licensure and Regional Team Initiatives
Felicia Villalobos, Executive Director, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board