

March 6, 2017

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawaii  
Executive Chambers

Dear Governor Ige,

For the past year, I have served as the Chairperson of the Governor's ESSA Team tasked with creating a new education blueprint for Hawaii. The ESSA Team completed the final draft (Version 1.0) of the blueprint in January 2017 and the ESSA team is continuing to monitor current changes in ESSA regulations in the event that changes are needed for an updated version of the blueprint.

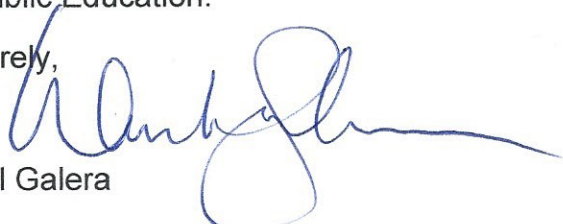
In October 2016, I was extremely honored when you appointed me to serve as a member on the Board of Education with a goal to "bridge the work of the Board of Education and the ESSA Team." As a result we have had a focused opportunity to collaboratively align the blueprint, the strategic plan, and a new Hawaii State Consolidated ESSA Plan that will be sent to the U.S. DOE in the near future. The level of community engagement for public education that has resulted has been unprecedented as reflected in the input, feedback, and final draft of the education blueprint.

As the search for a new state superintendent moves forward quickly, I have reflected on the priorities that will help our state achieve the goal of making Hawaii's new vision for public education a reality. It will be essential that there be as large a pool of experienced, qualified, and committed applicants that can provide the search and selection committee with as many viable candidates as possible for what will be one of the most important decisions for the future of public education in Hawaii. Therefore, after deep reflection, I have decided to apply to be a candidate for state superintendent. Given this decision, it would be best that I step down from my position as a member of the Board of Education. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of my resignation from the Board of Education beginning immediately.

I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board during the past four months. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve.

I humbly request to remain as the Chairperson of the Governor's ESSA Team, and to complete my responsibilities relating to the blueprint and Hawaii's federal ESSA plan. As ESSA Team Chairperson, I look forward to continuing to support the Office of the Governor, the State Board of Education and the Department of Education on implementation and extension of the Hawaii Blueprint for Public Education.

Sincerely,



Darrel Galera

Member of Board of Education

Chairperson, Governor's ESSA Team