



HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

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April 3, 2012

Wil Okabe
President

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Joan Kamila Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer

Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to share directly with you the status of Hawaii's progress in our efforts to "win" your Race to the Top.

Hawaii's students and teachers need to win that race.

Our union's negotiations with Governor Abercrombie have been difficult. There are times when the Governor says publicly that the remaining issues should be resolved at the collective bargaining table. At other times, he states that he will mandate a settlement and legislate outstanding issues.

We have not lost hope. We do believe in change. We share your belief in the positive power of collective bargaining - renewed negotiations are the best path forward and in the best interest of Hawaii's students.

Hawaii is not Wisconsin. Our traditions are different. Please advise Secretary Duncan that the Hawaii State Teachers Association is willing to negotiate any of the issues that put Hawaii at "high risk."

Please accept our best wishes in your work to move our nation forward.

Sincerely,

Wil Okabe
HSTA President