



Office of the Governor of Guam

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Felix P. Camacho
Governor

Michael W. Cruz, M.D.
Lieutenant Governor

JUN 27 2008

Mr. Philip A. Maestri
Director
Risk Management Service
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington D.C. 20202-0100

Dear Mr. Maestri:

Hafa Adai! Thank you for your letter dated June 17, 2008 and taking the call of Governor Felix P. Camacho on June 24, 2008.

Governor Camacho and I are greatly concerned about the issues outlined in your alert letter. It is clear that reform of local law to maintain stable management at the Guam Public School System (G.P.S.S.) is critical to the short and long term education needs of the school children of Guam. While much has been done by the Government of Guam to cooperate with the United States Department of Education (U.S. DOE), continued fiscal and programmatic accountability issues has again threatened the delivery of services to the 31,000 school students of the Guam Public School System.

In recent months, efforts to stabilize the management of G.P.S.S., a point of contention of U.S. DOE since 2006, has been riddled by problems of the Guam Education Policy Board's making. For two years, the Office of the Governor has attempted to remedy the federal government's concerns with regards to the hiring of a Superintendent. These efforts are again being considered by the Guam Legislature to ensure that the Government of Guam does not see millions of dollars under the 2008 Consolidated Grant withheld or delayed.

The Guam Legislature is debating two bills, one to reorganize the Guam Education Policy Board that allows the appointment of five members to the Guam Education Policy Board by the Governor and four members to be elected at-large. The second bill creates charter schools on Guam. These reform measures have the full support of Governor Camacho. If given the opportunity to appoint, Governor Camacho has committed to keeping his appointee for Superintendent in place for the remainder of his gubernatorial term.

It is clear our community recognizes the importance of stability with the Superintendent of the Guam Public School System. A permanent leader of G.P.S.S. will make those commitments on behalf of this government to ensure that corrective actions are taken to satisfy concerns under Guam's "high risk" grantee status and to implement those programs as agreed to in the Consolidated Grant application.

We have asked that all the leaders of Guam and our stakeholders to press forward to put an end to this problem that could have far reaching effects to other areas of this Government and implore the Guam Education Policy Board and the Guam Legislature to remember their commitments to the U.S. DOE and ensure that all efforts have been taken to strengthen Guam's education system.

Therefore, we humbly request the expeditious review and processing of the G.P.S.S. Consolidated Grant Application for federal funding assistance for Fiscal Year 2008. We remain cognizant that the pending funding requests will have special conditions attached to ensure that all accountability and reporting requirements are addressed due to Guam's designation as a "high-risk" grantee.

Federal funding is critical to the operations of the Guam Public School at this time as School Year 2008-2009 is scheduled to begin on August 12, 2008. The Government of Guam is currently assisting the G.P.S.S. with shortfalls that may arise as a result of delays in receiving funding from the U.S. D.O.E. and appreciate any assistance you can provide to avoid any problems with the administration of educational programs on our island.

Governor Camacho and I appreciate your support and assistance with this request and look forward to your most immediate response.

Sins eru yan Magãhet,



MICHAEL W. CRUZ, M.D.

I Maga' Lãhen Guãhan Parã Pago

Governor of Guam (Acting)