



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 6, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 208
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz:

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) additional time to respond to the questions posed by the Senate's Special Committee on COVID-19. Please find our responses to your inquiries in the order they were submitted to us.

- **In working with the vulnerable and homeless student population, there are many nonprofit organizations that are willing to help. Please provide us a copy of your written plan for this student population so that we may pass it out to those who would like to assist.**

Please find attached the Education for Children and Youth in Unstable Housing flyer, which includes links to a list of the Community Homeless Concerns Liaisons and a map of service providers. HIDOE's Office of Student Support Services (OSSS) is currently finalizing a plan for more comprehensive outreach to our students in unstable housing beginning this summer.

- **What is the total cost to DOE for the purchase or use of E-Learning or other items which will be used to reach this vulnerable student population?**

HIDOE is currently exploring the use of buses with WiFi connectivity to provide internet access for vulnerable and homeless students. We currently do not have a total cost for this endeavor. Schools have provided devices typically used in the classroom and computer applications to students who do not have access to computers at home.

HIDOE has two enterprise solutions that are being leveraged for e-learning and telework -- WebEx and Google, which are utilized statewide for all students and staff. HIDOE has a site license for WebEx at a cost of \$276,739 for this current school year. Google is at no cost since we are currently using Google/G-suite for Education.

HIDOE has also procured online credit recovery and accrual programs and online K-12 curriculum for our summer learning programs and e-School. The total cost of these programs and the systems to manage these programs is approximately \$503,470. These online programs are utilized statewide, adaptive to student needs, and available to all students.

- **Please advise us of your decision and plan to keep feeding the student population between May 28 and June 4, 2020.**

HIDOE is currently planning to continue feeding our student population on May 28-29 and June 1-3, 2020. HIDOE will begin the Seamless Summer Option for the summer on June 4, 2020.

- **Please provide this committee an accounting of DOE’s cost savings, whether electricity or bus savings; if you’ve had to use these savings for anything else and explanation of how it was used, as well as proposed budget cuts you may propose.**

While school closures have resulted in lower electricity costs (approximately \$50,000 less per day), HIDOE is not projecting any utilities cost savings as the general fund appropriation for this expense was underfunded (note: 2019-21 Biennium Request was denied and \$5 million Fiscal Year 2019-20 Supplemental Request has not been acted upon). The anticipated savings in student transportation due to school closures is estimated to be \$15 million for this school year. To date, these student transportation savings have not been reallocated elsewhere as schools and offices are using existing funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

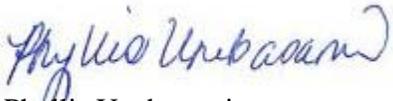
In light of preliminary assessments of the decline in state tax revenues from the Department of Budget and Finance, HIDOE appreciates the significance of the consideration by Congress to expand the flexibility on the use of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act’s Coronavirus Relief Fund and approve further financial assistance for state governments. With no further action by Congress, we understand that adjustments to HIDOE’s budget will likely be imposed in fiscal year 2020-21. Thus, HIDOE has preliminarily identified several budget options including:

Fiscal Year	Savings / Funding Source	Estimated Amount
2019-20	Restriction of Casual Hire Funds	\$18 million
2019-20	Restriction of Salary Funds	\$17 million
2019-20	Restriction of Student Transportation Contract Funds	\$15 million
2020-21	Impact Aid (de-forward funding & off-set general funds)	\$50 million
2020-21	Various Federal Programs (off-set general funds)	\$6 million
2020-21	Restriction of Funds Allocated by Formula (Weighted Student Formula, Indexed Complex Area Allocations, Adult Schools)	\$24.2 million
2020-21	Restriction of Non-Salary Funds (tentative)	\$10 million
2020-21	Restriction of Salary Funds (tentative)	\$10 million
Total		\$150.2 million

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
May 6, 2020
Page 3

HIDOE appreciates the opportunity to update the committee on these important issues to provide critical support for Hawaii's public school students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phyllis Unebasami".

Phyllis Unebasami
Deputy Superintendent

PU:wk

Attachments: Education for Children and Youth in Unstable Housing Flyer
Purposity Flyer

c: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki
The Honorable Kurt Fevella
Board of Education
Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent
Office of Strategy, Innovation and Performance