



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT



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Nerissa Bretania Underwood, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Education

April 19, 2010

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The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D
Speaker, I Mina'trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan
155 Hesler Place
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Use of Bond Funds as an interim Cash Source

Hafa Adai Speaker Won Pat!

It is with urgency that I again ask for your assistance to allow the Department of Education to use bond funds as an interim cash source until federal funds is available for drawdown. As you are aware, we are unable to drawdown to cover expenses related to the 2009 Consolidated Grant Programs until the Third Party Fiduciary Agent (TPFA) is in place. The TPFA Request for Proposal has been released and we hope to have the Third Party on board by June at the earliest. The funds we have access to, FY2008 consolidated grants carry over funds, were projected to last through March. We are currently in the same situation we were earlier this year with no access to cash to cover programs funded under the FY2009 Consolidated Grant.

At this point, we are struggling with the decision to implement the 2010 Summer School Program. We anticipate the enrollment of 6,500 K-12 students for this summer's program. The amount we have requested for the Summer School program is \$1.1 million to cover the cost of classes in all of the public elementary and high schools, including Liheng Famguon at the Department of Youth Affairs, The requested funds will cover salaries, benefits, and school supplies only. (Funds for student meals and bussing are not included.)

The department has worked diligently to meet the federal requirements for the release of funds but without some interim help from the Legislature, the 2010 Summer School Program and other FY2009 Consolidated Grant programs may be jeopardized. I sincerely hope that you will be able to assist us, once again, to get legislative support for this request.

Thank you for your time and attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Senseramente,

NERISSA B. UNDERWOOD, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Education

cc: Governor of Guahan
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, and Land
Chairman and Members, Guam Education Policy Board