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Date: 8/14/2019

To: catherine_payne@notes.k12.hi.us

Cc: christina.kishimoto@k12.hi.us

Subject: Dr Angel Ramos

Dear Ms. Payne,

This is Chris Sullivan, Chair of Leadership and Excellence in the Education of the Deaf (LEED). LEED is an advocacy group in New Jersey where, two weeks ago, we successfully put through two education -related bills through NJ Legislature - LEAD-K -S2044 and Deaf Child's Bill of Rights - S2045. This was a culmination of a three year effort. We also succeeded in obtaining funds for an outreach Deaf Mentoring Program, the first in the nation.

The reason why I am sharing this information to you is because Dr. Ramos, who I highly respect for his expertise on deaf education, was influential in my leadership role in achieving these milestones. I recently heard from Dr Ramos that he was transferred to a non performing position at HSDB and replaced by a hearing person who has no experience in deaf education whatsoever. I am truly appalled by this action. Dr. Ramos is the nation's highest ranked Hispanic specializing in deaf education. It is beyond me to understand how insensitive this action is to all who advocate for equality and equity in deaf education. This action brings me back to the days when Gallaudet University had chosen a hearing president over a very capable deaf candidate for the presidency. As you may recall, this event created a rebellion on campus which eventually brought about the first elected deaf president in its 150 year history

It is my hope in the strongest terms that Dr. Ramos be re-installed to his previous position as principal of HSDB. He has the respect and loyalty of his staff, teachers and students. Also, more importantly, Dr Ramos stands as a successful role model for deaf students everywhere. It would be a great travesty if Dr. Ramos is shunted aside for no particular reason other than to promote a hearing person as a routine matter. Dr. Ramos represents a beacon of light in the world of deaf education.

Please reconsider this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Chris Sullivan
Chair
Leadership and Education of the Deaf
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