

September 4, 2019

Dr. Christine M. Kishimoto, Superintendent  
Hawaii Department of Education  
P.O. Box 2360  
Honolulu, HI 96804

Re: Hawaii State School for the Deaf and the Blind (HSDB)

Dear Dr. Kishimoto,

My name is Thomas J. Posedly, FAIA. I am one of few Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. I am totally deaf in both ears since my birth. I live in Phoenix, Arizona now. I was a Kamaina on Hawaii for ten years from 1987 to 1997, and taught at HSDB 2 years of those years.

When my architect wife, Penny, and I landed in Honolulu, we were told by some Hawaiian deaf people that HSDB has 6 children left and that State took over one of two dormitory buildings for its offices. That was bad news. Good news is that Deaf community was willing to work for Deaf children's rights.

When Dr. Angel Ramos came, both Deaf community and BOE/DOE welcomed him with wide open arms. We were shocked when Ramos was re-assigned on the first of August to a non-Deaf school. For stepping BOE/DOE officers' toes is not good reason. Please take serious look at evidence of really vast improvements on HSDB's educational performance as a result of Dr. Ramos's work.

Once again Deaf community stirred up a movement. It is called SOAR (Save Our Angel Ramos). All we need is a good special school so that Deaf children can learn and achieve their dreams. SOAR wants the Deaf Principal back at HSDB. "The Deaf can do anything but hear" is a phrase coined by Gallaudet University's first Deaf President, Dr. King Jordan.

Sincerely yours,

*Thomas J. Posedly*

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