

# DeafTax™

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Aloha Education Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Respective Education Committees,

I am contacting you in regards to my concerns to the upcoming replacement by the DOE of Dr. Angel Ramos, the current principal of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind (HSDB) scheduled for September 1s, by an unqualified, inexperienced and non-Deaf educator with zero bona fides here in Hawaii Deaf community.

My name is Joshua R. Beal, MBA. I am a former Chief of Staff for Representative Corinne W.L. Ching, District 27 (Rep. Takashi Ohno), UH-Manoa graduate (Class of 2003 - Economics), 2x Professional Fellow at National Disability Institute and National Technical Institute of the Deaf where I obtained my MBA at Rochester Institute of Technology on a full scholarship. I am currently a resident and property owner in District 25 and own a business that serves the U.S. Deaf community - [www.DeafTax.com](http://www.DeafTax.com)

I do not have all the facts or information, but I've learned enough to contact each of you on behalf of the Hawaii Deaf community. This is an issue that, if unchecked, will soon become the Mauna Kea of the Deaf community right here in Honolulu.

From what I understand, the DOE is planning to replace Dr. Angel Ramos, a highly decorated and respected Deaf educator who has held three Superintendent positions at Deaf schools across the country (New Jersey, Idaho, Arizona) and additionally held Dean/Faculty Administrative positions at the two colleges for the Deaf at National Technical Institute of the Deaf and Gallaudet University. He came out of retirement and brought his Deaf wife, the First Lady of the Deaf community, to live at the HSDB campus in 2016 and they immediately integrated themselves in the Hawaii Deaf community with many positive outcomes.

The proposed replacement is a person with zero experience teaching the Deaf, zero fluency in American Sign Language (ASL) which is the primary language for communication in the Deaf community and zero connections with the Deaf community here and on the Mainland. The optics in this situation are much worse than what is happening with TMT at Mauna Kea. It smacks of nepotism and favoritism in DOE at the expense of the Hawaii Deaf community.

Replacing a valuable, qualified and nearly impossible to recruit Deaf leader such as Dr. Angel Ramos will set HSDB further back decades, erasing the hard earned trust and recent gains made after the sex abuse scandal this past three years and successive non-Deaf principals over the past two decades. This will also make it nearly impossible to recruit teachers of the Deaf from the mainland, which is a continuing problem due to high turnover but barely kept up only

because of Dr. Ramos' wide network and strong relationships with many of his former students and teachers across the U.S. Deaf community. In short, replacing Dr. Angel Ramos without another qualified Deaf educator is a scandal.

I strongly urge you, the legislators, to get immediately involved with the DOE to prevent this travesty and ensure that Dr. Angel Ramos continues his great work at HSDB uninterrupted until a qualified Deaf principal is recruited and hired to replace him in the next 3-5 years.

Please feel free to call me at 808-829-3616 or email me should you require more feedback or discussion regarding my concerns.

Mahalo!

Respectfully,  
Joshua R. Beal

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Joshua R. Beal, MBA  
CEO & Tax Preparer

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