

On Aug 20, 2019, at 9:11 AM, Cheryl Mizusawa <[damizu@me.com](mailto:damizu@me.com)> wrote:

August 20, 2019

Dr Rochelle Mahoe  
Complex Area Superintendent  
Department of Education

Dear Dr Mahoe,

I am writing to you to express our very grave concern about the reassignment of Dr Angel Ramos who was the principal of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind (HSDB) now placed at Kalakaua Middle School for hearing students.

His replacement at HSDB is Ms Kinau Gardner, principal of Kahala Elementary School, who has no training or knowledge in educating children and youth who are deaf and/or blind. A Consequence of this reassignment is the enormous drain of DOE dollars to pay for 4 ASL interpreters to cover both HSDB and Kalakaua Middle School to facilitate communication between faculty and student body on both campuses. What a waste!

Residents of the Deaf Community are deeply concerned that the academic progress made during Dr. Ramos' tenure will slip away without his stewardship. We have noticed a dramatic improvement of the students' language skills in both American Sign Language (ASL) and English. Language arts has been the biggest hurdle for native ASL users. These academic gains are vital for critical thinking and insightful behavior as deaf students go through life. We would like to request a meeting with you upon your return to share our perspective. Members of the Deaf Community on the neighbor islands would also like to participate in this meeting so we would like to request video conferencing capability and 2 ASL interpreters.

Mahalo for your attention to this grave concern.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Mizusawa  
Community Representative