



DEPT. COMM. NO. 47

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 23, 2006

The Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
The Twenty-third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 003
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Bunda:

Enclosed is the final report and toolkit from the Truancy Reduction Project, a multi-agency collaboration formed to address the issue of truancy reduction in Hawaii's public schools. The project was jointly sponsored by the Department of Human Services, Office of Youth Services, and the Department of Education, Student Support Section. The project was coordinated by an independent researcher, Ms. Valere McFarland, who was also the principal investigator.

The enclosed toolkit contains the final project report, including results of a survey conducted with all of Hawaii's public schools; a literature review that identifies national and local best practices for truancy reduction; a matrix describing these best practices; on-line resources to reduce truancy; and DVD and VHS copies of a documentary addressing the issue of truancy at a local school. One unusual feature of this project was the inclusion of high school students from Nanakuli High and Intermediate School as co-researchers. The students worked closely with the principal investigator to develop a case study methodology that resulted in a documentary looking at the issue of truancy at their school.

Truancy is a topic that concerns all of us, not simply the "truant students," teachers and administrators, but the entire school staff, other students, family members, and the broader community. We invite you to review the results and the contents of the toolkit to enhance your understanding about the problem of truancy and support efforts addressing this issue. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Russell Yamauchi, Educational Specialist, Student Support Section, at 735-6222.

Very truly yours,

Patricia Hamamoto
Superintendent

PH:ap

Enclosures: Final Report, Truancy Reduction Project, Valere McFarland and Shannon Davidson
DVD – School: A Place to Belong
VHS – School: A Place to Belong

c: Members of the Senate
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support
The Honorable Linda Lingle, Governor