



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 29, 2021

Clifton Otto, MD  
3615 Harding Avenue, Suite 304  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
[cliftonotto@hotmail.com](mailto:cliftonotto@hotmail.com)

Dear Dr. Otto:

Dr. Kishimoto has asked me to respond to your December 7, 2020 letter on her behalf as the Department's Risk Manager.

As you correctly recognize, unless the federal categorization of marijuana is changed, the DOE must respect and obey federal laws and regulations. Therefore, your efforts would be more productive if you were to bring your solutions to Hawaii's congressional delegation to change federal laws and regulations. Similarly, because the DOE is guided by the Attorney General for legal advice, neither the Superintendent or the BOE has independent authority to disregard the legal advice from the Attorney General. You should raise your ideas with the Attorney General. The Iowa attempt to seek guarantees to protect federal funding would appear to be a fruitless attempt to ask the federal government to ignore its own laws and regulations. We would not find such a proposal to be viable.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russell Suzuki".

Russell Suzuki  
DOE Risk Manager