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# DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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**JON J. P. FERNANDEZ**  
Superintendent of Education

June 12, 2014

The Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo  
Governor of Guam  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 2950  
Hagatna, GU 96932



**RE: GDOE Input on Draft SEIS**

Dear Governor Calvo:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the potential impacts on the Guam Department of Education before, during and after the United States Marines open their base on Guam. There are three potential impacts for GDOE:

1. **Increased Traffic:** The SEIS identifies 2021 as the “peak” year for construction related traffic for the build-up. This means that construction workers, construction vehicles, supply vehicles will be travelling Route 3 on a daily basis. The increase in traffic could impact the delivery and return of over 4,000 students (see official enrollment below) in our schools located along or near Route 3.

- Machananao Elementary – 516 students
- Finegayan Elementary – 936 students
- Okkodo High School – 1,472 students (will increase to 1,800 with expansion)
- Astumbo Elementary – 533
- Astumbo Middle – 625

Additionally, the increased traffic along Route 3 is a safety concern not only for the schools that front the thoroughfare, but the schools that have students that have bus stops along the roadside. GDOE would like to ensure all of our students are as safe as possible from the time they leave home in the morning to the time they return in the afternoon. To the extent that traffic and road safety risks can be addressed, we would feel more comfortable with the plans being set forth.

2. **Student Enrollment:** While the SEIS suggests that that there will be “no substantial impact” on our primary and secondary schools, there is a potential impact on the already full campuses in the north. The SEIS projects that GDOE enrollment could increase during the peak of the build-up by a total of 562 students (275 – elementary, 119 – middle school, 168 – high

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school). These numbers come from the civilian population and could vary substantially in either direction.

We are also under the assumption that the schools impacted the most are the same schools previously listed with Machananao, Finegayan, Astumbo Middle and Okkodo High the most likely schools impacted (Simon Sanchez – 1832 students and FBLG – 1106 should also be on alert). There is the potential that increased construction needs could have local residents moving closer to the work sites and further impact the enrollment numbers of northern schools. We are working on a master facilities plan that we will ensure incorporates these projections, and our hope is that we will have resources to address any additional needs in terms of school capacity in the north.

3. **Human Resources:** The potential expansion of the DOD Education program as indicated in the SEIS could have a significant impact on GDOE human resources. It is assumed that if the program expands, GDOE employees will be recruited and thus dwindle the already limited job pool that currently exists. In order to meet the requirements of Public Law 28-45 and provide a certified teacher in every classroom, GDOE needs to contract with retirees on an annual basis. We would like to work more closely with DODEA to ensure that we can project our classroom teacher needs, and it may require that we determine alternate ways to attract and prepare teachers going forward.

We will continue to review the SEIS report and will alert Mr. Mark Calvo should there be any issues that impact our school system. If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact Deputy Superintendent Robert Malay at [rhmalay@gdoe.net](mailto:rhmalay@gdoe.net) or via his mobile phone at 687-4352.

Senseramente,



**JON J.P. FERNANDEZ**  
**Superintendent of Education**