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GDOE questions Guahan Academy Charter School invoices

BY LOUELLA LOSINIO | VARIETY NEWS STAFF Oct 20, 2014

THE Guahan Academy Charter School is facing another setback as Guam Department of Education Superintendent Jon Fernandez has indicated he cannot submit a verification of accuracy on the charter school's invoices as required by public law.

In a letter addressed to the Department of Administration last week, Fernandez said GDOE's internal audit office collaborated with members of the charter school to conduct a review of the school's October invoices.

Under P.L. 32-181, the General Appropriations Act of 2015, DOA is authorized to deduct \$5,500 per enrollee of the charter school – not to exceed 520 students as recommended by the Guam Academy Charter School Council – from the general fund appropriations of GDOE.

Total funding available for the charter school is \$2.86 million for fiscal 2015, based on the per pupil allocation of \$5,500.

According to Fernandez, GDOE's internal audit office was only able to validate \$131,318.59 of the invoiced total of \$375,999. According to the GDOE report, the validation is based on actual invoices submitted to its internal audit office on Oct 10.

According to the internal audit office, the charter school drawdown request for October totaled \$375,999, leaving a variance of \$244,680.41 yet to be supported by invoice and validated by the audit office.

As required by the budget law, the charter school is to submit a monthly invoice to DOA. Upon receipt of the invoice, GDOE is to verify the invoice for accuracy and report its findings within 10 days of receipt to DOA before funds are released.

If GDOE fails to report its findings, the invoiced amount received by DOA is to be automatically transmitted to the charter school.