



Charter School Administrative Office
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CSAO Status Report November 2, 2006

DATE November 2, 2006
TO The Honorable Randall Yee, Chairperson
Board of Education
FROM Maunalei Love, Interim Executive Director
Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO)
RE CSAO Report:
• Report on NACSA Conference

**REPORT ON NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS
(NACSA) CONFERENCE**

Four members of the CSAO (including myself) attended the NACSA Conference on Charter School Authorizing on October 23rd and 24th, 2006. Those who attended were Charter Authorizers, Department of Education staff from other states and Washington, D.C., Board of Education members from other states, Charter and School Reform supporters, as well as vendors with offerings of tools to support charter school's efforts around the country.

The following are some of the highlights:

- The authorizer's role.
- Professional standards and accountability for charter authorizers.
- Effective charter school board governance.
- NCLB: Where we are and where we are going?
- Measuring and analyzing performance.
- Managing accountability and streamlining oversight.
- The latest charter school research.
- Statewide independent authorizers for charter school quality and growth.
- Assessing school effectiveness through onsite quality reviews.
- What authorizers need to know.
- Developing sound performance contracts.
- Special Ed in charter schools: The authorizer's role.
- Strategic Planning: Are you on course?

The sessions offered at the conference included topics and issues that have been prioritized by both charter schools and charter authorizers. There were 40 breakout sessions and the information offered at these sessions will be available online at:

www.charterauthorizers.org

The CSAO staff attended approximately 20 sessions and was able to come away with important information relating to many issues, including accountability and responsibility of charter authorizers. With the CSAO staff, and others from Hawaii, our state was represented well. I highly recommend that as the authorizers of Hawaii's charter school system, the Hawaii Board of Education attend this conference next year.

Some of the key areas that were discussed and that I gathered clarification on are in relation to:

- **Accountability and Responsibility of Authorizers**
 - **Authorizers as Engines for Charter School Quality and Growth**
 - **Developing Performance Goals and Measures**
- 1. Accountability and Responsibility of Authorizers**
 - The role of authorizers in terms of offering support for the charter schools they authorize.
 - Authorizers being accountable not only in relation to what the charters are producing, but for what they as authorizers are offering to assure success of the charters.
 - 2. Authorizers As Engines for Quality and Growth**
 - Providing tools necessary for charter schools to succeed and grow.
 - Assisting as a support network to allow best practices to be implemented in the statewide educational system.
 - 3. Developing Performance Goals and Measures...Guidance for Charter Schools**
 - Developing sound performance goals and measures.
 - General criteria for educational and organizational goals:
Specific; Measurable; Ambitious and Attainable; Reflective of Mission;
Time Specific
 - Essential principles:
Demonstrate Objectively; Distinguish between Goals and Measures;
Assess Progress and How Much Progress Constitutes Success;
Demonstration of Knowledge; What's Most Important; Demonstrably
Valid and Reliable Measures of Achievement
 - Practical Steps:
Breadth and Depth of Mission; How Many Measures of Success; How
Much Progress Indicates Success; Means of Assessment(s); Baseline
Levels; Short and Long Term Goals and Benchmarks; Data Needed to
Support Measures; Quality and Integrity of Learning Measures
 - Qualitative to Quantitative - Creating Unique Learning Measures:
Define Clear Standards; Design Assessments Aligned with Standards;
Develop Scoring Tools; Test Reliability; Translate Scores into Aggregate
Measures; Communicate Results

- Organizational and Management Performance Goals and Measures:
Financial Management and Performance; Strength and Stability of Leadership, Governance, Personnel; Facilities and Other Operational Management; Enrollment, Attendance, and Retention; Staffing and Professional Development; Parent and Community Involvement; Parent and Student Satisfaction

In a report by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute (May 2006) the “Executive Summary” states: **Belatedly, policymakers and researchers are recognizing that quality charter schools depend on quality charter school authorizing...** This report presents findings from a pioneering national examination of the organizations that sponsor, oversee, and hold accountable U.S. charter schools...The result of this inquiry is a new typology of charter school authorizers that includes:

- County/Regional/Intermediate Education Agencies
- Higher Education Institutions
- Independent Chartering Boards
- Local Education Agencies (School Districts)
- Municipal Offices
- Nonprofit Organizations
- State Education Agencies

With clear evidence that charter schools and their authorizers are gaining support and are growing to proportions that ten years ago were not understood, we need to look at the intent and commitment our state will offer to its charter school system.

I would like to meet with members of the Board of Education, along with the newly elected Charter School Review Panel and members of the charter school community to come up with a plan on how best to serve and support Hawaii’s charter schools.

Mahalo nui loa, Maunalei Love