



Charter School Administrative Office
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CSAO Status Report

DATE November 16, 2006
TO The Honorable Randall Yee, Chairperson
Board of Education
FROM Maunalei Love, Interim Executive Director
Charter School Administrative Office
RE CSAO Status Report

Aloha Kakou,

1. CHARTER SCHOOL REVIEW PANEL (PANEL)

- The Panel will be meeting within the next couple of weeks...the date is to be determined and will be posted prior to the meeting.
- A draft of guidelines was created by the Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO) in July and will be looked at as a starting point along with other information gathered regarding guidelines for review panels.
- Seven (7) Letters of Intent that have been submitted to the CSAO from prospective charter school applicants. To date, the CSAO has received one (1) Detailed Implementation Plan.

2. SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED) CONFERENCE

- A team from Hawaii representing the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) - SPED Section, the University of Hawaii - Hilo, the CSAO, and Hawaii's charter schools recently returned from the National Conference on Special Education in Charter Schools held in Indianapolis, Indiana. This conference is held every three (3) years.
- Information from this conference will assist the DOE's Special Education Section and charter schools to:
 1. Further offer special education services of high quality.
 2. Learn and network with special education programs and officials federally and nationally.
 3. Continue clarification regarding Hawaii's role in offering SPED services to its DOE and charter schools.

3. CSAO CONFERENCE

- The CSAO Administrator's Conference will be held December 4-5, 2006 at the Naniloa Hotel in Hilo, Hawaii.
- This conference is specifically designed to offer tools and services needed by charter school administrators and business managers.
- Breakout session will be conducted by the Department of the Attorney General (Contract Dos and Don'ts), the Department of Education (Title I and EEO/Civil Rights), and the CSAO (Personnel Processing and Payroll).

4. SAFETY MEETING

- The CSAO met with the Deputy Superintendent, Communications Director, and Safety and Security Services Auxiliary Services Specialist of the DOE to further clarify roles, responsibilities, and timely communication.
- The CSAO is working on a Communications flow chart and will be gathering information from the charter schools in order to compile and disseminate emergency, health and safety, and other important information.

1. SUPERINTENDENT'S LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING

- A meeting with the Superintendent and charter school representatives was held on Friday, November 3, 2006 regarding the charter school's Memorandum of Agreement, Federal Funds, Transfer of Payroll Reserve Funds, Special Education, and the Public Charter Schools Program Office.
- These sessions enable dialogue between the Superintendent and charter school administrators to assist with systemic operations and communication. All in attendance felt it was an informative and productive meeting.

6. SITE VISITS

- Site visits are planned to coincide with the next Board of Education (Board) meetings in Kona and on Kaua`i.
- I ask that representatives from the Board and the DOE attend to see what these schools are accomplishing with minimal facilities.
- The following site visits have been scheduled:
 1. December 7, 2006 - Kona...A.M....West Hawaii Explorations Academy and Innovations
 2. December 8, 2006 - Waimea...A.M....Kanu O Ka`Aina and Waimea Middle School
 3. December 14, 2006 - Kaua`i...A.M....Kanuikapono
 4. December 15, 2006 - Kaua`i...A.M....Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha and Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA)

7. FACILITIES

- Facilities funding is desperately needed. I ask for your support when we go to the legislature asking for facilities funding to be added to Hawaii's charter school law.
- The addition of facilities funding in Hawaii's charter school law will help to drive Hawaii in its lead towards educational reform.
- Because of Hawaii's unique educational system, we have the potential to set standards and assist our national educational system.

The CSAO has taken on more and more responsibility since its inception. Operating with minimal staff, we are busy assisting Hawaii's charter schools, as well as looking at ensuring accountability. The CSAO is working on the best ways to offer this assistance while continuing with clarification of systemic operations.

Mahalo nui loa,
Maunalei Love