



Charter School Administrative Office
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CSAO Status Report

DATE December 14, 2006
TO Board of Education
FROM Maunalei Love, Interim Executive Director
RE CSAO Report

Aloha,

I received word from the Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO) Chief Financial Officer, Bob Roberts, after he attended the Board of Education (Board) General Business Meeting last week, December 7, 2006, as my designee, that there were a few points you made and wanted communicated.

1. The first was that you require I attend all Board meetings. I would like to clarify that I have attended every Board New Century Charter School Committee, Budget and Fiscal Accountability Committee, and General Business Meeting since I started as the Interim Executive Director of the CSAO. Also, the meeting I attended in Washington, D.C. was a FEDERAL Charter Schools Program Project Directors Conference where attendance was required.
 2. Second, the directive that I was given by the Board New Century Charter School Committee was to assist in calling the Charter School Review Panel (Panel) together. I understand that there has been confusion as to how that was to occur. I have acted in good faith and with the understanding that this was the step to take regarding the Panel. I purposely acted only as a liaison and wanted to leave the decisions of the Panel up to the members.
 3. Third, you have asked that no Panel meetings be held until further notice. As I have previously mentioned, the members of the Panel are in the process of helping the Board and understand the need to produce guidelines that will be amenable to all. The law states that the Panel come up with the guidelines. The intent of the Panel is to offer these guidelines to the Board for approval before sending them out to the schools who have submitted Letters of Intent. At this point, until the Board knows who leadership will be, the Panel has been advised not to have any formal meetings until further directed by the Board.
- **SITE VISITS**
 1. I would like to thank the members of the Board who attended the site visits to West Hawaii Explorations Academy, Innovations, Kanu O Ka`Aina, and Waimea Middle last week, for taking the time to visit these schools. The schools have expressed their appreciation and hope you also enjoyed visiting their schools, getting better acquainted with their staff and students.
 2. Scheduled on Kaua`i are Kanuikaponu on Thursday, December 14th and Kula Aupuni Ni`ihau A Kahelelani Aloha and Ke Kula Ni`ihau O Kekaha on Friday, December 15th. Again, please go to see these schools. If you have any questions about what they are doing or why they are different, you should be able to have many of your questions answered by visiting.

- **FEDERAL CHARTER SCHOOLS PROGRAM PROJECT DIRECTORS CONFERENCE**
 1. Last week, December 6th – 8th, I attended the Federal Charter Schools Program Project Directors Conference. This Conference detailed information regarding federal sub-grants and what is directed by the new mandates.
 2. Our state team also was able to discuss how best to support charter schools in Hawaii, what is needed to continue support from the Department of Education, and how to best utilize the funds awarded our state.

Mahalo nui loa,
Maunalei Love