



Charter School Administrative Office
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CSAO Status Report

DATE February 1, 2007
TO The Honorable Karen Knudsen, Chairperson
Board of Education
FROM Maunalei Love, Interim Executive Director
Charter School Administrative Office
RE CSAO Report

Aloha,

The Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO) has been busy with its daily duties supporting Hawaii's Charter School System. The following are items that the CSAO wants to specifically bring to your attention:

1. CHARTER SCHOOL REVIEW PANEL (PANEL)
 - The Panel was officially convened on January 23rd, 2007 at the Board of Education (Board) Committee on Charter Schools (Committee) meeting. Members of the panel were introduced and those in attendance were Ku Kahakalau, Alvin Parker, Fred Birkett, Pualani Akaka, Ardith Renteria, Maunalei Love, and Denise Matsumoto.
 - As I have previously stated, members of the Panel are eager to undertake the duties that have been assigned to them and Panel members who addressed the Committee further reiterated this.
 - The Panel will be meeting in February.
 - The CSAO now has four Detailed Implementation Plans (DIPs) for start-up applications and two DIP Amendments and will coordinate with the Board office to ensure consistency of DIPs.
2. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
 - Administrative Rules are moving along and a meeting will be scheduled with the Board members who are assisting and the CSAO.
 - The Administrative Rules will then be sent to the charter schools for their review and input.
3. INTERNAL REVIEW
 - The CSAO has been cooperating fully with Chris Lee on the Internal Review.
4. CLARIFICATION OF THE CSAO OPERATING BUDGET
 - At the Board of Education General Business Meeting on January 18th, 2007, comments were made by Board members regarding the CSAO purposely inflating its operating budget to hide money from the charter schools.

- I would like to clarify that both I and CSAO Chief Financial Officer Bob Roberts have stated publicly at previous Board meetings the need to readjust the CSAO's operating budget by looking at what is needed for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year and to see where we may be able to reduce the amount that was previously considered. The CSAO has sent its operating budget to the charter schools, discussed the budget at the CSAO's December Administrative Conference, and will be sending the revised budget to the charter schools for their review.
- At no time, has the CSAO or myself purposely hidden money from Hawaii's charter schools. It is the intent of the CSAO and myself to have transparency of its operating procedures.

Mahalo nui loa,
Maunalei Love