

October 26, 2010
Presentation to the
Charter School Funding Task Force

The Politics of Charter School Facility Funding *seeking clarity*



Quality

- The only reason to have charter schools in Hawaii is to elevate success for ALL students.
- Charters:
 - Offer innovative options.
 - Reach underserved populations.
 - Create choice in public education, which creates healthy competition.

Level Playing Field

- Charters can provide insights into:
 - Innovative curriculum
 - Alternative assessment methods
 - Effective instructional strategies for at risk groups
- We don't get the full benefit of charters if we don't keep the playing field level.
- What is level?

Quality = Equity = Expectations

- In order for charter schools to achieve their purpose, they need adequate resources.
- Charters believe adequate is equitable.
 - Already the state's education philosophy
 - Hawaii made that commitment in RTT2
 - Politically sound
- Without equity, we create “yea, but...”

Expectations vs. Autonomy

Expectations

- Serve all students.
- High academic achievement.
- All state testing requirements.
- All collective bargaining requirements.
- All health and safety requirements.
- Provide data and information upon request.
- Support the larger education movement.
- Other compliance (eg. Annual financial audit)

Autonomy

- Local governance
 - Some autonomy over hiring
 - Select curriculum
 - Determine budget
 - ❖ Freedom from bureaucracy = the ability to partner.
- Not bound by state procurement, but must follow best practice.

Charter School Funding

Per Pupil Funding

- Operational dollars - all the day to day costs
- Hawaii has committed to equity
- Statute implies equity
- We've gotten closer (\$5363)

Facilities

- Start up charters have only received facility support once
- Current year facility support is carved out of Per Pupil (\$197)

FED & SPED

- System is weighted against small schools and charters.
- Not all schools receiving their fair share.
- Policy fix, not a legislative fix

Start Up vs. Conversion

Start Up

- Does not receive any guaranteed support.
- Has access to state property, but must struggle to attain access and developable rights.
- Not allowed to participate in CIP unless on state land.
- The schools can not own the property.

Conversion

- Receive use their facility rent free.
- Must pay all operational costs.
- Allowed to participate in CIP and larger R&M (roof repair).

We need clarity

- Legislators have said, “you are funded equitably.”
- It is currently being reported that the funding difference “is only \$300.”
- Charters have been told that they agreed not to ask for facility support.
- Are we getting facility support this year?
- Frustration comes as much from the confusion as it does from the level of funding.

Facility Funding Clarity

Yes

- Be clear what charter schools will receive and make it stable.
- Per pupil facility support for start up is the only manageable solution.
- Other facility supports are only enhancements.
- Providing clear facility support improves accountability.

No

- Charter schools are expected to meet all expectations AND handle facility costs on their own.
- Student's at public charter schools are not entitled to facility support.

Creating an Industry

- Providing charter schools with per pupil facility funding creates an industry in Hawaii.
- Not all charter schools can or should become facility developers.
- There are organizations that have the experience and desire to play this role – all they need is state commitment.
- What would these organizations do?