

Overview of Chartering

The Big Picture: Chartering in Hawaii 2013
Hawaii's Legal Framework for Charter Schooling
Charter Schools' Perspective & the Network



The Big Picture: Chartering in Hawaii 2013

Tom Hutton,
Executive Director



History

- * 1994: DOE schools can convert to “Student-Centered Schools”
- * 1999: “New Century Charter Schools” – including start-ups
- * 2001: Charter School Review Panel established as authorizer
- * 2003: Charter School Administrative Office established
- * 2010: Act 144 imposes new accountability requirements

History (continued)

- * 2011: Act 130 (of 2011) creates Task Force on Charter School Governance, Accountability, and Authority
- * 2011: Legislative Auditor Performance Audit of the Hawaii Public Charter School System
 - * No outside oversight
 - * Unethical and illegal spending of public funds
- * 2012: Task Force Report issued
 - * Sets in motion Act 130 (of 2012)

History (continued)

- * 2012: Act 130 passes
 - * Charter School Review Panel replaced by Commission
 - * CSAO set to sunset June 30, 2013
 - * Commission staff to focus relatively more on authorizer role
 - * Law mandates charter school performance contracts
 - * Sets forth performance framework
 - * Requires charter applications to address elements of framework

History (continued)

- * 2013: Commission completes application cycle inherited from Charter School Review Panel
 - * Approval bar raised significantly
- * 2013: CSAO transitions to Commission staff and sunsets
- * 2013: Existing charter schools enter into charter contracts
 - * Stephanie Klupinski will address
- * 2013: Commission adopts new calendar for application cycle
 - * Alison Kunishige and Kenyon Tam will address

This moment

- * Accountability and rigor are themes of the day
- * Emphasis on rigor on the front end
- * High expectations for high-performing schools
- * Governance expectations
- * Leadership expectations
- * Staff expectations

Some unique features

- * Creating new state agencies
- * Statewide SEA/LEA
- * Employees not only unionized but in same bargaining units and under same collective bargaining agreements as DOE employees
 - * Supplemental agreements
- * Two official state languages
- * Conversion schools that retain attendance districts
- * Direct provision of some services (SPED), funding (benefits)

Opportunity

- * Increasing confidence in charter school system(?)
- * Improved BOE/DOE - charter school relations
- * Need and desire for system-wide improvement, educational options
- * Huge potential for charter schools to make more constructive contributions to Hawaii's public school system
- * Opportunities for new schools

Hawaii's Legal Framework for Charter Schooling

Stephanie Klupinski,
Organizational Performance Manager



The Performance Contract

- * The charter contract protects a school's autonomy while holding it accountable for results.
- * Act 130: Requires that charter schools enter into a performance contract with the Commission and requires the Commission to establish a performance framework.
- * Contracts are almost identical for each school, with some exceptions that recognize the unique missions of individual schools.

Performance Frameworks

- * The contract establishes the expectations of the school in three frameworks: academic, financial, and organizational.
- * These frameworks set clear expectations for schools and help define the rights and responsibilities for both the school and the Commission.
- * Schools receive ratings (such as meets or does not meet) on indicators within each framework.

Academic Performance Framework

Is the educational program successful?

- * Indicators look at student academic proficiency; achievement gaps in proficiency; growth; and other measures.
- * The framework encompasses both statewide and school-specific measures.
- * Both the state accountability system and the charter contract recognize there are multiple ways of determining success.

Financial Performance Framework

Is the school financially viable?

- * The purpose of this framework is to evaluate a school's near term and sustainable financial health.
- * Examples of indicators: Total margin ratio (whether you have more money than you spend); current ratio (total current assets divided by total current liabilities).
- * Charters need an annual external audit and must submit quarterly financial statements.

Organizational Performance Framework

Is the organization effective and well-run?

- * Charter schools have responsibilities to students, but also to the public at large.
- * This framework ensures that schools are meeting applicable legal obligations and that they are good stewards of public resources.
- * Indicators include governance and reporting; educational program; and students and employees.

Organizational Performance Framework (continued)

- * The Organizational Performance Framework often intersects with the academic and financial frameworks but looks more at process and less at outputs.
- * For example, this framework looks at whether the school is implementing the material elements of its educational program—and not whether that program is successful.
- * This framework also is something of a “catch all” for the other terms in the contract.

The Three Frameworks

Academic

Is the
educational
program
successful?

Financial

Is the school
financially
viable?

Organizational

Is the
organization
effective
and well-
run?

How the Frameworks are Used

The frameworks provide the foundation for the Commission's work, from **monitoring** to **intervention** to **renewal decisions**.

Monitoring

- * State law requires the Commission to continually monitor performance and legal compliance.
- * The Commission must provide an annual report to the Legislature, which must include a performance report on each charter school based on the performance frameworks.
- * Each school must submit an annual report to the Commission to help it compile the annual report.

Intervention

- * If a school's performance or legal compliance appears unsatisfactory, the Commissioner shall notify the school and provide a chance for the school to respond and/or remedy the problem.
- * Most deficiencies will be readily addressed.
- * Drastic concerns may prompt drastic measures, ranging from the school adopting an interim restructuring plan to revocation.

Renewal Decisions

- * Ratings in each of the three framework will help the Commission make high-stakes decisions about whether to renew, non-renew, or revoke a charter contract.
- * There is no rigid formula—a school that does not perform well in one framework may still be renewed. But a school that does poorly on one indicator may also be non-renewed.

Charter Schools' Perspective & the Network

Lynn Finnegan,
Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Charter Schools
Network

~~Charter Schools' Perspective &~~ ‡The Network Perspective

Presented by: Lynn Finnegan, Executive Director, HPCSN

State Public Charter School Commission

Pre-RFA Orientation

September 6, 2013



Video: Visionaries in Education Award

THE BIRTH OF CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE ISLANDS



That was then...



A black and white photograph of a railroad crossing. The tracks are in the foreground, leading towards a crossing. In the distance, a train is visible with its headlights on. The background shows some trees and utility poles. The text "Crossroad of 2011" is overlaid on the image.

Crossroad of 2011



**CHANGE
AHEAD**

A yellow diamond-shaped road sign with a black border. The sign is tilted slightly to the right. It features the words "CHANGE" and "AHEAD" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters, stacked vertically. The sign is mounted on a wooden post, and a single screw is visible near the bottom center. The background is a clear blue sky with some light, wispy clouds.

Rules of the Game



&

A Seat at the Table



● Shift Happens!

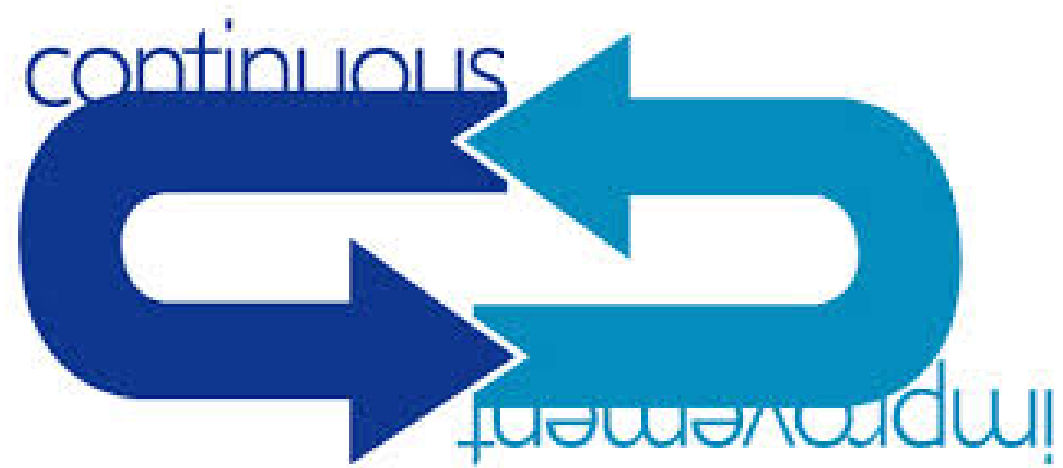


You are the
KEY to change

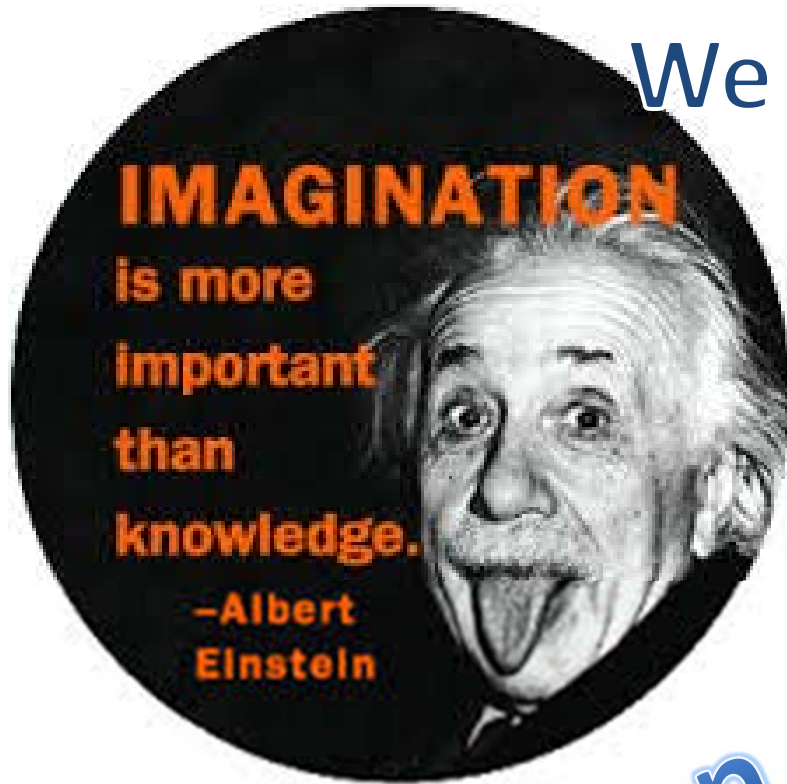


Finding the right balance





We value...



Community

Innovation,

and





Calculated Risks

Autonomy & Accountability

Results Without Drama

Na Wai Ola PCS

- The only charter school with Recognition classification
- The only middle school with Recognition classification
- 85% free and reduced population.

Myron B Thompson Academy

- Ranked 1st of high schools for reading proficiency.
- 1st in science proficiency
- 3rd Highest high school in the State for % 11th grade > 19 for ACT.
- Ranked 6th statewide for highest graduation rate.
- Ranked 6th statewide for highest college going rate.
- Established a free credit recovery program that serves any public school student in Hawaii.