

APPROVED



STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION  
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

**MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2023 SPECIAL GENERAL BUSINESS  
MEETING**

**Physical Location:** 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1100, Honolulu, HI 96813 and **Online:** via Zoom  
**Meeting recording link:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1M0YxZg4AYYgf7nCNmu7jUcuusTlyJpe1>

PRESENT ONLINE

Makalapua Alencastre (Vice Chairperson)  
Shannon Cleary  
Alex Harris  
Cathy K. Ikeda (Chairperson)  
Matthew Kodama (arrived at 10:00 a.m.)  
Lehua Veincent

EXCUSED

Kama Hopkins  
Roger McKeague  
Carl Takamura

ALSO PRESENT

PJ Foehr, Interim Executive Director  
Danny Vasconcellos, Finance & Operations Director  
Pua Kaai, Performance Specialist Lead / Academic Focus  
Jackie Bersson, Performance Specialist

I. Call to Order

Commission Chair Cathy K. Ikeda called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Commission Chair Ikeda went over the meeting protocols, conflict of interest policy and conducted roll call attendance (Present Commissioners Makalapua Alencastre, Shannon Cleary, Alex Harris, Cathy K. Ikeda and Lehua Veincent). There were no conflicts shared by Commissioners.

II. Public Testimony on all Agenda Items<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission accepted public testimony on all agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and at the beginning of each agenda item.

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Commission Chair Ikeda called for public testimony. There was no public or written testimony provided.

### III. Committee Reports

Commission Chair Ikeda called for additional testimony. There was no additional testimony provided.

#### a. Applications Committee Meeting November 9, 2023

Commissioner Alex Harris reported on the November 9, 2023 Applications Committee meeting which included the Committee receiving presentations on Kūlia Academy's proposed admission policy and procedure and proposed application cycle policy. He stated Kulia Academy's proposed policy had been approved by the school's Deputy Attorney General and it included enrollment preferences as allowed by HRS 302D-34. He discussed the proposed application policy and the discussion by the Committee that amended the frequency of an application cycle to annually. In addition, the proposal included the next application cycle start date of the school year 2024-2025. The Committee discussed the intention of the policy to provide potential applicants with a timeline of when the Commission will accept applications and would provide the public with a consistent application timeline and process from year – to – year, taking into consideration limited modifications for exact dates and updates to the actual application. The specific dates for each Application Cycle will be confirmed at the August general business meeting each year. The draft policy had been reviewed and vetted by the Commission's Deputy Attorney General. In addition, the Committee approved its September 28th committee minutes. The recommended actions of the Application Committee, to the full Commission, are addressed in the agenda item IV.

The Committee took action to recommend approval of the proposed admission policy and procedure for Kūlia Academy and application cycle policy for the full Commission's consideration at the next agenda item.

Commission Chair Ikeda called for questions or comments. There were no questions or comments by the Commissioners.

#### b. Performance & Accountability Committee Meeting November 9, 2023

Commissioner Lehua Veincent reported on the November 9, 2023 Committee meeting, the Committee received presentations on the Strive HI results for school year 2022-2023 and the Academic Performance Frameworks Indicators 2 and 3 for charter schools who have been on charter contract 4.0 since 2021; a report by the Frameworks team on the summer 2023 charter school site visits; and the Financial Performance Frameworks risk assessment quarterly report

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for fiscal year 2023-2024 – first quarter. The Committee received amendment requests from Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School and Ka Waihona o ka Na‘auao Public Charter school. He shared for:

- Kawaikini, the amendment included expanding language in its admission eligibility in accordance with HRS 302D-34 and added an enrollment preference for students of “families of fluent Hawaiian-speaking persons” in accordance with HRS §302H-2; and
- Ka Waihona, the request included amending their online enrollment application and programmatic change for students to have an option to be instructed in both official state languages: English or Hawaiian.

The Committee recommended approval of both requests and would be deliberated by the full Commission in the next agenda item.

Commission Chair Ikeda called for questions or comments. There were no questions or comments by the Commissioners.

#### IV. Committee Recommendations

Commission Chair Ikeda called for additional testimony. There was no additional testimony provided.

- a. Action on the Applications and Admission Policies and Procedures for Kūlia Academy

Finance & Operations Director Danny Vasconcellos noted representatives from Kūlia Academy were present for question or comments: Andy Gokce and Robert Bley-Vroman.

Commission Chair Ikeda called for questions or comments. There were no questions or comments by the Commissioners.

**ACTION: Motion to recommend approval of Kūlia Academy’s admission policy and preferences (Applications Committee). The motion passed unanimously.**

- b. Action on Request to Amend Admission Policy for Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School

Commission Chair Ikeda called for questions or comments. There were no questions or comments by the Commissioners.

**ACTION: Motion to approve the request to amend the Admission Policy for Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School that adds Hawaiian Language (Performance & Accountability Committee). The motion passed unanimously.**

- c. Action on Amendment Request for Ka Waihona o Ka Na‘auao Public Charter School

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Commission Chair Ikeda called for questions or comments. There were no questions or comments by the Commissioners.

**ACTION: Motion to approve the amendment request for Ka Waihona o Ka Na'auao Public Charter School regarding the amendment request for admissions (Performance & Accountability Committee). The motion passed unanimously.**

- d. Action on Application Cycle Policy for the Commission

Commission Chair Ikeda called for questions or comments.

Commissioner Harris noted that the policy attached was consistent with the Committee's discussion and reflected the correct changes. Commissioner Makalapua Alencastre asked if the policy had been reviewed by the Deputy Attorney General. Commissioner Harris confirmed yes.

**ACTION: Motion to adopt the pending applications policy based on the changes and edits provided in the discussion and legal review (Applications Committee). The motion passed unanimously.**

- V. Report on the Permitted Interaction Group's Findings and Recommendations regarding the Executive Director Search-Candidates/Finalists and Next Steps

Commission Chair Ikeda called for questions or comments. There were no questions or comments by the Commissioners.

Commission Chair Ikeda recapped the Commission's permitted interaction group which consisted of Commissioners Alencastre, Harris, Takamura, and Ikeda that was responsible for working with KEES on the evaluation process for qualified applicants by: reviewing the top candidates identified by KEES; being available for interviews with the selected candidates; and determining the final candidates to bring to the full Commission at its December regular general business meeting.

She reported that the permitted interaction group had completed its scope by selecting the top candidate(s) for the Commission to interview at its December regular General Business meeting. She stated the Commission will enter an executive session to conduct the interview(s) with the final candidate(s) with the objective of selecting the finalist to offer the position of the executive director.

She stated that the permitted interaction group recommended that the Commission accept the report. In addition, suggested that the Commission select a commissioner or two to represent the Commission to offer the position and salary as approved by the Commission to the selected

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candidate. If accepted, the Commission will name the executive director in a future Commission meeting. She noted that the Commission would enter an executive session to receive the confidential portion of the report by the permitted interaction group in the next agenda item.

### VI. Executive Session

This portion of the meeting is closed pursuant to §92-4 and §92-5(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes, (2) To consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee or of charges brought against the officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved; provided that if the individual concerned requests an open meeting, an open meeting shall be held regarding the Permitted Interaction Group's Findings and Recommendations on the Executive Director Search – Candidates/Finalists

Commission Chair Ikeda called for additional testimony. There was no additional testimony provided.

Commission Chair Ikeda went over the purpose of executive session agenda item pursuant to §92-4 and §92-5(a)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes Hawaii Revised Statutes, to consider the hire, evaluation, dismissal, or discipline of an officer or employee or of charges brought against the officer or employee, where consideration of matters affecting privacy will be involved regarding the permitted interaction group's findings and recommendations on the Executive Director search – candidates/finalists.

**ACTION: Motion to enter the executive session at 9:46 a.m. (Cleary/Harris). The motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioner Matthew Kodama arrived approximately 10:00 a.m.

**ACTION: Motion to exit the executive session at 10:34 a.m. (Cleary/Alencastre). The motion passed.**

Commission Chair Ikeda reconvened the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Commissioner Kodama noted no conflicts with the agenda items.

Commission Chair Ikeda noted that during the ES session the Commission received the confidential portion of the permitted interaction group's recommendation. She stated the next General Business meeting would be on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### VII. Adjournment

Commission Chair Ikeda adjourned the meeting at 10:37 a.m.