

UNAPPROVED



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

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of Thursday June 26, 2014

**Queen Liliuokalani Building
1390 Miller Street Honolulu, Hawaii
Fourth Floor, Room 404**

ATTENDANCE

Mitch D’Olier
Peter Hanohano
Kalehua Krug
Curtis Muraoka
Catherine Payne (Chairperson)
Roger Takabayashi
Peter Tomozawa (Vice Chairperson)

EXCUSED

Usha Kotner
Karen Street

ALSO PRESENT

Danny Vasconcellos, Organizational Performance Specialist

I. Call to Order

Commission Chair Catherine Payne called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. Update on Inspection of Hālau Lōkahi Charter School’s School Records

Financial Performance Manager Leila Shar recapped from the previous meeting and provided recent updates, including that the journal ledger received from the school was incomplete and that not all documentation requested has been submitted. Shar provided updated estimated financial obligations based on new information received. Commissioners discussed bargaining units, payroll obligations, and employment. Commissioners also discussed Halau Lokahi’s records further.

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Commission Chair Payne called for public testimony.

D. Keliiholokai, parent/grandparent at Halau Lokahi testified, requesting an extension to allow Halau Lokahi to implement their financial plan submitted.

Kyle Nahoi, parent at Halau Lokahi, testified, requesting an extension of at least 30 days to gather all information and facts. Nahoi discussed their next steps.

Joanna Howard, parent at Halau Lokahi testified, sharing how important Halau Lokahi has been for her family and requesting a 30-day extension to allow Halau Lokahi to submit the proper documents.

Hina Wong-Kalu, Kumu at Halua Lokahi, testified in Hawaiian.

Wil Okabe, President of Hawaii State Teachers Association (“HSTA”) testified, expressing HSTA’s concerns regarding the financial situation at Halau Lokahi and calling for oversight. He stated HSTA is looking into the certification of teachers at Halau Lokahi along with other issues.

Commission Chair Payne recognized written testimony by Kari Kalima, Tiane McNeal, and Laara Allbrett.

Dan Purcell, community member, testified about a recent Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits meeting and shared his feelings about the current situation.

Susan L. Frank Kama, retired teacher, testified about her teaching background, discussed per-pupil funding and resources, shared what Halua Lokahi has done for her family, and requested help and support from the Commission.

Joshua Toane Noga, community member provided testimony. Noga shared his support and involvement with Halau Lokahi. Noga discussed the per-pupil funding, media, and desire to have his future children attend Halau Lokahi.

Tamalalee Kahana, parent at Halau Lokahi, testified about her experience with public education for her child and what Halau Lokahi has done for her and requested an extension of time.

Kamahana Kealoha, community member, testified about his the concern for the keiki and the importance of Halau Lokahi.

Milton Coleman, community member testified, requesting an extension, and shared the importance of Halau Lokahi.

Leonelle Akana, teacher at Halau Lokahi, testified about her background, discussed the school administrator, and shared her feelings of the current situation.

Randy Howard, parent at Halau Lokahi testified about the importance of Halau Lokahi to his family, discussed teacher certification, and requested an extension.

Commissioner Peter Tomozawa discussed the mission of the Commission and its goal for Halau Lokahi.

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Oriana Coleman, Halau Lokahi supporter, testified about the importance of Halau Lokahi, shared that her husband is a teacher, and talked about bank accounts.

Commissioner Peter Hanohano discussed the responsibility of school leadership.

Joy Horcajo, parent of Halau Lokahi, testified, requesting an extension, and discussed the difference between the Department of Education and charter school funding and facilities.

Christian Tengan, alumnus of Halau Lokahi, testified, asking the Commission for assurance that the change in leadership will align with the values and commitment the current leadership maintains, discussed proposed financial plan C, suggested postponing a year to resolve the financial situation, and discussed his future plans.

Kari Kalima, Halau Lokahi supporter provided testimony. Kalima discussed her family and involvement with Halau Lokahi. Kalima urged Commissioners to get to know the Halau Lokahi community, and shared that without the Governing Board and School Director, Halau Lokahi loses its essence.

Tiane McNeil, teacher at Halau Lokahi, testified, expressing the view that the addendum to the offered charter contract is not the answer and shared concerns about the effect it has on teachers, students, parents, and faculty.

Dolly Tatofi, parent at Halau Lokahi, testified, discussing the rights of indigenous people, and asked Commissioners to look beyond numbers and requested a 30-day extension.

Kawahine Tokunaga, teacher at Halau Lokahi testified about her work experience and Halau Lokahi's current and future leadership.

Commissioners discussed what would happen if current leadership changed, charter school autonomy, communication with the Commission, oversight, the financial situation, extension, solutions, per-pupil funding, leadership, and accountability.

Tania Keliiholokai, student at Halau Lokahi, testified about the meaning of Halau Lokahi, the school's current leadership, and what Halau Lokahi has taught her.

Commission Chair Payne proposed to move the agenda item for executive session up.

Motion (Takabayashi/D'Olier) to move into executive session passed unanimously at 3:08 p.m.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

This portion of the meeting is a closed meeting under Section 92-4 and Section 92-5(4), Hawaii Revised Statutes

- A. Federal Impact Aid Funds
- B. Financial Insolvency of Hālau Lōkahi Charter School
- C. Consultation with Deputy Attorney General on Commission's Powers, Duties, Privileges, Immunities, and Liabilities

Motion (Takabayashi/D'Olier) to exit executive session passed unanimously at 4:14 p.m.

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Motion (Takabayashi/D'Olier) to postpone agenda items: Action on Financial Insolvency of Hālau Lōkahi Charter School, Action on Educational Program, Exhibit A, for Inclusion in the Charter Contract, effective July 1, 2014, for Hālau Lōkahi Charter School; and Action on Federal Impact Aid Funds to the July 10, 2014 General Business meeting passed unanimously.

Commission Chair Payne shared appreciation of the commitment and heart the Halau Lokahi community has for the school. She reiterated the intention is not to close the school but to support Halau Lokahi in continuing its mission through a viable plan. She also discussed the leadership of Halau Lokahi and accountability.

Chair Payne stated that the contract addendum proposed allows the appointment of the new governing board in consultation with the Halau Lokahi community. Commissioners Kalehua Krug and Peter Hanohano will represent the Commission in consulting with the Halau Lokahi community to determine who will be on the new governing board. Chair Payne requested the Halau Lokahi community to identify three representatives to meet with Commissioners Hanohano and Krug on Monday, June 30, 2014 to discuss prospective governing board members. She noted that a new charter contract must be executed to move forward in keeping the school open and that the Commission's conditions for the new contract remain in place. She shared the Commission's understanding that transition to new leadership is challenging and asked that the community engage in the process. She shared the Commission will appoint a five-member governing board, of whom three members will be appointed from nominations by a five-member advisory committee consisting of Commissioner Hanohano and Krug and three Halau Lokahi school community representatives.

Commissioners discussed the development of the governing board members, governing board bylaws, mission and direction of the governing board, meeting information, charter school contract, and the effects of Commission staff communication on the community.

The remaining agenda items were deferred to a future commission meeting.

IV. Adjournment

Commission Chair Payne adjourned the meeting at 4:31 p.m.