

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

DATE: June 12, 2014

TO: Catherine Payne, Chairperson

FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: Presentation of Executive Director’s Report: Update on Charter Schools’ Notices of Deficiency

The following written notices and updates are to apprise the Commission of certain developments, create a public record of these developments, and resolve items that were still pending in previous Commission minutes.

NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY PENDING

One Notice of Deficiency (“Notice”) was issued since the last Commission General Business Meeting. Hālau Lōkahi Charter School (“School”) was issued a Notice on May 30, 2014 as it appears the School is not meeting its immediate and near-term payroll obligations. The School’s failure to meet its payroll obligations in the appropriate time and manner violates several terms of the Contract, but more importantly result in the School not being compliant with federal and state laws.

On June 10, 2014, the administration of the School provided a written response contesting the Notice, as allowed for under the Intervention Protocol of the Charter Contract. The School contends the State of Hawaii has failed to provide support at the time of chartering for Hawaiian education as stated in the State Constitution.

Under the Intervention Protocol, the School must now provide evidence in support of its position. Once received, the Commission shall consider the School’s evidence and, within 10 days of receipt, either: 1) uphold or amend its finding of a deficiency and reissue the Notice of Deficiency with amended timeframes, or 2) retract the Notice.

In addition to the Notice described above, there is still 1 Notice still pending as staff continues to work with the school to resolve the issues raised.

On January 31, 2014, West Hawai'i Explorations Academy was issued a Notice for not submitting a Schoolwide Plan and Comprehensive Needs Assessment by a December 30, 2013 deadline. The school has been involved in numerous discussions regarding its Focus status under Strive HI with the Department of Education and Commission staff since the issuance of the Notice. The school is still in discussion with the Commission to address the requirements of the assessment.