



Administrative Testimony
Testimony of Kamana'opono Crabbe, Ph.D.
Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer
TO
Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission
Agenda Items VI and VII

September 10, 2015

10:30 a.m.

Room 404

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on Agenda Items VI and VII.

Background: On July 1, 2014, the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) executed a charter contract with all Hawai'i public charter schools to cover the three-year period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017. One year later, on July 9, 2015, the Commission approved the Charter Contract Renewal Criteria discussion draft in order to educate and solicit public comments from charter schools and other stakeholders about proposed criteria for charter contract renewals. Also on July 9, 2015, the Commission requested feedback and comments on proposed methodologies for calculating overall annual school ratings for organizational and financial performance, for charter contract renewal purposes.

Comments: OHA appreciates work done by the Commission's Executive Director and staff since July 9, 2015, in making presentations to charter schools and stakeholders relative to the contract renewal criteria, and for meeting with OHA representatives on September 8, 2015. OHA also appreciates work done by the Commission's Performance and Accountability Committee which met on August 27, 2015 to discuss the proposed methodologies for determining a charter school's overall annual ratings for organizational and financial performance frameworks.

While OHA understands the Commission's sense of urgency in moving forward with charter contract renewal criteria and methodologies, we nevertheless believe that a reasonable delay is needed so that further educational outreach can be conducted by the Commission and staff, and to allow charter

**Hawai'i State Charter School Commission
September 10, 2015 General Business Meeting**

school governing boards and administrators the necessary time to properly digest, process, and provide input on very important and complicated matters relative to the contract renewal process. Given the degree of uncertainty present in the charter school community, OHA respectfully submits that action on Agenda items VI and VII is premature. We understand that our charter school beneficiaries, for whom OHA has invested over \$15,000,000 since SY2005-2006, have substantial concerns and questions, and we respectfully urge the Commission to reasonably delay action on these agenda items for the reasons cited.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony on these important matters.