



Administrative Testimony
Testimony of Kamanaʻopono Crabbe, Ph.D.
Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

**HAWAIʻI STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
AGENDA ITEM VIII: ACTION ON FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI
CHARTER SCHOOL**

June 12, 2014

9:30 a.m.

Room 404

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** relating to Agenda Item VIII.

Chartered in 2001, Hālau Lōkahi provides parents from Kalihi-Oʻahu and elsewhere the opportunity to have their children educated in a K-12 learning environment that promotes Hawaiian values, culture, history and language. Hālau Lōkahi's educational philosophy is consistent with Hawaiʻi State Constitution Article X, Section 4, as well as the Board of Education Policy 2104, both of which promote the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language in Hawaiʻi public schools. Hālau Lōkahi has demonstrated the ability to adapt and develop its unique and important educational approach to meet national and state academic standards, and under Strive HI has improved its academic standing and achieved "continuous improvement" status along with the majority of Hawaiʻi public schools for SY 2012-2013.

As with all charter schools in Hawaiʻi, Hālau Lōkahi does face financial challenges. Recognizing these challenges, and to support the vital educational role charter schools play in the Native Hawaiian community, OHA has invested approximately \$14 million in Hawaiian-focused charter schools since SY 2005-2006. The Hawaiʻi State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) has also acknowledged the financial challenges faced by our charter schools. In its annual report to the State Legislature dated November 21, 2013, the Commission identified several financial concerns raised by charter schools, including the lack of school facilities funding, and the perception that federal funding was not equitably distributed by the Department of Education (DOE). Consequently, the Commission listed as a priority securing more funds for charter school facilities, and declared its intent to act as a bridge between the DOE and charter schools regarding the distribution of federal funds.

The instant agenda item suggests that the Commission may wish to discuss and take action on matters relating to the financial insolvency of Hālau Lōkahi Charter School. It is undisputed that the use of public funds by a public charter school requires the highest care, due diligence and scrutiny. However, OHA notes that state law provides the Commission with both clear procedural guidelines as well as a range of options in exercising its authority to take corrective action to address perceived deficiencies in the performance or legal compliance of state charter schools. See Haw. Rev. Stat. (HRS) Chapter 302D.

For example, HRS section 302D-17(c) requires the Commission to promptly notify a charter school of any perceived deficiencies in its performance or legal compliance, and to

provide the school a reasonable opportunity to remedy the problem, except in cases where revocation is warranted. Even where revocation may be warranted, HRS section 302D-17(d) also grants the Commission discretion to take appropriate corrective action or exercise sanctions short of revocation, such as requiring a charter school to develop and execute a corrective action plan within a specified time frame.

Finally, in the event that the Commission does wish to consider charter revocation or nonrenewal as potential options in this case, it should be noted that HRS section 302D-18(h) requires the Commission to first develop specific processes for such actions. Specifically, the Commission is required to develop revocation and nonrenewal processes that provide the target charter school with: (1) timely notification of the prospect of revocation or non-renewal and the reasons for such possible closure; (2) a reasonable amount of time in which to prepare a response; (3) an opportunity to submit documents and give testimony supporting the continuation of the school at an orderly proceeding; and (4) access to representation by counsel and the ability to call witnesses on the school's behalf.

In recognition of its academic Strive HI status as "continuous improvement," and in light of the potential impact any adverse action may have on the approximately 237 students enrolled at Hālau Lōkahi, their parents, and the school's 23 faculty and staff members, OHA urges the Commission to be judicious in its deliberation and decision-making regarding this unique and culturally significant Hawaiian-focused charter school.

Finally, Hālau Lōkahi recently requested funds from OHA to help address the school's financial situation. OHA is currently reviewing this request, and the release of trust funds would ultimately need to be approved by the OHA Board of Trustees.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide **COMMENTS** on this matter.

Agenda Item VIII: Action of Financial Insolvency of Halau Lokahi

June 11, 2014

Aloha,

My name is Tehani Jose-King, I am very proud to say that I am a Halau Lokahi Alumni, graduated class of 2006.

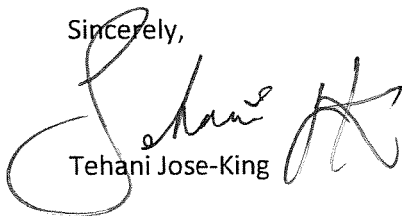
It has been brought to my attention that Halau Lokahi will possibly have to shut its doors after years of positive influence in many keikis and family's lives throughout our community.

I feel Halau Lokahi should not need to shut down and be helped with their finances to keep the school up and running. It truly saddens me that the school who instilled hawaiian values and helped me to become the person I am today, a confident and self responsible free Hawaiian lady, may not be available for more keikis to share that experience.

Halau Lokahi is a place of learning and opportunities for any child. I really enjoyed being able to have hands on projects using our surrounding environment to learn, not sitting behind a desk for 7 hrs. We were an Ohana, not just the students but even the staff, it made coming to school and learning a lot more easier and awesome! I'm thankful for Halau Lokahi and the possibilities they offered, I have met so much different people throughout the Hawaiian and non Hawaiian community that taught me "what it means to be Hawaiian", for one thing standing up for what you believe in.

The schools focus is to teach their students how to be self responsibly free, to me that means, the ability to make a pono decision independently, or even confidence. So I would like to thank Halau Lokahi for helping me to become SELF RESPONSIBLY FREE!

Sincerely,


Tehani Jose-King

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June 11, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Halau Lokahi NCPCS was created through a “grassroots” initiative to address the growing need for social and consequently educational reform. A majority of our Hawaiian children enrolled in the Hawai’i State Department of Education were not experiencing educational success and having more post high school options. Federal “Start Up” monies made it possible to offer our Hawaiian children and their families more choices and opportunities to do well and excel in a learning environment that was relative and authentic to them as native people.

We know that institutions of learning for Hawaiian children like Kamehameha Schools have followed the native Hawaiian Charter Schools lead in providing more relevant cultural learning experiences and bridging the service gap to further extend their reach within the Hawaiian communities. Native Hawaiian Charter Schools, Halau Lokahi among them, have given educational hope and substance to many Hawaiian families whose options appeared limited in the state educational system.

The bright light and promise that the Federal government entrusted to communities across the nation of more autonomy with accountability for schools through their Local School Boards (LSB) to insure student success, continue to dim. It seems that this present situation with Halau Lokahi’s LSB appears to be efforts to turn the light off!

Throughout the years, Halau Lokahi has stayed the course and risen through insurmountable storms and rough waters and continued system challenges to provide access and accountability in both areas of operation and governance. It has been more than ten years that native Hawaiian Charter Schools like Halau Lokahi have proven track records that our children are thriving with culturally designed educational curriculum.

Please pay attention to the positive impacts that Halau Lokahi has made on the lives of their graduates, who continued their educational matriculation in higher education resulting in the achievement of Bachelors and Masters Degrees. Many more have made successful transition from school to steady employment. Both paths have encouraged students to make positive contributions to their family and their community.

Me ka ha’aha’a,
Wanda Atkins



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LŌKAHI

June 22, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Halau Lokahi Public Charter School.

I have been a supporting parent of Halau Lokahi for two years now and I am extremely satisfied with the education that my two sons have received thus far from the school. I chose to take my older son out of a traditional DOE school and put him into a Hawaiian culture based school for various reasons. One of the main reasons was that I felt that the DOE school that my older son attended did not allow for too much learning outside of the classroom, which my son desperately needed at the time. As a parent it was important that I also be able to have the opportunities to shape my child's education as I saw fit. Integrating culture into their curriculum has made my child a more confident person in society, and today he is proud to be who he is despite what others may say about him. Halau Lokahi was able to provide my child not only with knowledge, they also helped to build his character and also identity. And this goes for both of my children.

Because Halau Lokahi is culture based, they are able to blend Western and also Hawaiian cultural practices when it came to learning. I find it totally amazing that my son is able to memorize and recite hundreds of lines of many chants and still be able to do other projects at school at the same time. I have found that this skill of memory has allowed my child to retain much of the information he has learned in and out of the classroom. This may not be captured appropriately by the testing tools that DOE utilizes, but I see a significant change in terms of what my son learns from school as he is able to reiterate it to me. My children have done exceptionally well within the Halau Lokahi setting and I would not want it any other way.

Due to the fact that Halau Lokahi has created a foundation grounded in Hawaiian values, I am confident that my children are in a good holsum environment. This is reflected in the interactions there are among teachers, students, and parents. It is wonderful to see that the younger children are able to interact with the older children with sincere aloha. And this microcosm that Halau Lokahi has created allows for my children to be able to experience real life situations that may occur within our society. Halau Lokahi has a very creative way of exposing my children to an array of experiences that I never thought could be taught before you enter college. My children are getting the practice they need now in order to become productive, responsible, and caring citizens in the future.

Education or knowledge is limitless and Halau Lokahi understands this as they allow for each individual student to expand their knowledge beyond traditional means. I believe that education is not just to be taught to our children, it is something that is shared amongst all that is involved, including the families. We are constantly teaching and learning from each other and Halau Lokahi has shown us that this is so.

Should you have any concerns or questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at 499-7686.

Mahalo piha,

Dolly Malia Isaia Tatofi, MSW

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To whom it may concern:

I'm writing this letter on behalf of my two children who attends Halau Lokahi. This has been their first year and I have seen a tremendous change in there attitude and Outlook in life, they are more confident in themselves, and where they would like to be after graduating from Halau Lokahi, one child is in 7th grade and the other is in 9th grade. Before attending Halau Lokahi, they both were giving me a hard time, by not wanting to go to school, and now they look forward to being at school. I truly believe that it will hurt the kids if this school gets closed. My kids seen the news and said that they do not want to go to any other school. As a parent of students who attends Halau Lokahi, I have seen my children become such good influence on other kids in their community and I am so proud of them. I support Halau Lokahi Public Charter School.

Very concerned parent,

Roxanne L. Book

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I have homeschooled my children, through various avenues, almost every year of their schooling. Our son is 16 and our daughter 12. Halau Lokahi has been our best option thus far.

I appreciate our teachers' input and accountability. They give helpful feedback to both me and my children. Having them to lean on and guide me as an academic coach has made this journey easier to travel.

The workload is suitable, giving them interesting and valuable lessons. While at the same time we're afforded the flexibility for my children to pursue their personal interests. Our son was able to volunteer in a kitchen, feeding his passion for cooking. Our daughter volunteered in a preschool program as well as the Kona Animal Shelter, both of which she loved. We were able to participate in these things during daytime hours, which being in a traditional school would not have allowed.

I also appreciate the ease of travel Lokahi Online has allowed us. With online accessibility for everything we need only carry a small laptop for each child and they've been able to stay on track with their lessons.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to have the best of both worlds - quality education with personal flexibility and strong healthy accountability. I have loved this experience and have highly recommended this school to other families.

Many blessings to you!

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We have two children (upcoming 6th grade and 1st grade). Both children enjoy going to school and come home and chant and dance hula. They tell us of their field trips to the lo'i patch and to the State Capitol and what they learned that day. My husband and I are products of public schools and did not experience the perspective that Halau Lokahi is able to portray to our children.

We feel that this "ohana" feeling is an important aspect of life that we instill in our children. Halau Lokahi instills respect of self, respect of others, and respect of property. Many children are not taught these important skills in life and as a result we have assaults, crime, graffiti, etc.

My daughter's first year of school (kindergarten) was such a blessing for her. As she has a shy personality, Halau Lokahi was able to nurture her and enrich her with skills of making friends and being able to speak to adults.

My son spent his first 4 years of elementary at a public school down the way and had never talked about enjoying school like how he does at Halau Lokahi. Now he assumes leadership roles and learned about the Hawaiian culture and shares with us his experiences every day.

Halau Lokahi always has friendly staff that welcome family and is always helpful. We have also brought two families to this school. One currently enrolled and another family scheduled to start next school year. I look forward to Halau Lokahi further educating my children.

Thank you for your time,

Jonathan and April Ramos

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I am a grandfather of 6 grandchildren, and 5 children of my own all of whom graduated. All five of my children has graduated from the public school system, three of them went to college, and all of them work.

Two of my granddaughters one 15 the other 7 years old, attend Halau Lokahi, They both love school and thrive at it as well. This was not the case a year ago for the 15 year old, before Halau Lokahi she struggled all through school. Now after a year in this school she is an A student. They go to school happy and come home happy. The younger one is the first to rise in the morning to tell us, come on lets go, I don't want to be late.

As a parent who had 5 kids go through the public school system it was not an easy task in fact it was hell at times to get them to wake up and go to school. They did not want to go to school had a hard time in school. I thank god for his help it the only way I lived through those years. So when I witness my two granddaughters love school so much and face the challenge each day, it blows me away. For kids to enjoy going to school every morning, this tells me something about the teachers there, they are clearly doing a great job. They teach each child to be an individual and to be proud of who they are.

Here is a School that works, no kid is getting left out because there different, my question to you is why would you not want to support A school that works and is doing a great job with kids. When so many kids year after year are being left behind, the public school system is clearly failing, and not living up to its standards even with the money they get. You should support this school and the schools like it, because the kids who come out of them are better for it and will be adults who will make our islands better.

Halau Lokahi is a school that kids love to go to and they thrive and grow there as well. So my question to you is; do want our kids to fail, yes or no? By closing down a great school like this, you will be failing each and every one of those kids and future ones as well.

Patrick Costa Sr

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To Whom it May Concern;

I'm very saddened yet outraged of the recent news report from Channel 2 regarding Halau Lokahi Public Charter School. My (2) children ages 7 and 10 whom have been attending Halau Lokahi for the past 4 years have enjoyed and learned a great deal at this school.

They have all the major courses such as Language arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science as well as Art and PE. The Kumu's (teachers) work closely with the haunama (students) especially in area's where they need the most help. The teachers keep me informed with everything and anything concerning my children from their behavior in class to the safety environment surrounding the school. The Kumu's do (2) parent teacher conferences a year regarding the progress of my children and if there are any areas that they can assist with. I'm a strong advocate on communication and very grateful that the school communicates with me in regards to my children.

Hands on education outside of the school is also key with the students. My children learn a great deal when they go to Kalihi Valley once a week. They have learned to plant and cultivate food such as kalo (taro) and also how to cook these plants. They have also been taught about plants that can help with sickness and even brought those items home. My children brought home "Olena" which is a type of root that they had picked and dried. This plant can be used medically and has been used for many cases. My husband drank the olena as a tea and it help with his sinuses and sleep apnea. This was information and resources that my children brought home to help their father with his medical condition, which he's had for years.

My older son who attended Halau Lokahi for 2 years told me that he is grateful that he attended the school. He is currently excelling in the body boarding sport meeting and networking with many professionals. He is also looking into a career as a videographer. His group won an award for "The Manapua Man" which is featured on youtube and he did an interview with Mike Stewart, which he got recognition from many body boarding websites. He said, "Halau Lokahi taught me to love myself first and that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to do." My son never opened up to me about this prior however, I'm very fortunate that the school instills the same beliefs that I believe in.

Halau Lokahi is not only a school but a big ohana. Every faculty member knows each student from kindergarten to high school. Respect and Responsibility is key at this school. Everyone respects one another whether within the school or outside. They take pride in themselves and to make sure they represent Halau Lokahi in a positive way. It is our Kuleana or Responsibility to take care of one another to show our children the right way. To love one another unconditionally, not to discriminate nor insult individuals in a negative way.

"Lokahi" means "Unity", Coming together for a purpose. I'm humbly asking you to please have Halau Lokahi keep doing what they have done for so many years. My children look forward to attending school everyday. Seeing the news was very disturbing to them and many questions arose. I told them everything will be alright. We will pray on it.

Mahalo,

Mayumi Miyataki
Mother of Kaena and Kamryn Miyataki

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Dear Sir,

It is disconcerting that Halau Lokahi will be shut down for lack of funding. The Governor of Hawaii recently funded Department of Hawaiian Home Land monies for a new building in Kapolei. This building will be useless in the future in a sense that it's space will be filled with non native practices for lack of educating native Hawaiian children. I grew up on Hawaiian Homestead, today, I am a Hawaiian Homestead Lessee. We have many troubled youths on all homesteads, for some areas, we have the highest rate of teen suicides in their community. Given the mental health statistics, I strongly believe that Halau Lokahi fulfilled the needs of children with Hawaiian Ancestry that no other public schools could possibly attest in achieving.

In my house, my children practice the American way of life, but I often ask myself, "did I do the right thing by my ancestors?" I see many problems in 'existence' that was once unforeseeable or possibly blinded by my own educators in our Hawaiian communities. My culture can make a difference in the many 'ills' that exist in our Hawaiian communities as well as my own immediate family. In truth, medical, science, or mission churches are unable to solve the core problems in our Hawaiian Communities. Preventing teen suicide is not a priority in this state because the high rate of suicide in exist in the Hawaiian communities. In general, people are simply blinded by the loss of culture due to the forced assimilation in the mainstream public education. Halau Lokahi, in fact, teaches children to return to their communities as living sentinel of the Hawaiian culture. Preservation of my culture can only be continued, if we, ourselves keep the leaders of my culture in place. To rid of Halau Lokahi is to sweep away our community leaders that are knowledgeable in the ways our Pacific Island ancestors that lived over thousands of years. Under the American standards of conquered assimilation, we have basically when given the violent nature to exploit, thus, the loss of will to live. We need young culturally learned students to end the genocidal trend that's been undeniably in existing for the past 200 years in dense Hawaiian communities. Halau Lokahi provides that measure of cultural practices to our Hawaiian communities as well as to my own family.

Over the past decades, I have attended many functions at Halau Lokahi much more than my own children and grandchildren school functions. Regrettably, I do not have family members in attendance at Halau Lokahi. However, I do have many friends children in attendance at Halau Lokahi. When I attend Halau Lokahi's activities, I fulfill the hunger for my culture practices and in

partnership to freely solve problems and to find solutions for my Hawaiian community as well as within my immediate family. To not see this as a crucial function of our future students in attendance of Halau Lokahi when they return to their Hawaiian families and community, I see this as a means to continue the ethnocide in the Hawaiian community.

Our Hawaiian communities are deserving of one public charter school that works for the health and welfare as well as the betterment of the conditions of the native Hawaiian communities. Halau Lokahi does service the entire Hawaiian community statewide. Halau Lokai students return to their Hawaiian communities daily to do work in the evenings as well as on weekends. Halau Lokahi produces leaders that are so needed in the Hawaiian community, unlike other public and private schools. Surely one can see the detriment that the American culture have had on the Hawaiian community. I know of no other school group that is willing to face the problems in the Hawaiian community like Halau Lokahi.

May this Public Charter School Commission find the funds that is in a small amount when compared to other schools budgets and too, see that Halau Lokahi benefits to the Hawaiian Communities is just priceless when measured in saving young teen lives.

Luwella Leonardi
Waianae

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

Aloha,

My daughter Wailani may have been at this school for 1 year but the improvements she has made goes well beyond that year. She has not only brought her grades up, learned that school can be a place where you can fit in and not hate, but also a place that can make her realize who she is and her self worth. My daughter has learned that she is worth something being a part of this ohana and not jus a name at a large school setting that doesn't mean anything unless you are above the other peers or the troublemaker. She has learned that she is equal with her peers and just everyone is unique. This school is the best thing that has happened to her since kindergarten because they just get it, they know how to listen to every student and work to fix and correct not punish and humiliate. This school is more then an education. It is a lifechanging thing that I truly believe helped save my daughter. Halau Lokahi will always be a huge part in my daughter's life. Please do not shut it down because this school is a blessing in disguise.

Mahalo
Lokelani

**KINA 'OHANA
1320 KONIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96817**

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LŌKAHI

JUNE 11, 2014

**HAWAI'I STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
1111 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 516
HONOLULU, HI 96813**

ALOHA E,

UPON VIEWING LAST NIGHT'S NEWS ON HALAU LOKAHI PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL STATUS, MY HUSBAND AND I WERE DEEPLY CONCERNED AS OUR KEIKI ARE STUDENTS ENROLLED SINCE 3RD GRADE (4 YEARS). WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AWARE OF THE SCHOOL'S SHOE-STRING BUDGET AND LACK OF RESOURCES WHEN COMPARED TO DOE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. OUR GIRLS THRIVED REGARDLESS, BECAUSE TEACHERS AND STAFF WERE RESOURCEFUL, PARENTS AND KEIKI WORK TOGETHER TO FILL NEEDS.

HALAU LOKAHI IMPACTS THE COMMUNITY; SERVING THE UNDER PRIVILEGED, OFTEN 'AT-RISK' KEIKI, THAT OUR STATE HAS HISTORICALLY LET SLIP THROUGH THE SYSTEM. MY GIRLS WOULD HAVE BEEN RECORDED AS TWO OF THOSE STATISTICS, WERE IT NOT FOR THE SCHOOL. THE SCHOOL INCORPORATES CULTURE AND HANDS-ON LEARNING, GIVING MY GIRLS A PURPOSE AND A SENSE OF BELONGING. THEY FREQUENTLY SAY, "I DON'T WANT TO EVER LEAVE HALAU LOKAHI TO GO TO ANOTHER SCHOOL, THIS IS MY SCHOOL". NOT ONE OF MY GIRLS FAKE A SICK DAY, NEITHER WANT TO MISS SCHOOL, IN FACT THEY FAKE BEING WELL, JUST SO THEY DON'T MISS SCHOOL.

I HAVE WITNESSED THE ALOHA OF THE KUMU AND STAFF AND HOW IT RUBS OFF ON ALL THE KEIKI AT HALAU LOKAHI, EVERYONE IS 'OHANA AS WE SERVE EACH OTHER. THIS IS THEIR MISSION. HALAU LOKAHI INTEGRATES WITH OUTSIDE PROGRAMS (SUCH AS HO'ŌULU AINA), UTILIZING OUR COMMUNITIES TO TEACH HAUMANA (STUDENTS). IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SEE THIS SCHOOL THRIVE AS IT INVESTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND NOT JUST THE STUDENTS. THEY DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR CHILDREN AND SERVING THROUGH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS; THE GIVER AND THE RECEIVER ARE RICHER FOR IT AND THIS GROWS OUR YOUTH INTO PEOPLE INVESTED IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

DON'T LET UNFAIR LOW FUNDING KEEP OUR RICH FUTURE FROM BEING REALIZED. KEEP HALAU LOKAHI OPEN, GIVE THEM RESOURCES' TO SEE THIS VISION FOR HAWAI'I NEI THROUGH.

MAHALO,

**HEATHER KINA
NA MAKUA**

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

My two granddaughters attend Halau Lokahi, and from my experience this school has the healthiest learning environment I have ever seen. I say this because I am a mother of five children who went through the DOE system, so I'm speaking from experience. Two of my children were in special ed. At Halau Lokahi the environment is nurturing. They teach them to believe in their selves as well as self-reasonability and respect for themselves and others.

My 15 year granddaughter barley got out of 8th grade at Washington middle school because she kept falling behind in math, due to just not being able to understand the material quick enough. After attending a summer program and the 9th grade at Halau Lokahi she is no longer that student. She now understands her math work and more than that she believes in herself. She went from Ds' and Fs' in Math to straight As' in school. She not only brought her grades up she has also learned about self-responsibility, making sure all her home work is done before she does anything else. She has pride in who she is as a person after a year at Halau Lokahi, while her first 8 years in the school system, she did not.

My seven year old granddaughter has been at Halau Lokahi since grade K and she loves school. It such an amazing thing to see a child who loves school. When she is sick and cannot go to school she cries, she has a hunger to learn. When we are in the car she practice counting on her own and enjoys it. She loves to read when we are in the market she reads all the labels.

And all of their gain is because Halau Lokahi. She not only has advanced in education but also in physicality and respect for all people and their cultures. A common misconception is that Halau Lokahi is nothing but Hawaiian but they teach the kids about many cultures. Just last year the end of the school year finale did Chinese bon dances. The

kids didn't only learn the dance but all about multiple cultures.

The staff at the school is outstanding, it's like a family, when my grandchildren are at school I have no concerns I know they in a safe place. I did not have the thinking when the oldest was in public school. As much as the kids are like a family they are also each their own person and are encouraged to be whom they are.

At Halau Lokahi there not just a child in a class room, they are a person with opinions and thoughts of their own. In the DOE many children fall through the crack in that system, this is not something that happens at Halau Lokahi. As much as they learn culture they also learn to have love and aloha for other cultures. The children there are like beautiful flowers in a garden all different but together they make that beautiful garden.

Without Halau Lokahi these children would be cheated out of the great education this school offers and future children would be cheated out as well. I fear if my grandchildren lose this school they will have no chance at a great education, and without this education they won't have much of a future

Kathy Costa

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

I love Halau Lokahi because it has a gym. You can learn math and reading and spelling. And you can learn sentences. I went to a farm. I like Kumu Pearl and Puna and Kumu Kehau and Kumu Adeline. I went to the zoo and learned about how lions can run fast and smell far. And the monkeys are fast at climbing and run fast. They can camouflage. I went to Kalihi Valley and learned we can eat other plants because it's healthy. I feel like everyone is a family to me because they like me and play with me and run with me.

Written By: Kaonohiokala Kalima
Age 6

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

My children have been attending Halau Lokahi for the past three years and I cannot imagine sending them anywhere else but here. All of the Kumu's who teach and nourish the students at this school are the most dedicated and determined Kumu's I have had the pleasure to know. I trust them with the safety and with educating both of my children. My daughter came from a public State run school and was not doing very well. The teachers were all about "not having time to help my child (whom they said needed special education)". And that "they had 30 more students besides my daughter to teach!" My daughter is a shy person and doesn't like to get in the way so she was closing in on herself. At Halau Lokahi she has blossomed and become more independent with the help of all of her patient and caring Kumu's and classmates. I have seen a great change in her. I know for a fact that without Halau Lokahi she would not be as independent and in control as she is now. Both my daughter and son love going to school at Halau Lokahi in fact they cannot wait to get to school every morning. Halau Lokahi is a school that teaches values, sharing, caring and being Pono. Not with just themselves but to malama everyone and everything. Please allow Halau Lokahi to continue to share in the values that we as a community and a people need, to perpetuate and educate.

Mahalo.

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

To whom it may concern:

I am a parent of three children who attend Halau Lokahi Charter Public School. The learning experience has been great and life long lessons that I am truly grateful for.

My oldest, Christian Tengan, graduated this year and moving on to the University of Northern Arizona. He was given tools beside education that will promote him into manhood such as communication, confidence, leadership and individualism.

My middle one, Jonathan Horcajo, attended for two years. He excelled so much so that he was accepted into Kamehameha Middle School. I do understand it is the luck of the draw for Kamehameha Schools, but second interviewer was impressed with articulation, well rounded in athletics, culture and education (4.0) and confidence.

My youngest, Emalia Horcajo, enjoys the closeness of the class. She has been given an awareness beyond her age. Heading into fifth grade now, she can already speak eloquently in public and enjoys all the science.

Any questions, call 275-7888 or email joyhorcajo@altig.com

Aloha,

Joy Horcajo

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

Aloha mai I keia wau o Hinano Paia.

Aloha mai kakou
'O Hinano Ko'u inoa
No Papakolea mai au
He 'Umikumamaha o'u makahiki
Hele au ke kula ho'amana 'o Halau Lokahi
Noho au I ka papa 'eiwa

I have been attending Halau Lokahi NCPCS since the 5th grade and now I am 9th grade moving up to 10th. Coming to Halau Lokahi I have met great people Kumu Me Haumana. Halau Lokahi has made a big change in me for many types of way. Before in my first 2 years at Halau Lokahi I did not care for anything or anyone but myself, but now, I look at things in a different way, I look after my kaikaina and also my kaikua'ana. Halau Lokahi has experienced my up's and down's and still managed to keep up with my anger issues and everything I put them through which is some big things that I have done. Halau Lokahi may not be the only culturally focused school but it is the only school that teaches me and other kids the true meaning of aloha and Halau Lokahi is the only school that I could and can call home. Halau Lokahi is the only school that makes me feel like I am visible to people's sight and whenever I have a problem they are the only people that knows how to calm me down and knows how to fix my problems. Before our school year ended my mother has asked me what school are you going to next year I proudly said " I am going back to Halau Lokahi" with my chin high back straight as the cliff as us Hawaiians would say "Pali e ke kua, Mahina e ke alo". Halau Lokahi is the only school that made me comfortable on seeking who I am and that is a Hawaiian boy who loves hula, chanting, singing with one of his kumu but not only for her but also the school and out in the public for a non profit organization called Na Koa Opio. This is from me to you a Haumana of Halau Lokahi PCS to you and what I am stating here is that Halau Lokahi is the school for many of us kids and Halau Lokahi should stay open for the next generation to come and for many kids who enjoy the Hawaiian culture and also cultural things.

And once again, I am Hinano Paia, a student at halau lokahi for 5 years and still going till graduation. Mahalo A Nui Loa.

ACTION ITEM VIII: ACTION OF INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

Hālau Lōkahi had granted me many opportunities that most kids my age don't have. I went to Tahiti representing Hālau Lōkahi. Because of this school I have really strong bonds with other kids around the island. I went to Kū I Ka Lono many times to present what we learned throughout the year and perform hula. I had the opportunity to go to Kokua Kalihi Valley every Thursday to help clean and renourish the Aina. Every Friday we would go and learn and do activities at a very beautiful back yard of our Uncle Gabe's house. I am very thankful for everything that Hālau Lōkahi has given me. I think that HL is the best school. Hālau Lōkahi is different. We don't stay in the classrooms like normal schools. We are cared for and given life lessons. At the other schools, the teachers don't care about us or care about what we do in life. All they do is stay contained in the classroom. Just because Hālau Lōkahi is different, it doesn't mean you should shut us down.

Aloha,
Keiki Kalima

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

Aloha! My name is Desilyn Sabrina H. Tabag-Pichay and this letter is written in support of Halau Lokahi. I am a parent of 2 children who will be entering into the charter school (Halau Lokahi) this coming school year 2014-2015. I am a product of the Department of Education Public School System. You see, the public school of my time has changed drastically in comparison to the Public School System of today. In my opinion, the Public School System, it had come down to a matter of statistics at the cost of MY children and the future of tomorrow. I have known of Halau Lokahi for at least 10 years. In my 10 years of observing and focusing in on with the education AND cultural integration from a parent's point of view, is the only most beneficial way to go. I whole heartedly believe Halau Lokahi can and will help mold not only my children but also the communities that every student comes from, into productive citizens w/respect for others, kupuna, ocean, mountain, nature, and last but not least SELF WORTH. It takes a village to raise a child and Halau Lokahi is part of the village for my ohana. My oldest son is an alumni of Halau Lokahi and he is a very productive kanaka to not only his community but to the beautiful islands we live in. You cannot keep trying to contain or keep under control what is naturally of a human being kanaka in having the opportunity with Halau Lokahi to learn differently from the majority. Halau Lokahi by far and beyond has exceeded my expectations as well as other culturally based charter schools. Please take my words and the future of my children into consideration. Mahalo for your time.

Desilyn Sabrina H. Tabag-Pichay
S.H.C.W. Office Clerk

Agenda Item VIII: Action of Financial Insolvency of
Halau Lokahi

God's Country Waimanalo

From the Mountains to the Sea, Keeping Our Country Country

God's Country Waimanalo Youth Program encourages our children to keep up with the new, but respect, learn, and remember where they came from. Our program is rooted in cultural preservation, community partnerships, and connects the Hawaiian culture to other aspects of health and wellness.

June 11, 2014

Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Halau Lokahi

Aloha Commission:

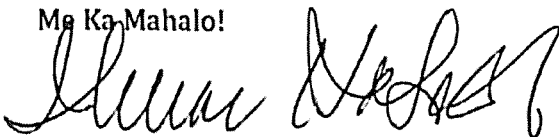
My name is Ilima Ho-Lastimosa, I am the program director of God's Country Waimanalo. On behalf of all of us at God's Country Waimanalo I ask for your continued support of Halau Lokahi, its mission, vision and passion for the perpetuation of our life ways. It is urgent that we rebuild and reawaken all that was lost of our Hawaiian culture and the best way is through our keiki, our future.

We believe that Halau Lokahi has done an outstanding job supporting the educational needs of its haumana. We have witnessed their commitment to kako'o the Hawaiian community on numerous occasions, always ready and able to attend events that benefit Hawaii and Hawaiians. This sort of learning is unorthodox, yet integral to the skill building and independent learning and thinking of each student.

We have also observed Halau Lokahi in our community of Waimanalo, deeply entrenched in mālama aina and mālama kai. Many times the school has used our wa'a, Ho'omana'o Mau and Ka Honua o Ke Akua to perpetuate canoe culture and navigation practice furthering the reach of Hawaiian tradition. It is vital that these customs continue for the many generations to come. Without these practices Hawaiian life ways will be lost.

Again, on behalf of all of us at God's Country Waimanalo I ask for your support of Halau Lokahi. Mahalo for the opportunity to share these thoughts. Ke Akua Pū!

Me Ka Mahalo!



Ilima Ho-Lastimosa

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

June 10, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

This is our testimony on how important Halau Lokahi is to our family. There is no other school we would rather have our children at. Considering all the bullying and racism that goes on in public schools, not only by the students but also by some of the teachers and the staff. There are too much drugs and sexual conduct that goes on in the public school system that we don't want to subject our children to. At Halau Lokahi we don't have to fear bullying because our children are different or smarter than other kids. We don't have to fear peer pressure to do drugs, alcohol or tobacco, our children only have to worry their education.

At Halau Lokahi they are getting the best education that we have ever seen at any school. They are not just being shuffled through the system. If their grades are not where they should be, we are notified immediately and can make sure the problem is dealt with right away and our kids are brought back on track. We as parents are held accountable also.

Through Halau Lokahi we have had the opportunity to be able to give back to the community and support the Hawaiian Culture. The time we have been enrolled in Halau Lokahi our children have been volunteering in community service. Through the community service our children have learned to humble themselves, help others and that life isn't just about them, that others are important too.

Halau Lokahi is vital to the community as they give back to the community by beach clean up, which includes not just rubbish pick up but also invasive plant life clean up, by working lo'i and also replanting native Hawaiian plants, Through this they teach the importance of Malama the Aina, the Wai and the Kanaka.

It is important for Halau Lokahi to continue serving and educating our children because they are a vital force to our community. They offer an education that even if a child has to stay home with their younger siblings or other reasons they are still able to receive a credible education through Halau Lokahi's Cyber Program. The teachers all take pride in making sure each child succeeds.

Once again there is no other public school we would put our children in. We are so grateful for Halau Lokahi and the education they offer. Everyone is made to feel welcome. We have been treated like family for the 4 years that our children have been attending Halau Lokahi. We are very pleased with the teachers, the curriculum and the communication between parents, teachers and students.

Sincerely,
Larry and Cindy Holcomb

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

Aloha members of the Charter School Commission,

As a community supporter and someone who has personally seen Halau Lokahi grow over the past 14 years, I am deeply saddened, angered, and appalled by the news of what may come of Halau Lokahi and the subsequent newscast on KHON2. I have seen Halau Lokahi rise above the odds since the beginning of its existence in 2001, and have seen it grow into the thriving school it is today. It has been in existence and has excelled for the past 14 years and to see this threatened is tremendously disheartening. Not only would the staff, teachers, and alumni be saddened, angered, and heartbroken, but the students would be absolutely devastated. As someone who has had close ties to the school, I have seen some of the very first alumni go on to become successful professionals, gaining both bachelor's degrees and master's degrees, and becoming successful members of our thriving community. Halau Lokahi empowers its students to be the very best of themselves and achieve their true potential. Through place-based learning and a student-centered curriculum, the students at Halau Lokahi thrive both academically and personally. Beyond this, however, is the spirit of aloha and ohana that emanates throughout Halau Lokahi. Students are nurtured toward growth and success in an environment that is full of love and ohana. The teachers are more than just teachers – they are mentors and family. They have a deep regard for their students and help them strive toward success. To see this come to an end would be truly heartbreaking. I have personally seen students who were having difficult times both academically and personally in various public schools enter into Halau Lokahi, begin to love school, begin to realize their own potential for success and achievement, and make a complete turn-around in regards to academic achievement. Most of all, these students gain greater confidence in themselves and build a greater self-esteem. In addition, Halau Lokahi strives to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and emanate all that the Hawaiian culture encompasses. I support Halau Lokahi in all of its efforts and recognize the importance of Halau Lokahi continuing its program. I cannot stress enough how much of a positive impact this school has had on the lives of the children that attend. I hope that you will see the incredible importance of this school continuing to touch the lives of the many children and families that it serves.

Nicole Tortora Lopez, MA, IMF

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

June 11, 2014

RE: Halau Lokahi

Aloha! My name is Jessica Corpus. My son, Lincoln- Eastwood “La’i’ku” has been enrolled in Halau Lokahi since Kindergarten and this year is entering the 3rd grade.

It is frustrating to me that we, parents need to defend our choice of education, AGAIN!?!?! I don’t feel the need to convince those who are the decision makers to help me make MY decision for me.

I am the working parent in our household. My husband stays home and cares for his ill mother and in turn, home schools our twin 8 year old boys with the other twin, Makoa, who is autistic and has developmental delays.

Halau Lokahi does wonders for our ohana. There is still that guidance, but not over bearing. He keeps up with the curriculum and in fact, enjoys the home school atmosphere. He has the ability and openness to continue forward in lessons he’s mastered or continue to stay in a lesson to work on issues that he faces.

Before enrolling him in Halau Lokahi, I’ve researched other possibilities but MY choice was easy. The faculty and teachers are great. The curriculum, I feel at times, are more advanced than that of the public schools and I support this program 100%.

I can only speak for my household, and Halau Lokahi is definitely a part of this ohana. My son is receiving the education that he deserves and needs and this program provides that for him. And for me, THAT is what matters the most.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. God Bless you all!

Jessica Corpus

Parent of Lincoln-Eastwood Enohoali’ikala’I’kuokea Corpus

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

Hi my name is Glenn Keala Foster Tisalona.

I graduated from Halau Lokahi in 2005 from being a drop out. I learned a lot but most of all I learned more about my own history that I never knew.

Every field trip that I attended taught me more about Hawaiian and that our history is just as important as the food we eat or the water we drink. I

respect this school all because the people that work there is real, just like your mom or dad they're real and make learning possible. if I could I would

have been there sooner and thanks to them I'm here now with a high

school diploma and I also have a good job had some of the best teacher's

that I still see every now and again. I'm so blessed to be a part of this

'ohana ... I am a Halau Lokahi graduate and proud to be one.

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

As a Kupuna who have grandchildren scheduled to be enrolled in Halau Lokahi for the upcoming school year, my family and I find ourselves hoping that you will continue to support the continuance of this great academically and culturally based school. It is a plus for our island as well as our community of 'ohana.

We have observed and researched many different schools in the area and have found this school to be our choice for the Academic as well as the Cultural standards as a premier educational outlet for all families who have children needing to excel in all areas of education as possible to become better citizens for our islands as well as the world.

We reach out for your continued support in helping our families and children gain the best education possible in helping them reach their goals.

Thank you very much for your time and support.

With sincere and warmest aloha,
Kupuna Flo Kalawa Tabag

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

Aloha,

My name is Darrell Keama. I graduated from Halau Lokahi in 2005. This hands-on experience school was just what I needed to learn by doing and not by reading. I have attended other schools which was not successful for me until I found Halau Lokahi. The in-class schoolwork with outside Hawaiian culture teachings is what I needed to be a successful person. The Respect, Chants, ‘Olelo Hawai‘i, Hula, and Mana is taught and needed to continue our culture being that these islands are called "HAWAI‘I." The special mana (feeling) from the teachers and kids is what I see and never feel anywhere else. I don't know where I will be if I have never attended this school. Please find a way to continue what is needed for us Hawaiians. Mahalo Nui Loa.

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

Aloha Kakou,

Being made aware of this Charter School thru a co-worker of mine made me wonder what was so special about this school. Then a member of Queen Emma Hawaiian Civic Club as I was president at the time enlightened me as to the students and curriculum. It was so impressing, and humbling.

Reflecting on my own child who had gone thru the educational system that failed her I cried. If she had the opportunity to have been mentored in such a school her life wouldn't have taken on such obstacles. Low esteem, humiliation, and a remark by a teacher besides Hawaiians will always be on the bottom so don't look forward to higher education. We tried to reinforce love and would uplift my child's self worth. When she was about to graduate a teacher failed 1/3 of the senior class. This should have raised red flags in the school system, but my daughter said don't fight Mom, they offered a special class at no cost during the summer so she along with other class mates can then get their diplomas. She passed that class with a B plus. She made a conscientious decision and refused to attend graduation exercises stating "I will not have you go thru the expense for a worthless piece of paper". The reason I'm relaying this very painful part of our lives if Halau Lokahi had been an option for my daughter it would have made a great difference in her life.

I and my brother have supported Halau Lokahi because they inspire the best values of life's experiences a good education and building a support system for their haumana. They teach core values which we as children learned from our kupuna, and do not get lost in the system. I humbly ask you to please submit my letter of support. I maybe reached at by mail 784 Hao Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96821, or phone: [808-373-4190](tel:808-373-4190), or by email.

Mahalo a nui loa,

Casina Keli'ipuhipaka Waterman

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

June 11, 2014

Dear Members of the State Public School Commission,

April 4, 1970, as I was nearing completion of my master's degree in special education at MSU, a DOE Personnel Officer found me and recruited me. As is typical for mainland haole teacher recruits, I was sent to the Leeward Coast to teach at Nānāikapono. As a new teacher trying to teach cross-culturally, I was pretty much ineffective. But it was obvious that DOE style education for the Hawaiian population was not working. At that time, I blamed the Hawaiian community for not being sufficiently academically oriented.

Towards the end of my 38 year DOE journey having become a Student Services Coordinator, I became aware of the charter school movement. My job as a Student Services Coordinator involved testing students who were having difficulty in the classroom and might need special education services.

My attention was completely captured when a family of four boys (three of whom were eligible for special education) transferred out of my school to enroll in Hālau Lōkahi a nearby charter school with Hawaiian cultural focus. Why would parents pull students out of a fully supported mainline DOE school with credentialed teachers plus free lunch and free breakfast to attend an underfunded Hawaii culture based charter school? There was something about that style of education that superseded facilities, funding and teacher credentials, which was so compelling parents and children chose that style of learning. It was such a counterintuitive choice for parents with such a discrepancy between facilities, funding and credentials in the conventional public schools on one side and the cobbled together facilities of the Hawaiian charter schools on the other. As my career was ending, I had to find the

answer to this perplexing choice. Along my research path, I came upon the pedagogy of Dr. Kū Kahakalau who created at Kanu o ka 'Āina.

During the fall semester of 2009 (September 12 – December 19th), I resided in Kamuela and observed daily at Kanu o ka 'Āina. I was astounded by what they were doing there and wrote my master's thesis on Kanu specifically and the Hawaiian Charter School movement in general. When comparing the academic scores of Hawaiian students with students of the nearby school and also with a school of comparable demographics, the students scored as well or better. There was one statistic that jumped off the charts. The attendance rate was 98%, which indicated that students were fully engaged in their school coming to school every day they could and probably some days they should have stayed home sick. Additionally, the high school graduation rates are consistently higher than the nearby school and the school with comparable demographics. Obtaining a high school diploma is a critical factor in setting a youth up for a satisfying adult life.

Hawaiian Charter Schools are not as standardized as “regular” DOE schools. That is one of the keys to their success and that is what exasperates school board members. They continuously have struggles with funding, facilities and compliance with DOE style reports. But they do meet a need that the DOE has never been effective at meeting: how to educate Hawaiian students to live into their academic potential.

Please support Hālau Lōkahi and all Hawaiian charter schools.

- *Ann Dugdale Hansen*

Master of Arts in Special Education (MSU),

Master of Arts in Pacific Islands Studies (UHM)

ACTION ITEM VIII: ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

June 11, 2014

Aloha my name is Somerlyn "Wai" Betonio and I am an employee, parent, and supporter of Halau Lokahi. I have worked at traditional schools since 2000. I started working at Halau Lokahi from 2005 and I would never ever go back to working at a traditional school again. The love that Halau Lokahi has shown me is a blessing. They are my extended family.

The benefits my daughter, nephew, and cousins has gained from attending Halau Lokahi are respect, responsibility, aloha for all, taking care of their elders, etc. The list can go on and on.

I work with special education children and they progress well at Halau Lokahi. They feel like they are not just a statistic (as they are in traditional schools). The families in which we serve has mentioned to us numerous times how Halau Lokahi has changed their children's lives, views of society, and of themselves.

It is truly important that this school remain open. We still have the need to serve our families that believe in us. Please help to save this place that has children eager and excited to come to school to learn each and everyday.

Mahalo Nui Loa!

Halau Lōkahi

CHARTER SCHOOL

401 Waiakamilo 1A Honolulu, Hawai'i
832-3594 www.halaulokahi.com

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU

LŌKAHI

June 11, 2014

TO: Commissioners

FR: Laara Allbrett

RE: Current Situation

Aloha Commissioners,

Such a sad day that some in authority actually believe it serves children to denounce that which they love to participate in.

The students are hearing and seeing all this slander against a place that is precious to them. No one has hurt the children, read the letters of families who have found a safe place for them to discover their potential.

Funding challenges have long been an issue for charters who believed in the system's assurance of equity when stepping into the then unknown world of charter schools in Hawai'i.

Halau Lokahi is committed to making things right, just as our name represents.

We will work with the Commissioners to ensure the continued successful operations of Honolulu's first K-12 charter school serving our native population.

We ask for your continued support in navigating what have been pretty rough waters over the years. Together, we can make Halau Lokahi the school we always intended it to be.

ACTION ITEM VIII: ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

June 11, 2014

To the Board of Commissioners,

Closing Halau Lokahi is not the solution to this situation. As a teacher at Halau Lokahi, I have experienced the greatness that this school brings to the children. Families bring their children to Halau Lokahi because of their unhappiness and discontent with the current DOE school environment. At Halau Lokahi, students are given a voice. They are shown respect. They flourish both academically and amongst their peers. The entire school body interacts with one another as one big 'ohana.

Closing the school will put these children back into the same environment that their families adamantly wanted their child out of. Closing Halau Lokahi would be unjustly taking these children away from their family, their home, their place of refuge in bad times of joy and ultimately their place of learning.

Mahalo nui,

Kristen Kalilikane-Lau, Kumu

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

Aloha,

I am a founding member of Halau Lokahi and the mother of Keiki that attend Halau Lokahi. I urge you to do nothing but support Halau Lokahi. My Keiki have excelled in their classes and have performed well on the HSA test. As a Makua, I feel that teaching happens in the home and is continued in school. The Kumu have enriched my children's lives with academics that nurture the mind, body and soul. They are comfortable in their bodies and academics and are not greeted with negativity that can be found in DOE schools. I feel that the powers that be are punishing my Keiki for my decision to send them to Halau Lokahi. Why would my Keiki be worth less than a child attending a DOE school? This is a question that has not been answered in the 13 years we have been operating. My husband and I have made the conscious decision to have our Keiki learn about who they are and where they are from along with the core academics. How many options do we have as kanaka maoli to educate our Keiki using the Hawaiian values that most of us were raised with? Not much. It is a shame that the state of Hawaii can hand out charters and turn around and not support our school. Where is the aloha? My Keiki have gained experiences that you would not be able to get in many other schools. The staff, they have nothing but aloha for the keiki and go above and beyond the call of duty. What we have here is a revolution and we are being penalized for it. I do not want my Keiki indoctrinated with the false history of Hawaii. I do not want my Keiki to be sheeple of Hawaii but rather leaders of Hawaii. When will someone hear plea and who is brave enough to step up and help?

Aloha,
Kari Kalima

ACTION ITEM VIII: ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

Aloha Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission,

I have been a teacher at Halau Lokahi for the past two years and am writing on behalf of the students and families whom I service. I am an academic specialist for Lokahi Online, the online learning department of Halau Lokahi. I provide instructional support to our students who use our online curriculum. Our students and their families choose our online program for a variety of reasons. Many are already pursuing their passions in preparation for post-high school. If it were not for the flexibility of our online program, they would not be able to actively prepare for future careers in theatre, fine arts, professional sports, and many others. Some wish to accelerate their learning so that they can begin their future careers and secondary education earlier. Our students are able to supplement their academics with practical applications in daytime internships and career-specific classes, along with participating in theatre productions, sports competitions, and volunteer work.

For some of our families, their parents' vocation requires them to travel. Instead of leaving their families behind, families are able to travel together, while still meeting their child's educational requirements. Absenteeism is reduced and the student is able to thrive and learn, all while still being a family unit!

Another example of the benefit of our online program is the flexibility for families with non-traditional schedules. When asked what she likes best about being in a virtual classroom, one student replied, "I like being able to spend time with my parents during the week because they work on the weekends."

Some families choose Lokahi Online as a way to spend more time as a family in order to participate in cultural practices. Parents are able to pass on to their children their important cultural practices and values.

With their online program, Halau Lokahi provides Hawai`i's families with an alternative to the traditional brick-and-mortar, Monday through Friday, school. Students receive a public education while still being able to actively pursue their lifetime goals and practice cultural traditions.

For all these reasons, I humbly ask for your support of Halau Lokahi.

Me ka `oia`i`o,

Judy Chun

AGENDA ITEM VIII: ACTION OF INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

June 11, 2014

State Public Charter School Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

Halau Lokahi Public Charter School provides a learning environment that is engaging, hands-on, and nurturing. Since Halau Lokahi has opened its doors the school, staff, and students have been committed to grow and learn together as an ohana. Halau Lokahi is a place for students that may not fit into the traditional school system. Halau Lokahi strives to continue to provide an authentic education for the future leaders of Hawai'i.

I am currently a Kumu at Halau Lokahi. Upon graduation from UH Manoa with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, I began my search for job opportunities. Halau Lokahi offered me a teaching position that came with Hawaiian values, outdoor learning, smaller student class sizes, and a chance to teach outside the box. I couldn't ask for a better place to bestow knowledge upon our keiki. If you walk into our doors you will see how important Halau Lokahi is for the future of Hawaii!

Please consider the students and staff that call Halau Lokahi their home. We need to be given the opportunity to continue on this path that is often less traveled. Provide our school with a chance to flourish. Keep a roof over our head and we will continue to insure the keiki of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Kehaulani Pi'iohia
Kumu K-2

AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF HĀLAU LŌKAHI

June 10, 2014

Aloha Commissioners,

As Halau Lokahi is here in front of you today, I write this letter as a founding member and 2005 graduate of Halau Lokahi. It is appalling to hear that a recommendation is being made to close our school. Halau Lokahi has operated since 2001, educating students and allowing them to walk in both western and Hawaiian worlds.

As a student at Kamehameha from Kindergarten to 8th grade, I made the conscious decision to leave KS and take the leap into the charter school world. Not once regretting that decision. I appreciate the education I received at KS, however, times had changed and I would listen to Aunty Ku Kahakalau speak of the positives of a “different” kind of school, a Native Hawaiian charter school. Halau Lokahi was founded in June 2001. I soon began my time at Halau Lokahi as a 9th grader and quickly found myself with a broader appreciation for the world around me. As a student at Halau Lokahi, I was able to nurture my desire to learn our Hawaiian culture, history and language. It was our culture, history and language that took me on interisland trips, national trips to Arizona and internationally to Canada to share our culture with other indigenous peoples. It was our “out of the box” thinking that allowed a group of Halau Lokahi high school students to participate in science projects which were presented at science symposiums where my partner and I were even approached by a UH Manoa College Statistics professor to share our statistics and findings with his students! Halau Lokahi students even published these scientific studies, submitting them to Cornell University.

As a founding member, much time, effort, sweat, tears and aloha went into creating a school that would enable students to thrive and allow for student success and growth. A place where students are free to be themselves, to seek the knowledge they desire, to experience education outside of the traditional “box”. After 13 years, charter schools are still misunderstood. However, charter schools and Halau Lokahi have proven to be successful time and time again, as evidenced by our school’s continuous growth and by the continued success of our students and graduates, many of whom have completed post-high education receiving degrees ranging from Associates to Masters as well as vocational certifications.

It is imperative that every step necessary is taken to ensure the stability and growth of this unique type of school. I thank you for your continued support of Halau Lokahi.

Mahalo,

Callei Allbrett, Halau Lokahi ‘05

ACTION ITEM VIII: ACTION OF INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

Aloha kakou,

My name is Oriana Coleman. I have been part of the Halau Lokahi Ohana for going on 9 years. I write this letter in support of the staff, my children and other children who have benefited from HL, and the mission and objectives of Halau Lokahi. I cannot express in words how blessed, thankful and amazed I am about Halau Lokahi. Our journey with Halau Lokahi is truly one of resilience, Hawaiian value, & ohana. This school has saved lives, supported many families who are houseless, and most importantly allowed others to live on.

You cannot do what is unrighteous to those who try to teach righteousness.

Therefore support and do what is right for the haumana, staff, ohana of Halau Lokahi, the future of Hawaiians for Hawaii. God bless you and may the Lord press upon your heart what is right and true.

Ke aloha no,
Oriana Coleman

ACTION ITEM VIII: ACTION OF INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

Aloha State Public Charter School Commission General Board,

I am a teacher at Halau Lokahi Public Charter School and I am writing this leka in support of my charter school, Halau Lokahi. It is essential that we continue our school with the importance of teaching a living, learning important issues and provide a school of values. We govern our rules with our ancestors, Aloha kekahi i kekahi, Mahalo i ka mea loa'a, Kokua aku, Kokua mai, and Malama i kou kuleana. Simple traits that if not followed, cannot function as one, LOKAHI.

We serve our children with the birthright to make their own opinions of the issues that they face today, learn of the past and execute what they can do today as young fifth graders and sixth graders, their level of understanding. The haumana speak from their heart not memorization. They share from their heart, not practiced by given with their own mana'o. They study and have to take the same HSA testing as every other school.

Some students need the small classroom environment to blossom from a bud into a pua. Here at Halau Lokahi we can and have nurtured their special spirits. What I don't get is the issue of funds that follow the regular DOE student (x amount) and when a student at Halau Lokahi Charter School the same student (x/2 amount) HALF the amount which a student just crossed the street for education. Unbelievable!

Well, at this time may you have the answers to our existence as the only Halau Lokahi Charter School that does many brilliant things for students, 'ohana, and communities here, on the continent, to our Polynesian 'ohana, and internationally. We are the school that at a moments notice can kokua to those in need of pure mana, culture in our Hawaii. Money cannot buy ALL things. Money sure could help in our case now but to even think of a shut down is unspeakable.

My favorite 'olelo noeau, "A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka halau ho'okahi." Aka Nui ka 'ike i ke kula o Halau Lokahi PCS.

Mahalo, Kumu Adeline Keama

ACTION ITEM VII: ACTION OF INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

Aloha Commissioners,

I'm writing in full support of Halau Lokahi Public Charter School to continue in upholding it's mission, values, and programs which have had a tremendously positive impact on the students, families, community, and environment. It is vital for the well being of students especially those very low income Native Hawaiians being educated by Halau Lokahi to be afforded the unique opportunity to learn and thrive in an educational setting that is conducive to their needs. Closing Halau Lokahi would be detrimental to the spirit and livelihood of these students and shutting down the school would be shutting down Hawaiians.

Mahalo,

Milton Coleman
Teacher

ACTION ITEM VIII: ACTION OF INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

June 11, 2014

Norman A. Miyasato
45-431 Kaneohe Bay Drive
Kaneohe, HI 96744

To the Charter Commission,

Please allow Hālau Lōkahi to arrange for funding to continue to provide a quality curriculum for our keiki. Hālau Lōkahi is an exemplary school with high standards set for education, developing good skills, confidence, Hawaiian cultural awareness and involvement. It would be a great loss to close a much-needed school that gives so much to the community at-large. The school has a long history of sacrifice, community-involvement, pro-activism, leadership, pride, confidence, and cultural participation.

More than just educators in the classroom, Hālau Lōkahi teaches its students to get involved in community affairs and demand truth from government officials and corporations. I would have to say that no other school does more in that respect. Add the Hawaiian knowledge and language to that and it possesses an unparalleled curriculum. If it needs help financially, what a perfect platform for OHA, Kamehameha School to show support in the Kalihi area. The kāhea has gone out and we pray that a reassessment of the value and mission statements of the Hawaiian trusts support the needs and successes of Hālau Lōkahi. The Commission can do all in its power to help. Please give Hālau Lōkahi the time to fund its invaluable programs for the future of our keiki.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Norman A. Miyasato

**AGENDA ITEM: VIII. ACTION OF FINANCIAL INSOLVENCY OF
HĀLAU LŌKAHI**

June 10, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

As a former teacher from the New York educational system and now currently a dedicated teacher and member of the Hawaiian community, I humbly and urgently ask for the State Public Charter School Commission to **STOP AND POSTPONE** it's perusal of closing an important and invaluable public charter school, Halau Lokahi. I would like to see instead for Public Charter School Commission to be in search of the **TRUTH** to why our charter school is having continued financial concerns, continued inequitable funding. It is the **RESPONSIBILITY** and **DUTY** of the Public Charter School Commission to **SUPPORT** and **FIGHT** for all public charter schools that serve the Hawaiian youth.

If you would come to our school on any given day and experience the joy and enthusiasm in which our students have for the learning experiences and educational programs we offer, your eyes would be filled with the beauty of our learning environment and at the beauty in the smiling faces of our students who are **LOVING** learning at Halau Lokahi. Your ears would sing with the beautiful sounds of our keiki sharing the traditional chanting and mele of the Hawaiian people of long ago. Your body would become alive and sway to the rhythm and beat of the hula and ipu heke. Your **SPIRIT** would be deeply touched as it realizes how much there is a **GREAT NEED** for a school such as Halau Lokahi to continue it's existence and support of not only the keiki, but for the entire Hawaiian community and the world as a whole. Your heart would be filled with **ALOHA** once you truly experience what being a student at Halau Lokahi is all about, and the many miracles that happen within each child as their inspiration takes flight and their knowledge grows. Your entire being would realize that Halau Lokahi must be allowed to continue to serve it's people and you would be moved to do all you can to make sure that Halau Lokahi and the families it serves get the funding and support they need to remain open and thriving.

Since Halau Lokahi's inception, the school has been steadfast in forming healthy and valuable relationships within the community, we have formed and maintained successful partnerships and fellowships with many organizations such as with UH Manoa, Malama Aina, QLCC, Kokua Kalihi Valley and many others.

The impact Halau Lokahi makes in the community and the families we serve is **PRICELESS** and in great need. Halau Lokahi provides an educational model and experience that teaches and guides the children of Hawaii to walk in both worlds and we challenge them to master being successful in the modern world while simultaneously perpetuating the Hawaiian culture and the deep wisdom of the world passed down from the ancestors as well as continuing to create a sustainable community.

My heart and spirit cry for these children at the very thought of their not having the opportunity to be able to come to school at Halau Lokahi, **THE STUDENTS LOVE**

the school as do the staff and families. We have helped both children and families grow and become healthier members of society.

I would go without pay this summer if it meant that Halau Lokahi could stay open and continue to make Hawaii a better place for our children.

Sincerely, Erica Cagney Duffy, 10 year teacher and data analysis

ACTION ITEM VIII: ACTION OF INSOLVENCY OF HALAU LOKAHI

June 10, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Below is collection of information that I have gathered, researched, observed and documented while working at Halau Lokahi for the last 9 years.

~Erica Cagney Duffy

HALAU LOKAHI PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL & THE COMMUNITY

Hālau Lōkahi Public Charter School opened in 2001. It is Hawaii's only inner city K-12 Hawaiian culture-based charter school located in Honolulu, Hawaii. Hālau Lōkahi is located in the school district of Kalihi-Palama also known as the Farrington area. This area is well known for being a culturally and economically challenged urban community on the island of O'ahu.

One of the main reasons for Halau Lokahi's existence is to provide a safe, nurturing and health focused environment for all children of Hawaii. The understanding, professionalism and trust shared among all staff members is extended to each and every child and member of society. Consistent modeling and guidance provided to the students teaches and engages them to respect themselves, each other's differences, the land, the ocean, the earth and all living things and is the cornerstone of Halau Lokahi's mission. Halau Lokahi has always been a place where students can be who they truly are. Everyday one can see how the students thrive in a positive, safe learning environment. The environment created at the school results in the lifting of children's spirits thus fostering great measures of self-growth, which leads to the students exceeding many of the expectations of both the child's personal and academic growth. Allowing the children to be who they truly are has been a main factor in the students and schools success. Keeping the mission, vision, and purpose of the school as the foundation is a key component in offering a holistic, educational environment and experience for every child at the school.

Halau Lokahi is a happy and pleasant place, filled with genuine aloha, making it a stable and consistent environment for students. The majority of staff have been employed since opening and professional and personal growth are evident. An atmosphere of 'ohana (family) prevails and students value the close-knit environment of caring while learning the importance of being self-responsible. Students are often heard saying they love the school and are so glad they are a part of this change in the way education is viewed and executed.

The vision of Hālau Lōkahi is to equip students, grades K-12, with two types of literacy: Native Hawaiian principles and values, along with the skills needed to succeed in the 21st Century. Students read, write, speak and calculate with clarity and precision, along with participating passionately and responsibly in the life of the community. As a community-based, family-oriented school, Hālau Lōkahi actively involves parents and extended family, as well as community members in the educational process. As a result, the community and the surrounding environment act as living learning laboratories where students and community work together to create a future that is pono.

Halau Lokahi teachers employ a wide range of instructional strategies and techniques to meet the students' needs. For example, they use project-based learning to help students make connections between academic lessons and real-world applications. In addition, they employ team teaching methods and practices as well as one-on-one tutoring to re-teach concepts that a student may have struggled to grasp. Teachers also use group-work strategies in order for students to be able to show demonstrate mastery of content and skills by teaching each other the content information. Teachers incorporate on-line programs, community partners, field trips and meeting with guest speakers, Kupuna and experts in the field as instructional strategies. The staff is trained through professional development workshops to effectively evaluate student learning styles that facilitate in the development and designing of a large variety of learning experiences. The 'Lokahi On-line' teachers employ a coaching-role for their online students, who are engaging in independent study.

Since Halau Lokahi's inception, they have participated and used a vast variety of community resources and partnerships:

- Aloha Aina: Math and science curriculum focusing on the ahupua'a
- The Bishop Museum: Using the archives and DNA lab
- Correa Ranch: for Aquaponic system study
- The Honolulu Fire Department: Students learn about fire safety in addition to community helper roles
- Lyons Arboretum: Students use this site to study botany and work with ethnobotanists
- Kokua Kalihi Valley-Ho'oulu 'Aina Project, students participate in the restoration of cultural sites and learn sustainable farming techniques.
- Malama Aina: "Makawalu O Na Kumu Project" (Environmental Stewardship Project)
- Moanalua Gardens: Teacher training, workshops and use of Moanalua Gardens curriculum
- NOAA: Scientists offer curriculum resources for oceanography units
- NIE (Newspapers in Education): Students use newspaper articles to improve upon their reading and literacy skills
- Mana Maoli: HL included in grant from OHA for after school music program exposing students to musical theory, history and hands on performance
- PBS (Hiki No)

- Queen Lilil'uokalani Children's Center: A partnership providing community programs such as media mentorships, 'aina studies (stewardship projects and studies), and support for orphans
- The Pacific American Foundation: Waa Kunewa/Tech Together: Students receive technology/science education with this community group
- The Pacific Writers Connection: This group publishes the poetry the students write. Three published anthologies and 5 years later, students see their own growth in literacy combined with art.
- The University of Hawaii collaborations: Marine Biology, School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology: Students study oceanography
- Kua 'ana Student Services, "Kukalama Tutoring Program" on site intensive one on one tutoring by UH students focusing on math and language arts
- College of Agriculture and the Super-M Program
- As well as annual visits to the Waikiki Aquarium
- Partnering and working with other charter schools: Students participate in annual Makahiki and community events.
- Several fund raisers and fairs are held annually
- Students are also brought to job fairs/career days
- State capitol for observation of the political process

Achievements over the Years:

- Halau Lokahi's greatest highlight has been sustaining the operation of Hālau Lōkahi for over 11 years with fewer resources than originally promised by the state of Hawaii for a public charter school. Due to the dedication and love of all staff, families and students that believe in the vision of a better world and a better educational system, they are still open in spite of innumerable obstacles and lack of funding. It is apparent that the innovation, independence and autonomy intended for charter schools according to charter law, has simply been ignored.
- The school has developed and continue to stain valuable and successful collaborations and partnerships for students. These include: the Malama Aina Program called "Makawalu O Na Kumu Project", The Native Hawaiian Higher Education Program at UH-Manoa, the PBS Hiki No Program, and the Ho'oulu 'Aina Project."
- All grades K-12 are now in a centralized location. Third through sixth grades were moved to the centralized main campus 2 years, alleviating the need to set-up and breakdown classrooms on a daily basis. Having all classrooms in one local area promotes more effective use of the school day, better focus and organizational skills from the students and perpetuates a feeling of accomplishment and success for all members of Hālau Lōkahi.

- Relocating Lokahi Online to the main office has helped in timely communication and allows for additional support from both day and cyber staff to serve all of students and families.
- Halau Lokahi has improved and secured external funding: Title 1 Grant- to address improving areas of needs thus supporting improvement of student's math and reading skills, to increase H.S.A. scores and A.Y.P. status and the KS "C.S.I."- Continued School Improvement project- which has allowed the school to continue working with top Educational Consultants on continuing with striving towards meeting the 'curriculum mapping" goals.
- Last year (SY12-13) Halau Lokahi won 1st place in the "La Mele" competition.
- Halau Lokahi continues to offer a Summer School Program- Teaching reading comprehension strategies and cultural awareness simultaneously.
- Nine (9) year participation in the Ku I Ka Lono Conference Presentations (Scientific & Cultural)
- The creation of a wrestling team by staff members in the 2011-2012 SY which placed in the OIA finals.
- The production of school-wide all grade level inclusive "End of Year Student Performances" such as " KU'U HAE ALOHA" by Leonelle Anderson Akana, a Performance of Understanding of Hawaii's Political History and Queen Lili'uokalani.

The continuous battles faced by charter schools are almost always due to the lack of appropriate and equitable funding. Inequitable funding as well as the lack of free facilities and maintenance has had a huge negative impact on all areas of the school. Student achievement goals have been negatively affected due to the unequal funding affecting all school programs. However with all the obstacles Halau Lokahi's H.S.A. scores ARE improving.