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STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
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**RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTAL**

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DATE: June 18, 2015

TO: Catherine Payne, Chairperson

FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director

AGENDA ITEM: Action on Option for Hawaiian Language Immersion Charter Schools to Exclude Statewide Standardized English Language Assessment Data from the Academic Performance Framework for the 2014-2015 School Year.

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I. DESCRIPTION

Staff recommendation that the Commission give charter schools that teach in the Hawaiian language (“Hawaiian language immersion schools”) the option to request that the Commission exclude the statewide standardized English language assessment data for any grade level where the primary language of instruction is Hawaiian from the Commission’s Academic Performance Assessment for the 2014-2015 school year.

II. AUTHORITY

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) §302D-16, “The performance provisions within the charter contract shall be based on a performance framework that clearly sets forth the academic, financial, organizational, and operational performance indicators, measures, and metrics that will guide the authorizer’s evaluations of each public charter school.”

Section 4.1.1 of the State Public School Charter Contract provides that “the School’s academic performance under this Contract shall be evaluated based on the School’s record of performance according to the State accountability system as may be amended from time to time consistent with State and federal requirements and shall give due consideration to

the School’s performance based on any Commission-approved school-specific indicators adopted by the School.”

### III. BACKGROUND

In the General Business Meeting on September 11, 2014, the Commission approved the exclusion of statewide standardized assessment data for students who were taught in Hawaiian from the school year 2013-2014 Academic Performance Assessment (“APA”). Because there was no statewide standardized Hawaiian assessment at the time, the Commission determined that excluding the English language assessment data from the APA would result in more accurate information about Hawaiian language immersion students’ academic performance.

Statewide standardized English language assessment data were excluded from the school year 2013-2014 APA for the following schools and grade levels:

1. Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo – Grades 3, 4, and 5;
2. Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School – Grades 3, 4, and 5;
3. Ke Kula ‘o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS – Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6;
4. Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha Learning Center (KKNOK) – Grades 3, 4, and 5; and
5. Kualapu‘u School: A Public Conversion Charter – students in Grades 3 and 4 who were enrolled in the school’s Hawaiian immersion program.

Since that decision was made, Commissioner Krug, who also serves as Chair of ‘Aha Kauleo, the statewide Hawaiian Immersion Advisory Council, and a faculty member of the College of Education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, has worked with the Hawaii State Department of Education (“DOE”) and other stakeholders to complete the task of developing a Hawaiian language assessment. This school year, Hawaiian language immersion schools statewide administered this test to students in grades 3 and 4. The test for upper grade levels is still in development, so students in grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11 who were taught primarily in Hawaiian were still assessed in English with the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

KKNOK, a school whose primary language of instruction is the Niihau dialect and which is moving toward a bilingual model, has elected to use the Smarter Balanced Assessment results for all grade levels for the APA.

This recommendation submittal is a request to extend the Commission’s previous approval and give Hawaiian language immersion schools the option to request the exclusion of statewide standardized English language assessment data from the school year 2014-2015 APA for grade levels taught primarily in Hawaiian.

IV. DECISION MAKING STATEMENT

The interim approach again under consideration is intended to help mitigate the most sensitive aspect of the State’s current assessment challenge—using an English language test to assess students who are not taught in English—while the larger public education system pursues the longer-term solution of developing a statewide standardized Hawaiian language assessment for all tested grade levels.

Participation would be voluntary for each of the five Hawaiian language immersion charter schools. If a school wished to opt in, it would propose to Commission staff which grade levels’ assessment data should be considered for exclusion from the APA and would provide the instructional and curricular basis for the request. Upon staff’s determination that exclusion would yield more accurate information about the school’s academic performance, the approach would be used to conduct the APA.

The APA results for an “opt in” school would not replace its published Strive HI Academic Performance Index (“API”) or Classification; the Commission cannot alter the Strive HI APIs and Classifications designated by the DOE. However, staff again will provide explanatory information about the rationale behind the assessment exclusion option for Hawaiian language immersion schools when it reports on the academic performance of these schools.

Proposed motion

**“Moved that the Commission give Hawaiian language immersion charter schools the option to request that the Commission exclude the statewide standardized English language assessment data for any grade level taught in Hawaiian from the Commission’s Academic Performance Assessment for the 2014-2015 school year, provided that Commission staff determine that the exclusion of these data will result in more accurate information about the school’s academic performance.”**