

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

DATE: April 10, 2014

TO: Catherine Payne, Chairperson

FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director

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

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

NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY PENDING

No Notices of Deficiency (“Notice”) were issued since the last Commission General Business Meeting. There is still one Notice still pending as staff continues to work with the school to resolve the issues raised.

On January 31, 2014, West Hawai’i Explorations Academy was issued a Notice for not submitting a schoolwide plan and comprehensive needs assessment (both of which are required because of the school’s Focus designation under the Strive HI Performance System (“Strive HI”)) by a December 30, 2013 deadline. The school still is attempting to discuss its Focus status under Strive HI with the Hawaii Department of Education (“DOE”). The Commission has yet to receive the school’s formal response to the Notice indicating which of the three options the school will pursue while its dialogue with the DOE continues. However, in the meantime the school has been communicating with staff about its plan and assessment.

NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY RESOLVED

Two Notices were resolved since the last Commission General Business Meeting. Kanuikapono Public Charter School and Ke Kula Niihau O Kekaha Learning Center were issued Notices on March 20, 2014 for not submitting their second quarter financial statements by the February 14, 2014 deadline. Upon receipt of the Notices, both schools submitted the required financial statements.

SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD EXEMPTION UPDATE

At the Commission's last General Business Meeting on March 27, 2014, the Commission acted upon a request from Laupahoehoe Community Public Charter School for an exemption allowing its governing board chair to continue to serve as chair despite having a relative as an employee of the school. The Commission approved the request on a provisional basis, which allowed the exempted chair serve as a co-chair with an interim chair. The Laupahoehoe governing board must identify the interim co-chair no later than April 25, 2014 and notify the Commission. The Commission staff also reminded the school that nothing in Act 130 requires a charter school to limit its potential pool of governing board members to nearby residents.