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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

DATE OF SUBMITTAL: August 05, 2016
DATE OF MEETING: August 11, 2016
TO: Catherine Payne, Chairperson
FROM: Yvonne Lau, Acting Executive Director
AGENDA ITEM: XXIII. Executive Director’s Written Report:
A. Update on Charter Schools’ Notices of Deficiency/Concerns
B. Update on Complaints Against Charter Schools

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.

UPDATE ON NOTICES OF DEFICIENCY/CONCERN

Although no Notices of Concern or Notices of Deficiency were issued during the period of July 06, 2016 to August 03, 2016, below are updates to the Notices issued during the previous period.

A Notice of Concern is issued as a notification to the school that compliance requirements must be met, or when a school fails to submit required information on time, but this type of Notice is less serious than a Notice of Deficiency. No individual Notice of Concern will affect a school’s rating on a Performance Framework, although a pattern of Notices of Concern could do so. However, a Notice of Concern could escalate into a Notice of Deficiency if the school ignores the Notice and does not respond.

A Notice of Deficiency is a written notification informing a charter school of non-compliance with legal or contractual requirements or unsatisfactory performance in the Charter Contract frameworks. Notices of Deficiency do affect a school's performance rating.

Lanikai Elementary Public Charter School has resolved the Notice of Deficiency issued on July 5, 2016, by submitting its End of Year English Language Learners report.

Ka'u Learning Academy has resolved the Notice of Deficiency issued on June 22, 2016, by addressing the issues raised in a previous Notice of Concern and by providing a response which described corrective actions that the school would take.

As an update to the Notice of Deficiency reported in the May, June, and July 2016 Executive Director's Reports, no new information has been provided by Na Wai Ola Public Charter School's board regarding its work toward correcting the statutory issues surrounding the composition of its governing board.

UPDATE ON COMPLAINTS AGAINST CHARTER SCHOOLS

This section provides brief descriptions of the Commission staff's processing of formal complaints about charter schools that have been filed with the Commission or referred to the Commission from the Department of Education (DOE).

The Commission received a complaint pertaining to Kona Pacific Public Charter School regarding the student dismissal policy. The school has been notified and the Commission continues to review the complaint with the school.

The Commission received a referred complaint from the DOE pertaining to West Hawaii Explorations Academy regarding payroll. The Commission reached out to the complainant but did not receive a response. The Commission also reached out to the school's administrator and the school responded to the complainant with a written reply. A copy of the school's communication was provided. The school reported that they too haven't received a reply back. Receiving no response to the Commission's follow-up the matter is considered closed.

The Commission received two complaints pertaining to the Volcano School of Arts and Science regarding school policies and procedures, one reported in the July Executive Director's report. The school has been proactive in responding to the concerns and also proactive in providing the Commission with updates and communication. The Commission will respond to the complainants and continue to work collaboratively with the school.

The Commission received a complaint pertaining to payroll at Na Wai Ola Public Charter School. The school reported that since then it has resolved those concerns. Based on the update from the school, the Commission considers the payroll matter closed.

The Commission received another complaint regarding an employment issue at Na Wai Ola Public Charter School. The Commission will contact the school to confirm that it is looking into this matter.

The Commission received a complaint regarding Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA) A New Century Public Charter School pertaining to employee benefits. The school has provided the Commission with updates and is working towards a resolution.

The Commission reported in the May, June, and July 2016 Executive Director's Reports a complaint regarding Kanuikapono Charter School. The Commission has attempted to communicate with the complainant, but after receiving no response, the matter is considered closed at this time.

The Commission reported in previous Executive Director's Reports a complaint regarding an employment issue at Ka'u Learning Academy. The Commission has responded to the complainant and the matter is now considered closed.

The Commission received a complaint regarding Ka'u Learning Academy pertaining to a disagreement over services provided to the school. The school has reported it is addressing this matter and that it will be in contact with the complainant to resolve this matter.