

MINUTES OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND  
AUTHORITY TASK FORCE (ACT 130, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2011)

July 20, 2011

Conference Room 225, State Capitol

**I. Members Present**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Hawaii State Senate  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Hawaii House of Representatives  
Don Horner, Board of Education  
Robert Campbell, Department of Education (Superintendent of Education's Designee)  
Roger McKeague, Charter School Administrative Office  
Ruth Tschumy, Charter School Review Panel  
Lisa Okinaga, Kamehameha Schools  
Megan McCorriston, Ho'okako'o Corporation  
Gene Zarro, Hawaii Charter Schools Network  
Steve Sullivan, Hawaii Charter Schools Network

**II. Introduction of Members**

The members of the Charter School Governance, Accountability, and Authority Task Force (Task Force) were introduced. Tammy Chun, the Governor's representative, was excused from the meeting, and the office was represented by Wendy Clerinx, Governor's Policy Director.

**III. Overview of S.B. 1174, C.D. 1, Act 130, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011**

Senator Tokuda provided a brief overview of S.B. 1174, C.D. 1, Act 130, Session Laws of Hawaii 2011 (Act 130). Senator Tokuda stressed that the legislative intent when considering the Task Force was to consider national models and examples of best practices of other school districts, to look at what is working in Hawaii's Charter Schools, look at the challenges they face, and to apply any necessary changes to the Charter School system broadly and to ensure a strong governance structure and clear lines of accountability. Senator Tokuda stressed that the Task Force would not undertake an investigation of any individual charter school.

Senator Tokuda provided members of the Task Force with copies of a July 18, 2011, letter from Leslie Kondo, Executive Director of the State Ethics Commission (Commission). In his letter, Mr. Kondo expressed that the Commission would not be participating in the Task Force. As a result, the number of members on the Task Force was reduced from 12 to 11 members.

Senator Tokuda also informed the Task Force that the National Governors Association (NGA) and the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) will be providing support to the Task Force, including technical support, assisting with meeting capabilities, and having individuals flying down to support the Task Force. NGA is particularly interested in the roles and responsibilities of the State Educational Agency and Local Educational Agency. In addition, NACSA will be advising the Charter School Review Panel under a grant proposal.

NACSA will also be advising the Task Force on other issues, including exploring the possibility of multiple authorizers and evaluating the form and function of any existing authorizer.

#### **IV. Presentation by the Charter School Administrative Office: Summary of Challenges and Opportunities Facing Hawaii's Charter Schools**

Roger McKeague, Executive Director of the Charter School Administrative Office (CSAO) provided a brief history and timeline of charter schools in Hawaii. Mr. McKeague expressed the staffing and economic challenges facing CSAO but also highlighted the many opportunities for Hawaii's Charter Schools through Race to the Top. Hawaii is the only state West of the Mississippi to receive funds through Race to the Top.

#### **V. Proposed Meeting Schedule, Objectives, and Plan of Action**

##### **A. Meeting Schedule**

A meeting schedule was provided to the Task Force Members. The Task Force will meet on the following Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the State Capitol:

August 10, 2011, Room 225  
August 31, 2011, Room 225  
September 21, 2011, Room 016  
October 12, 2011, Room 225  
November 10, 2011, Room 225  
December 1, 2011, Room 225

##### **B. Proposed Objectives**

The proposed objectives of the Task Force are:

Objective #1: Develop legislation or administrative rules that clearly and definitively designate the governance structure and authority between and among key charter school organizations and the Department of Education, the Board of Education, and the Office of the Governor;

Objective #2: Identify how the governance structure connects and relates to the State Education Agency and Local Education Agency;

Objective #3: Identify oversight and monitoring responsibilities of the Charter School Review Panel, the Charter School Administrative Office, and the local school boards and develop a process for enforcement; and

Objective #4: Discuss funding-related issues, including but not limited to appropriate funding levels for the Charter School Administrative Office.

All other issues outside of the identified objectives or a request by a member to revisit a previously discussed objective will be placed in "The Bin". These items will be taken up at the October 12, 2011, meeting and to allow the Task Force to decide if additional meetings are necessary.

### **C. Proposed Plan of Action**

In order to address the specific objectives of Act 130, each meeting of the Task Force will be dedicated to one of the four objectives. At each Task Force meeting the goal will be for the Task Force to reach a general consensus on specific actions related to the objective discussed.

To help the Task Force, members will be split up into smaller working groups to discuss and investigate a specific objective prior to the convening of the next regular Task Force meeting. The working groups will identify:

- 1) What is working and should be kept?
- 2) What should be considered for repeal or elimination?
- 3) What should be changed?
- 4) What additional work must be done in this area?

As new business for each meeting, the Task Force will conclude the agenda with a discussion of the next objective, helping to provide the working group with some clarity and direction as to how they should formulate recommendations to the Task Force on the specific objective.

The working groups may allow third parties with expertise or knowledge in an objective area to participate in working group discussions. No decision making will be conducted by the working groups and the working groups will report back to the larger Task Force for further discussion.

### **D. Working Group #1**

Working Group #1 will include Ruth Tschumy, Gene Zarro, Robert Campbell, and Don Horner (tentative).

Working Group #1 will explore and discuss Objective #1 relating to the develop legislation or administrative rules that clearly and definitively designate the governance structure and authority between and among key charter school organizations and the Department of Education, the Board of Education, and the Office of the Governor.

Working Group #1 was also requested to:

- 1) Explore the feasibility of multiple authorizers;
- 2) Explore a different structure which would involve Charter Schools having their own Superintendent;
- 3) Discuss the role of the Detail Implementation Plan (DIP) as a contract;
- 4) Discuss alignment of the DIP with State law, e.g., Is the DIP the contract?
- 5) Provide a clear understanding of Hawaii Revised Statutes/Hawaii Administrative Rules and federal law → implementation vs. reality; and
- 6) Define the role of the Governor with the Charter Schools.

Working Group #1 will meet to investigate and discuss these items and report back to the Task Force at its next regular meeting.

**E. Meetings Covered by Capitol TV**

All of the Task Force meetings will be covered by Capitol TV. This will serve as the official record and will allow individuals to watch the Task Force meetings via the Senate's website.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in conference room 225.