

**Charter School Governance, Accountability & Authority Task Force  
Working Group 2/3 Report  
October 12, 2011**

**Organizational Chart:**

- Using the Draft Plan B that was discussed at the September 21<sup>st</sup> task force meeting, the working group proposed and discussed various variations to the chart. (see attachment #1)
- An alternate draft was submitted for consideration by task force members which helped to better identify where areas of concern existed. (see attachment #2)
- The group had a discussion of what constituted “statewide educational policy.” In looking through HRS, the term is never specifically defined and appears in both the constitution and HRS as the primary function of the BOE, and the responsibility of the Superintendent and Principals to execute and administer. Recommendation was made that given the universal nature of the term, that it be a separate discussion with BOE and DOE leadership for inclusion in the 2012 HRS Audit package of bills.
- Request was made to explore the option of SELPA’s (Special Education Local Plan Area) or JPA’s (Joint Powers Authority) as an alternative to a Charter School LEA. SELPA’s and JPA’s are very unique to California charter schools. After investigating the idea further with NGA and others, determination was made that the structure would not give charter schools the kind of authority or transparency they were looking for. Recommendation was made to include in our report a desire for further investigation and research into the concept of MOU’s or SELPA/JPA’s. Dr. Vicki Barber will be in Hawaii in November and is an expert in this area. She has indicated her willingness to discuss this with us further. (see attachment #3)
- Request was also made to explore the viability of the Fix America’s Schools Act measure going through Congress and determine whether or not a single LEA system would be a detriment in regards to possible additional Title I funds. Determination was made after consultation with NGA and Congressional offices that because the bill was tied to the Jobs Act, passage will be difficult. Further, the way additional funds would be granted to states would result in a zero sum gain for Hawaii IF the bill did pass and IF we qualified for additional funds.
- In considering the Board of Education’s role, recommendation was made to have the BOE serve as the final arbitrator for any conflicts that may exist between DOE and charter school entities. Recommendation was also made to have the BOE approve the Charter School Liaison Office Director, similar to how their approval is required for a Complex Area Superintendent.

- The group worked on developing specific function statements for the Charter School Liaison Office.
  - Provides technical assistance to charter school entities in regards to state and federal laws.
  - Serves as the point of contact between the Superintendent and the Authorizer on issues relating to compliance with all applicable federal funds, including but not limited to the collection of required data and reports.
  - Responsible for communicating and consulting with charter school entities on any SEA or LEA applications, proposals and requirements for federal grant funds.
  - Serves as the point of contact for all questions or inquiries relating to the distribution of federal funds to charter schools.
  - Serves as an ombudsman for charter schools as it relates to departmental issues and concerns.
  
- Request was made to create a narrative description of the relationship between various entities on the organizational chart. (see attachment #4)