



**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
From Parties Interested in Becoming New Charter School Authorizers**

The State of Hawaii Board of Education ("Board") is requesting information from parties who are interested in obtaining chartering authority and becoming new charter school authorizers. Authorizers play the crucial role in the charter school system of upholding the "charter bargain," which provides charter schools with relatively more autonomy than traditional public schools in exchange for greater accountability. A quality authorizer measures the effectiveness of this bargain, and its portfolio of charter schools, through improved outcomes for students.

Pursuant to Section 302D-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), authorizers are responsible for executing the following essential powers and duties:

1. Soliciting and evaluating charter applicants;
2. Approving quality charter applications that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices;
3. Declining to approve weak or inadequate charter applications;
4. Negotiating and executing sound charter contracts with each approved charter applicant and with existing public charter schools;
5. Monitoring, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of public charter schools; and
6. Determining whether each charter contract merits renewal, nonrenewal, or revocation.

In addition, the Board is developing a performance evaluation system to set the performance expectations of authorizers, pursuant to Section 302D-11, HRS, and Section 8-515-10, Hawaii Administrative Rules ("HAR"). In conjunction with this effort, the Board is also researching an organizational structure that could provide charter school supports in a system with more than one authorizer.

Pursuant to law, only eligible entities may apply for chartering authority. In accordance with Section 302D-4, HRS, and Section 8-515-7, HAR, the following entities are eligible to apply to become new authorizers:

- Governing boards of accredited public and private postsecondary institutions, including community colleges, technical colleges, and four-year universities;
- State or county agencies; and

- Governing boards of nonprofit or charitable organizations, which are exempt from federal taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or Section 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Board is currently developing its application for chartering authority but is requesting information from those interested in applying for chartering authority in advance. The Board is requesting the following information from interested parties:

1. Name of the organization interested in applying and becoming an authorizer;
2. Mailing address;
3. Name, phone number, and email address of the primary point of contact;
4. The type of eligible entity under which the organization qualifies or is planning on qualifying (e.g., community college, county agency, nonprofit organization, etc.);
5. The type of chartering authority, as defined under [Section 8-515-7, HAR](#), in which the organization is interested (statewide, regional, or local chartering authority);
6. A brief explanation of why the organization is interested in becoming an authorizer;
7. An estimated date of when the organization would be ready to begin the application process; and
8. An estimated date of when the organization would be ready to commence authorizer operations.

Please provide the requested information as a single PDF file, emailed to boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us, by May 11, 2018. Please note that the information provided is not part of the application process and is intended for informational purposes only. The Board may contact your organization directly to gather more information, if necessary.

We look forward to receiving responses from all parties contemplating becoming new charter school authorizers.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margaret Cox
Chairperson, Student Achievement Committee