

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



TERRI FUJII
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA ‘HOĀMANA)

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DATE: October 9, 2013

TO: Donald Horner, Chair, State of Hawaii Board of Education
Jim Williams, Chair, Human Resource Committee, State of Hawaii Board of Education

FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director

RE: BOE Policy 2055 – Educator Evaluations Systems and charter schools

The State Public Charter School Commission thanks the Committee and the Board for considering the need to provide charter schools with guidance as to the criteria embodied in BOE Policy 2055 that a charter school’s own Education Evaluation System (“EES”) must meet. In light of our discussion at the last Committee meeting and subsequent discussions, the Commission is fully prepared to issue guidance to charter schools as to what is required if a school chooses to develop, negotiate, and implement its own EES instead of adopting the DOE model. In order to avoid delay, we have pursued this matter on a parallel track through the Commission’s process while simultaneously working with the Board and the Department. This item is on the Commission’s agenda for its general business meeting on Thursday this week.

However, should the Committee instead determine that its recommendation to the full Board will be that the Board issue this guidance by revising BOE Policy 2055 after all, rather than leaving this responsibility to the Commission, then we would propose revising the specific new language for the Policy in light of the survey responses from charter schools gathered by the Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network and subsequent discussions we have had with the Department. We believe the revised would address all of the survey responses while remaining acceptable to the U.S. Department of Education. The new addition to BOE Policy 2055 would read as follows:

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

A public charter school’s governing board may elect to implement the Department’s evaluation system and, in doing so, receive full access to any resources and supports related to the evaluation system. Alternatively, the charter school’s governing board may elect to develop and implement its own evaluation system. Unless the charter school obtains a waiver from the Board from one or more of these criteria, any evaluation system the charter school adopts shall:

- Provide for annual evaluations, unless there is an exception allowing for principals and teachers who have demonstrated effectiveness under the system to receive subsequent evaluations less frequently;

- For charter schools already in operation during 2013-2014 school year, be adopted and at least partly implemented sometime during the 2013-2014 school year and be used to inform personnel decisions starting no later than July 1, 2014;
- For subsequently opened charter schools, be adopted and at least partly implemented sometime during the school's first year of operation and be used to inform personnel decisions starting no later than July 1 of the school's second year of operation; and
- For teachers, be based at least in part on multiple measures of students' academic learning and growth.

Once again, we thank the Committee and the Board for its consideration and are available to answer any questions and to continue to work with the Board and the Department.