

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE  
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII  
**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION**  
**(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)**

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Tel: (808) 586-3775 Fax: (808) 586-3776

April 5, 2018

TO: Lance A. Mizumoto  
Chairperson, Board of Education

FROM: Sione Thompson  
Executive Director, State Public Charter School Commission

AGENDA ITEM: Update on status of Board Policy on purpose of charter schools

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I. BACKGROUND

At its February 21, 2017 general business meeting, the Board of Education (“Board”) approved and issued a report on its special review of the State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”). In addition to the report’s findings, the Board requested that the Commission work with the charter school community to develop a purpose of charter schools and propose a Board policy codifying the purpose.

As described in previous updates to the Board on the Commission’s progress in addressing special review findings, the Commission has been undergoing strategic planning efforts since April 13, 2017 when it established a permitted interaction group tasked with creating a long-term strategic vision for Hawaii’s public charter schools, chaired by Commissioner Sylvia Hussey. The Commission has paired much of its initial work on the strategic plan with the development of a purpose for charter schools.

During the Commission’s last update to the Board at the Board’s March 1, 2018 general business meeting, Commission Executive Director Sione Thompson requested that the Board provide guidance regarding the development of a Board policy on the purpose of charter schools. Board Chairperson Lance Mizumoto subsequently directed the Board Support Office to work with and provide support and guidance to the Commission as to the development of the Board policy and to coordinate efforts with Superintendent Christina Kishimoto and the Department of Education.

## II. UPDATE

The Commission, with assistance from Native Hawaiian Education Council (“NHEC”), and the Commission’s permitted interaction group has gathered input from the charter school community on the vision for chartering. In coordination with the Hawaii Public Charter School Network and the Na Lei Na’auao Alliance, NHEC facilitated multiple focus groups across several islands, gathering input from charter school leaders, parents, and community members. NHEC analyzed and synthesized the data for the Commission.

The permitted interaction group has been using the data to develop a draft purpose of and vision for chartering in Hawaii. So far, the main concepts that have emerged include that the purpose of charter schools are to meet family and community needs, operate laboratories of innovation, and reflect on Hawaii’s values and practices.

Commissioner Hussey presented this draft purpose and vision to the Commission at its meeting on March 29, 2018.

## III. NEXT STEPS

The Commission will continue to work with the Board Support Office to get feedback from the charter school and the greater public education communities.