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STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
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DATE: March 4, 2020

TO: Governing Board Chairs and School Directors/Principals

CC: Dr. Christina Kishimoto, Superintendent, Hawaii Department of Education
Catherine Payne, Chairperson, Hawaii Board of Education

FROM: Yvonne W.M. Lau, Interim Executive Director 
State Public Charter School Commission

SUBJECT: Commitment of Hawaii State Public Charter Schools to HIDOE Coordinated Response to
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

With the outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) nationally and worldwide, Commission staff have been engaged in on-going emergency management discussions with the Hawaii Department of Education and with Superintendent Dr. Christina Kishimoto. Pursuant to our discussions, Dr. Kishimoto has offered the assistance and coordination of the Hawaii Department of Education to our charter schools.

Dr. Kishimoto and her team at the Department of Education are actively working to coordinate and share information about the virus and distribute supplies, disinfectants, and other items that may be necessary for our public schools to minimize and prevent possible spread of the virus, should the virus come to our state.

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §302D-17(e)¹ to the State Public Charter School Commission has the authority to direct governing boards and charter schools to take appropriate action to address serious health and safety issues therefor, as its Interim Executive Director, I have accepted Dr. Kishimoto's offer to coordinate and direct all of our thirty-seven (37) public charter schools for the purposes of responding to threats posed by a potential COVID-19 outbreak.

Due to the nature of this developing situation, I thank you and your schools for your anticipated assistance. I ask that we all remain flexible and responsive to requests in disseminating and cooperating with the Department to ensure that our students and employees are kept safe and healthy throughout this time period. For more information, please visit www.chartercommission.hawaii.gov.

¹ **HRS §302D-17 Ongoing oversight and corrective actions.** . . . (e) The authorizer shall have the authority to direct the governing board and the charter school to take appropriate action to immediately address serious health and safety issues that may exist at a charter school in order to ensure the health and safety of students and employees or mitigate significant liability to the State.