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## Financial Performance Feedback Questions

1 message

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Aloha Kākou,

Please accept this Email as a collective set of questions and concerns from Hawai'i Island Hawaiian Language and Culture Based Charter School Leaders regarding Draft Contract 4.0, specifically the Financial and Organizational Performance sections. As requested we are providing this information prior to the feedback session scheduled for 11/23 in the hopes that it will facilitate meaningful dialogue and action on behalf of our programs and the haumāma, 'ohana, and communities that we serve. These collective concerns do not replace other specific concerns that each of our schools may have, and schools will be sending additional questions. Our concerns, noted below, fall under two broad categories:

### Process:

- **The process, timeline, and terms of contract renewal 4.0 are unclear making it difficult for school leaders to engage with Commission Staff and Commissioners, and assess applicability and relevance to our programs.**
  1. When does the Commission intend to approve Draft Contract 4.0?
  2. Will the contract be approved in its entirety at one time or will the Academic and Financial/Organizational Performance sections be approved at different times?
  3. When will Draft contract 4.0 be applicable and to which schools in what years?
  4. The first time the current draft was shared directly with school leaders was in the Email announcing feedback sessions. The draft had been presented to Commissioners the previous week and school leaders had to access it through the exhibits on the Commission meeting agenda. Could Commission staff share all upcoming versions of the draft directly with school leaders when it becomes available?
- **Communication from Commission staff on Draft Contract 4.0 assumes a threshold of understanding and clarity on the renewal process and criteria**

**in the Financial and Organizational Framework (perhaps because they are largely unchanged from Contract 3.0?). There have not been attempts by Commission staff to support understanding of the process or the criteria despite the fact that there are new school leaders (and new Commissioners since contract 3.0 was approved).**

1. Are opportunities available, aside from the feedback session and for those school leaders and others who would like additional clarity on the process and criteria of Draft Contract 4.0, to meet with Commission Staff to gain a better understanding of the Financial Framework Indicators?
  2. Who do we reach out to at the Commission for clarity on the Financial and Organizational Framework Indicators?
  3. Is the Commission Staff confident that Commissioners understand the Financial Performance Indicators and how they would apply in our Schools?
  4. Written testimony and the two minutes provided to schools for testimony at Commission meetings does not provide schools with the opportunity to clearly convey our concerns and the many nuances involved in meeting the Financial Performance Indicators in Draft contract 4.0. How do we as schools share our perspectives and experiences as they relate to the Financial and Organizational Framework indicators with Commissioners?
- **The current timeline (from what we understand) provides about 2 months for feedback and discussion and 3 Commission meetings (1 Commission meeting to introduce, 1 Commission meeting to provide feedback, 1 Commission meeting for Approval) on contract terms that will that will have high stakes implications for the next 5-7 years**
1. Can approval of the draft be postponed beyond January 2021?

### Indicators/Criteria:

- **Financial Performance Indicators remain unchanged despite the fact that budget cuts and a great many other unknowns related to finances and COVID-19 could significantly impact the ability of our schools to meet the indicators. We are being told to expect significant budget cuts over the next 5-6 years, this is the entire contract term.**
1. Will there be acknowledgement of the impacts of COVID as it relates to the Financial Performance Indicators and the current and expected budget and funding environment?
  2. Is the intent to rely on the Corrective Action Plan Process when schools fall into the moderate, high, or significant risk categories (for any of the indicators) as a result of COVIDs impact on budget and finances?
  3. Is there room to modify the indicators to be more reflective of the current budget environment and to be relevant and realistic so we don't need to engage in the contract amendment or Corrective Action Planning processes?

4. According to Draft Contract 4.0 the Financial Performance Framework is "a tool for the Commission to assess the financial health and viability of charter schools" and that together the indicators provide a "qualitative assessment of the school's near-term financial health, mid-term capacity, and long-term financial sustainability." In consideration of the impacts of COVID-19 does Commission Staff feel the current unchanged expectations are realistic? Additionally does the Commission feel this tool was effective over the course of contract 3.0? So effective that it requires no adjustments?

We look forward to participating in feedback/break out sessions on Monday afternoon.

Mahalo,  
Hawai'i Island Hawaiian Language and Culture Based Charter Schools

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