



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Media Release
June 19, 2012

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Governor Signs Measures to Strengthen Hawaii's Charter School System

Honolulu – Today Governor Neil Abercrombie enacted Senate Bill (SB) 2115 and SB 2116, Relating to Charter Schools, into law. Together, SB 2115 and SB 2116 strengthen Hawaii's Charter School System by increasing accountability in the governance of Hawaii's Charter Schools that will foster improved student outcomes.

SB 2115, the charter school omnibus measure, puts in place a comprehensive governance system for Hawaii's charter schools. The measure establishes clear lines of authority and clarifies the relationships, responsibilities, and lines of accountability among stakeholders of Hawaii's Charter School System. SB 2116 appropriates funds to help with the transition.

"Senate Bill 2115 puts in place a solid system of governance that will be good for our students, families and community," said Senate Committee on Education Chair Jill Tokuda. "It ensures that charter schools maintain the autonomy and flexibility they need to be innovative while providing the requisite level of accountability as these are public school students, and tax payer dollars."

SB 2115 and SB 2116 are a direct result of the Charter School Governance, Accountability, and Authority Task Force (CSGTF) which was Co-Chaired by Senator Jill Tokuda and Representative Della Au Belatti.

"While countless hours have gone into these measures, the real work lies ahead in the implementation and transition," said Senator Tokuda, "Change is never easy, and if we are going to be successful we will need the buy in and participation of all stakeholder groups."

Charter School Governance, Accountability, and Authority Task Force

CSGTF was established during the 2011 Session through the enactment SB 1174 (Act 130). This bill was introduced to address several issues brought to surface relating to charter schools. Act 130 established a task force that sought accountability among stakeholders of the charter school system. Objectives of the

task force were to develop legislation or administrative rules on the governance structure of charter schools, identify oversight and monitor responsibilities of the charter school review panel, as well as to discuss funding related issues.

(Photo Courtesy: Senate Communications)

(Photo Caption: Senator Jill Tokuda, Representative Della Au Belatti, and various education leaders join Governor Abercrombie for the signing of Senate Bill 2115 into law.)

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