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

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DATE: January 9, 2023

TO: Justin Woodson, Chair  
House Committee on Education

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

SUBJECT: January 10- Informational Briefing on Safety-related Impacts

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Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Marten, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates this opportunity to submit this testimony on safety-related impacts from the Department of Education and the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission to include active shooter protocol and COVID-19 updates.

**COVID-19**

With respect to COVID-19, all public charter schools continue to monitor and report to the Department of Health and the Commission on any positive cases of COVID-19 on campus. All public charter schools have returned to in person learning and have not had to move to distance learning thus far this school year. However, depending on the severity of the outbreak, as with the initial COVID outbreak, charter schools, as public schools, would mirror the DOE in any health related response to a severe COVID outbreak.

Since the initial outbreak in early 2020, charter schools and their Governing Boards, have put in place protocols for monitoring infections, staff and student safety and mitigating impact on student learning. All of our public charter schools have plans in place to respond accordingly to another outbreak - whether that be through controlled quarantining or moving to remote or distance learning. Governing Boards receive regular updates from their school leaders on the

impact of COVID at their school site.

From an information and communications standpoint, during the initial COVID pandemic, the Commission held weekly meetings and conversations with all charter schools in order to gather and disseminate critical information as it related to the spread of the virus. Those weekly conversations continue to this day and have become an established method of communication should any outbreaks pop up.

### **Active Shooter preparedness and training:**

Unlike the Department of Education, the State Public Charter School Commission as the authorizer acts as a liaison to our public charter schools as defined in Hawai'i Revised Statute 302D-5. We act as a point of contact between the DOE and other state and federal agencies that offer safety and security training for schools.

The Commission has endeavored to provide access to these opportunities to all of our public charter schools.

Here is a list of training- both virtual and in-person that our charter school leaders and staff members have attended in the last year.

**Beyond Red Flags** (virtual) hosted by the Hawai'i State Fusion Center 12/02/ 2022 8:30am-4:30pm

A prevention based active shooter training. This training covered topics such as social media, mental illness, prevention based active shooter training, and situational awareness.

-How Worried Should I be? Understanding Social Media, Email and Student Writing

-Managing Mental Illness & Addressing Disruptive/Dangerous Behavior

-Prevention Based Active Shooter Training

-Situational Awareness in Everyday Life"

**National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security** (Virtual)

Sponsored by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

11/01-11/03/2022

Day 1- Violence Prevention: Intervention Teams & Reporting; and Mental Health, School Climate and De-Escalation

Day 2-Cybersecurity and online behavior: Cybersecurity risks and ransomware attacks; and Cyber Safety and Online Behavior

Day 3- Physical Security: Protecting the School Environment; and Policy, Procedures, and training

**Hawai'i Dept of Education School Safety Conference (In-person) 10/03-10/05/2022**

Day 1- State of School Safety and emergency Management and Lessons Learned from Past School Shootings

Day 2- Making the Difference for Student Mental Health and Prevention, Verbal De-escalation and the Impact on School Safety, Social Media Threats and Behavioral Threat Assessment.

Day 3 - Specialized Training : Situational Awareness & Decision making Under Stress, Extracurricular & Athletic Event Emergency management; Managing the School Based Crisis and The Role of Law Enforcement in School Safety & Emergency management

**Hawai'i Department of Education Active Shooter and School Threat Response (Virtual) 07/28-29/2022**

8:30am-12:40 pm US Department of Homeland Security (US DHS) Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) provided an active shooter presentation/training at 8:30 am - 10:30 am, on both days. Additionally, the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) provided a "School Threat Response" presentation at 10:40 am - 12:40 pm, on both days as well.

**Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar**

-held by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency February 24, 2022 at 10am- purpose: two-hour security webinar to enhance awareness of and response to an active shooter event.

We appreciate your continued support of Hawai'i's 37 public charter schools and over 12,100 students.