

Hawai'i's Charter Schools: Location and Enrollment-SY 2006-07

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WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools are public schools designed for innovation and autonomy. In recent years, throughout the State of Hawai'i, the number of charter schools has increased dramatically, providing educational alternatives for keiki, their families, and communities. In exchange for being exempt from many state laws and regulations, charter schools promise the same accountability for learning as do other public schools.

TYPES OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

There are two main types of charter schools:

- ❖ Conversion charter schools - schools that were originally public schools that converted to charter school status
- ❖ Start-up charter schools - schools that were independently created, this number is capped at 25 schools in Hawai'i

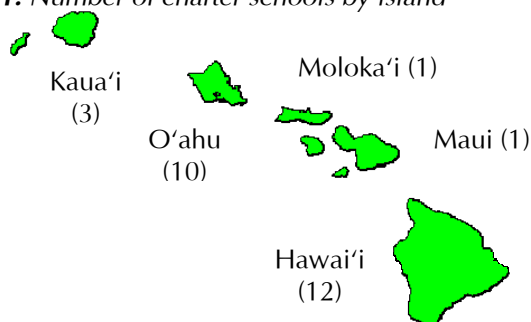
Several types of start-up charter schools are worth distinguishing, based on differences in language of instruction and culturally-grounded pedagogy:

- ❖ Hawaiian Immersion - these charters are similar in that they use Hawaiian as the medium of instruction
- ❖ Hawaiian-Focused - although each is unique, this group of charters share an approach to education that is grounded in Hawaiian culture
- ❖ Other Start-up charters - this group includes a broad mix of charters that we distinguish from the above in that they are not grounded in Hawaiian culture

WHERE ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS LOCATED IN HAWAII?

Altogether there are 27 charter schools throughout the state of Hawai'i, comprised of 23 start-up charter schools and 4 conversion charter schools (see Figure 1).

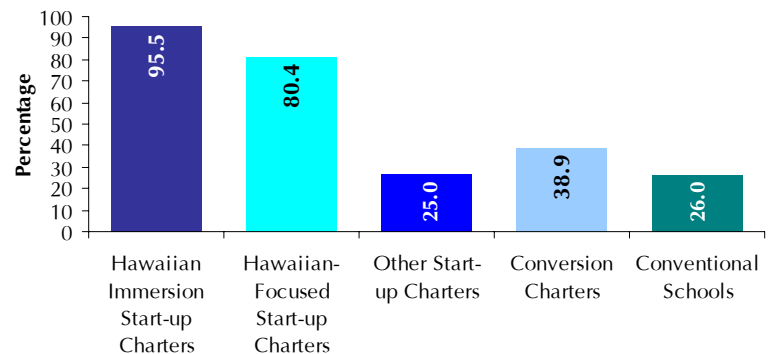
Figure 1: Number of charter schools by island



WHO IS ENROLLED IN CHARTER SCHOOLS?

There are approximately 5,750 students enrolled in charter schools throughout Hawai'i. Overall, charter schools have a Native Hawaiian enrollment of 44 percent; however there are significant differences in the percentage of Native Hawaiians enrolled by type of charter school (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Native Hawaiian Enrollment (percentage by charter school type, school year 2006-07)



Hawaiian Immersion and Hawaiian-Focused charters have a very unique student population. Data shows that students who attend these charter schools tend to be more socioeconomically disadvantaged than their peers in conventional schools. Both Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian students in Hawaiian Immersion and Hawaiian-Focused charter schools are more likely to participate in the subsidized lunch program than their counterparts across all other types of schools. Furthermore, in all schools, Hawaiian students are more likely to participate in the subsidized meals program than non-Hawaiian students.

This brief does not provide a comprehensive look at all aspects of charter schools, as only the location and enrollment of charter schools are reported here. For more information on charter schools, including how they are meeting the challenges faced by their student population, please see our "Hawai'i Charter Schools: Student Achievement" brief.

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN HAWAII

	ISLAND	TOTAL ENROLLMENT	GRADES ENROLLED	% OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN STUDENTS 06-07 ENROLLMENT
HAWAIIAN IMMERSION START UP CHARTERS				
Ke Kula 'o Nawahiokalani'opu'u Iki	Hawai'i	83	K-6	100.0
Kula Aupuni Ni'ihau A Kehelani Aloha	Kaua'i	28	1-12	100.0
Ke Kula Ni'ihau O Kekaha Learning Center	Kaua'i	35	K-12	97.1
Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory	O'ahu	75	K-12	96.3
Ka 'Umeke Ka'eo	Hawai'i	136	K-6	91.2
Total		357		
HAWAIIAN FOCUSED START UP CHARTERS				
Ke Ana La'ahana	Hawai'i	84	7-12	91.7
Ka Waihona 'o ka Na'auao	O'ahu	398	K-6	90.4
Kanuikapono Learning Center	Kaua'i	34	4-10	85.3
Kanu 'o ka 'Aina	Hawai'i	139	K-12	82.7
Halau Ku Mana	O'ahu	98	6-12	73.0
Hakipu'u Learning Center	O'ahu	96	7-12	72.9
Kua 'o Ka La	Hawai'i	56	6-11	69.6
Halau Lokahi	O'ahu	179	K-12	62.0
Total		1084		
OTHER START UPS				
Waters of Life	Hawai'i	91	K-12	49.5
Voyager	O'ahu	208	K-8	35.1
Volcano Schools of Arts & Science	Hawai'i	141	K-8	29.8
Innovations	Hawai'i	126	1-6	29.4
Myron B. Thompson Academy	O'ahu	716	K-12	29.1
Connections	Hawai'i	337	K-12	26.4
Education Laboratory	O'ahu	416	K-12	18.3
Kihei	Maui	252	K-12	17.1
West Hawai'i Explorations Academy	Hawai'i	152	7-12	16.4
Hawai'i Academy of Arts & Science	Hawai'i	263	K-12	13.7
Total		2702		
CONVERSIONS				
Kualapu'u Elementary (Conversion Partial Immersion)	Moloka'i	368	K-6	90.8
Waimea Middle Public Conversion	Hawai'i	524	6-8	40.8
Lanikai Elementary	O'ahu	313	K-6	12.1
Wai'alae Elementary	O'ahu	407	K-5	10.1
Total		1612		

Grand Total 5,755



* Kualapu'u is also identified as a partial immersion conversion school

Sources:

HI DOE, Oct, 15, 2006 Charter School Profiles, <http://www.hcsao.org/hicharters/profiles>
 Kamehameha Schools Snapshots of Hawaiians in the DOE, <http://www.ksbe.edu/spi/reports.php>

