



Ho'okāko'o Corporation

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Contact:
Megan McCorriston
(808) 983-3835

Kamaile Academy, Waimea Middle School Receive Accreditation *6-year Terms Recognize the Schools' Continual Improvement*

HONOLULU – Two public charter schools governed by the Ho'okako'o Corporation have received their first six-year terms of accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Kamaile Academy on O'ahu and Waimea Middle School (WMS) on Hawai'i Island were notified of the accreditation decision this week, said Dr. Megan McCorriston, Ho'okako'o's executive director. Ho'okako'o's third charter school, Kualapu'u School on Moloka'i, received its accreditation in 2013.

" Six-year terms represent full accreditation, and serve as a testament to the hard work of the students, staff, faculty and administrators who have been dedicated to our mission of school improvement," said McCorriston. "As an organization committed to high quality public education for all students, most of whom are Native Hawaiian and socio-economically disadvantaged, this distinction has validated that we are on the path to success."

Accreditation by WASC signifies that the school is a trustworthy institution of learning whose purposes are appropriate and being accomplished through a viable learning program. The 29-months-long accreditation process begins with a self-study of each school's strengths and challenges, and development of actions plans for continuing self-improvement. The process continues with site visits from a WASC Visiting Committee.

Accreditation reports for both schools included strong words of praise.

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Kamaile's administration, faculty and staff were commended for their work over the past three years to revitalize the school's education program. The Visiting Committee noted that "the progress made in a very short period of time is exemplary."

WMS was lauded as a safe and caring school with strong student supports and family and community involvement. The Visiting Committee also commended WMS' dedicated team of teachers for going above and beyond to fulfill the school's mission of "empowering all students with the skills, values and cultural understanding to successfully navigate high school and beyond."

"This represents national recognition of the great work our teachers and staff are doing here at Waimea Middle School. It validates the school's academic and organizational effectiveness in delivering what's best for students while also being committed to continuous improvement," said WMS Principal Matt Horne.

Said Kamaile Principal Emma Weiss: "We have been working extremely hard to move our school forward, and to have this supported and validated by WASC makes all of our hard work worth it. I am absolutely thrilled for our team and for our students and families!"

Both schools are also celebrating other important milestones. WMS last week received a nearly \$10 million appropriation from the State Legislature for the construction of a 9-classroom Science and Technology building. Kamaile Academy will celebrate commencement for its first graduating class on May 24, 2014.

About Ho'okāko'o

Ho'okāko'o Corporation (HC) is a private non-profit organization established in 2002 under Act 2 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to address Hawaii's need for educational reform and innovation in public education, particularly for Native Hawaiian and underserved children. As Hawaii's only charter management organization (CMO), Ho'okāko'o Corporation (HC) operates a network of public conversion charter schools that implement a shared system of student-centered and research-based educational innovations proven to improve student academic achievement and success. HC schools serve approximately 1,570 students from high-need communities on Oahu, Molokai, and the Big Island of Hawaii. Seventy-nine percent of all HC students are from low income families, and 63% are of Hawaiian ancestry.

About Kamaile Academy.

Kamaile Academy is a P20 "village concept" school located in Waianae, Oahu and the largest charter school in Hawaii. Kamaile serves approximately 930 students in grades PreK-12 with large proportion of Native Hawaiian students (70%) as well as those with high-needs, e.g., 81% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch, 14% require special education, 13% are English language learners and 14.1% are identified as homeless.

About Waimea Middle School. WMS is the first public conversion charter school established under Act 2. The original Waimea School was a one-room schoolhouse founded in 1912 that separated into Waimea Elementary and Waimea Middle Schools in 2000. In June 2003, the middle school converted from a DOE school to a public conversion charter school. Today, WMS has a student body of approximately 290 students in grades 6 through 8 of which 54% are Native Hawaiian and 67% are low income.

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