

[Mobile](#) | [Weather](#) | [RSS](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Calendars](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Purchase Photos](#) | [Subscribe Now](#) | [Member Log In](#)



76.0°F



The Cooking Channel. Outdoor. Nicktoons. Sleuth TV.

OCEANIC TIME WARNER CABLE THE POWER OF YOU!

Home | News | Sports | Business | Editorial | Features | Pulse | Travel | Multimedia | Shop | **Longs Drugs** | Homes | Jobs | Cars | Classifieds

Corrections | Newswatch | Police and Fire | Vital Statistics | Surf | Kokua Line | Island Images | Ocean Watch | Facts of the Matter | **Prudential Locations**

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

5 Foods to never eat :
~~~~~  
Cut down a bit of stomach fat every  
day by never eating these 5 foods.

Never eat



[www.staradvertiser.com](http://www.staradvertiser.com) > News >

 [Print](#)  [Email](#)  [Comment](#) | [View Comments](#)  [Most Popular](#)  [Save](#)  [Post](#)  [Retweet](#)

# Charter school director is asked to leave

By Susan Essoyan

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Feb 04, 2011

0 

 [Share](#)  3 [29 Comments](#)

-- ADVERTISEMENT --



**HOT DEALS HAWAII!**  
Never miss a deal!

GET THE DEAL!

Maunalei Love is stepping down today as executive director of the Charter School Administrative Office under pressure from a state panel, after serving longer than anyone else in that position.

"The Charter School Review Panel asked for and accepted my resignation as the Charter School Administrative Office executive director after disagreement over many months with regards to job scope and performance," Love wrote in an e-mail to charter schools. "I would like to offer my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to have served Hawaii's charter school system."

Love held the job for 3 1/2 years altogether, in two separate stints, starting as interim executive director. She was appointed executive director in November 2008. The Charter School Review Panel asked for her resignation last week.

"This is definitely in the best interest of the charter schools," Nina Buchanan, the panel's vice chairwoman, said yesterday. "I know the panel plans to move ahead as quickly as possible to appoint an interim executive director and to do a search as soon as possible. We feel very optimistic that we will find someone excellent."

Since 2004 five people have served as executive director of the office, some staying on the job for just a matter of months. The Charter School Administrative Office provides support and guidance to Hawaii's 31 public charter schools, a diverse lot ranging from small Hawaiian-focused campuses to large online academies. About 5 percent of the state's public-school students are in charter schools. The position pays about \$90,000 a year.

"It's a really hard job," said John Thatcher, principal of Connections Public Charter School in Hilo. "You've got to answer to so many people. I think it's a job that just burns people out or they get fired."

Along with juggling the needs of charter schools and collecting data from them, the office also answers to the Charter School Review Panel, which grants and revokes charters, and to the Legislature. Charter schools are publicly funded, but they are overseen by their own local school boards and are exempt from many state regulations. Legislators recently have been pressuring charter schools to be more accountable for their use of taxpayer money.

Search

Archive

Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun

**HOT DEALS HAWAII!**



**1/2 OFF**  
JJ Bistro  
& French Pastry

BUY NOW

## Latest News / Updates

**Woman in Kauai hang glider crash from Washington state** - 09:42 a.m.

**Man arrested for alleged robbery of wife** - 08:13 a.m.

**Federal workers to receive higher retirement pay** - 07:51 a.m.

**Leeward residents asked to conserve water** - 07:36 a.m.

[View All](#) | [Breaking News](#) »

## Columns



[Island Images](#)  
Star-Advertiser Photographers



[Kokua Line](#)  
June Watanabe

[http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110204\\_Charter\\_school\\_director\\_is\\_asked\\_to\\_leave.html#](http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110204_Charter_school_director_is_asked_to_leave.html#) [2/16/2011 12:13:31 PM]



"There are quite a few people who think that the review panel is starting to micromanage," Thatcher said. "That's probably one of Maunalei's problems. She really believes strongly that the charter schools need to be autonomous and other entities should not be interfering with their autonomy."

Jim Shon, executive director of the charter school office from 2004 to 2006, said a shortage of funds at charter schools makes it tough for them to keep up with administrative requirements, and the charter school office has little leverage over them.

"Quite rightly, accountability and documentation are what we expect of public agencies and public schools," Shon said. "But because of the funding situation, it has been almost impossible for charters to have a full complement of administrative support, the guys who generate the data and the reports and the audits. Now the Legislature is getting restless. And you have the charters grumbling about the office constantly asking them for information."

"The system is kind of imploding on itself," said Shon, who wrote a book about Hawaii's charter school system.

Love helped launch the Hawaii Charter Schools Network and was administrator of Hakipuu Learning Center in Kaneohe from 2001 to 2004.

"Maunalei has been a huge supporter of charter schools, an advocate for charter schools and one of the original founders of the charter school movement," said Mark Christiano, executive director of Kihei Charter School. "We all wish her the best of luck."



Maunalei Love

Print Email Comment | View Comments Most Popular Save Post Retweet

Subscribe to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser:  
Monday-Sunday

- ▶ 1 Year - \$180.96
- ▶ 6 Months - \$90.48
- ▶ 3 Months - \$45.24

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**

Home delivery prices for Oahu Only. Please call customer service at (808) 538-6397 for Neighbor Island and mail subscriptions. For Weekend Subscription Rates [Click Here](#)

## COMMENTS

**COMMENTING ETIQUETTE:** To encourage open exchange of ideas in the staradvertiser.com community, we ask that you post with aloha, follow our guidelines and respect your fellow posters. Don't say anything you wouldn't want your mother to read. [More on etiquette...](#)

Like DISQUS

### Add New Comment

Post as ...

Showing 20 of 29 comments

Sort by Newest first [Subscribe by email](#) [Subscribe by RSS](#)

**brownknees** 02/06/2011 04:45 PM

Typical of education in Hawaii's failed experiment at teaching our children the Executive Director for CSAO is conveniently blamed for charter school's failure to meet standard(s). Ironically a principal who has consistently failed at his own task makes comment about CSAO challenges without retribution. Hawaii's public education problems are systemic. To blame one person or hold one person accountable is ludicrous.

Like Reply

**edutopian** 02/04/2011 09:47 PM

**Volcanic Ash**  
David Shapiro

[View All](#) | [Columns](#) »

## Blogs

**Be Strong Live Long**  
[The Oh So Important "I's"](#)

**Warrior Beat**  
[Coaches clinic, Hilo practice set](#)

**Hawaiian Isles Tennis Line**  
[Let's go to a UH home match!](#)

[View All](#) | [Blogs](#) »

The Morning After: Recalling the surfer-girl days

PICS: Live Hawaiian music at Duke's Waikiki

PICS: Babyface at Blaisdell Arena

PICS: Behind the scenes at the Grammy's

PICS: Brunch at Morimoto Waikiki

PICS: 'Love is In the Air' at Ala Moana

PICS: Hawai'i Pro Football Cheerleader Tryout

PICS: 'Hellaflush' at Aloha Stadium

PICS: WSSM Surf Bash at Señor Frog's Waikiki

▶ [Take a Bite: Mavro, Wong to host James Beard dinner](#)

▶ [2011 Hawaii Music Award winners announced](#)

▶ [Book 'Em: Arrrrgh, me hearties!](#)

▶ [TV: Roseanne to film reality show in Hawaii](#)

▶ [PICS: Showbox Honolulu grand opening party](#)

**Calendar of Events »**  
**More Entertainment Coverage »**

**Find us on Facebook**

**Honolulu Star-Advertiser**

[Like](#)

You like **Honolulu Advertiser**. [Unlike Page](#) · [Insights](#) · [E](#)

You like this. [Unlike](#) · [Admin Page](#) · [Insights](#) · [E](#)

5,656 people like **Honolulu Star-**

[http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110204\\_Charter\\_school\\_director\\_is\\_asked\\_to\\_leave.html#](http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/20110204_Charter_school_director_is_asked_to_leave.html#) [2/16/2011 12:13:31 PM]

Sounds like a narcissistic leadership issue on multiple levels.

One of the ways of telling a functional organisation from one that is pathologically dysfunctional is to see if it can exclude narcissistic characters from leadership positions.

Sounds like this system has big problems in the administration, leadership and school levels.

3 people liked this. Like Reply

**1oahuborn1** 02/04/2011 06:27 PM

"Since 2004 five people have served as executive director of the office, some staying on the job for just a matter of months." Oh wow, now I can see why. Good writing Susan Essoyan.  
So the job pays \$90,000.00 but has 3 to 4 bosses one must answer to. I guess it is the "too many chiefs, not enough indians" syndrome.

2 people liked this. Like Reply

**TwoCentz** 02/04/2011 05:35 PM

Those who can't teach...my view of this situation

IMHO, there's no valid reason for firing her, save for overseers trying to CY@. They do a better job than DOE, who will be the first to backstab her, at the same time say 'fund us.'

Like Reply

**Kealohanui60** 02/04/2011 01:50 PM

Good luck. Who in their right mind would like this job? NEXT. As for Maunalei, she's a woman of integrity who got stuck in the mire of all the puki`o.

1 person liked this. Like Reply

**hontobaka** 02/04/2011 02:36 PM in reply to Kealohanui60

Seems to me like it was a dysfunctional team effort.

2 people liked this. Like Reply

**Barefoot\_hooligan** 02/04/2011 12:40 PM

let the charter schools revue panel take up the director's job and duties and then see how they like being the "middle man" in that situation. Tell them it's time to put up or shut up, as they don't seem to understand nor grasp what they are asking the charter schools director to do. Let them be the puppet on a string dancing to the legislatures tune and see how long they last in that position.

It's a real shame that the board is allowing a few bad apples to spoil the bunch, unlike the DoE. which has allowed the whole apple grove to stagnate and go bad.

(Edited by author 1 week ago)

2 people liked this. Like Reply

**edutopian** 02/04/2011 11:49 PM in reply to Barefoot\_hooligan

Hasn't the review panel always lacked good leadership?  
The former chairman Albert Parker was mostly useless.  
I'm saying that the system is not strong enough to prevent momentarily charismatic people from seizing power for self serving reasons.  
Eventually, what goes around comes around, and now the chickens have come home to roost.

1 person liked this. Like Reply

**popoki\_hina** 02/04/2011 08:07 AM

Five directors in seven years...no surprise there. The CSAO exec director's job is structurally schizophrenic - take a look at the job description. Worse yet, it's defined by the Review Panel and the

Advertiser.5,655 people like Honolulu Star-Advertiser.



 Facebook social plugin

**Police Officer Training**  
Want to become a Police Officer? Find Law Enforcement Schools Now!  
www.topcareerschools.com

**Hawaiian Air Coupons**  
Get Awesome Deals With Free Online Coupons For Hawaiian Air Flights!  
www.CouponMountain.com/Hawaiian\_Air

**Law Enforcement Degrees**  
Use Our School Finder and Get Advice on the Right Degree. Free!  
PoliceLink.com

**Police Schools**  
Request free Information from Police Training Schools Near You!  
www.collegebound.net

Schools so differently that no one can please all the masters they answer to. The CSRP expects the Director to be their tool, answerable only to them; the current Chair especially demands that the Director enforce her agenda and "manage" the charter schools to make them act like she thinks they should, often regardless of the law. The schools expect the director primarily to be their advocate and to champion their autonomy at every turn, also often regardless of the law. The Legislature -- and especially those Reps and Senators who have long chaired the money and education committees -- seem to take particular delight in using the CSAO and the charters as a political soccer ball they can kick around in their various power-and-money battles with each other, the Gov's office and the Feds. And the DOE's default position on charters is invariably adversarial -- take a look at the testimony the Department submits on any pro-charter bill, especially if it concerns facilities funding, teachers and/or labor issues, NCLB testing requirements, or Hawaiian-culture-based curriculum. Regardless of whether you think Love did a good job or a terrible job, whether you think she should have been fired long ago or is being treated unfairly now, the fact is that no one will ever be able to stay in the job long enough to stabilize the system and the CSAO until the review panel and the charters agree that the director is either a bureaucrat/enforcer or a politician/advocate. She/He can't be expected to be both, much less be everything to all the stakeholders involved -- which is exactly why Love and all the others who have held that job have been "asked to resign." (Gee, I wonder what would have happened if one of them had said "no"?)

5 people liked this. Like Reply

**hontobaka** 02/04/2011 09:55 AM in reply to popoki\_hina

Wasn't Jim Shonn fired by the BOE for doing his job too well and getting charters moving in the right direction? I don't know about schizophrenia, but from what I see, the big issue is that charters are seen as illegal immigrants, and this is Arizona.

Charters are a reform movement, and therefore threaten the Old School. But sometimes, they are their own worst enemy. That doesn't mean you cut their funding half and destroy their chances to improve, though.....

When I read about other state education systems, it seems Hawaii is overall more dysfunctional than normal. I'm looking forward to abolishing the elected BOE. Maybe they should abolish the Charter Office and Review Board too.

3 people liked this. Like Reply

**popoki\_hina** 02/04/2011 08:04 AM

Five directors in seven years...no surprise there. The CSAO exec director's job is structurally schizophrenic - take a look at the job description. Worse yet, it's defined by the Review Panel and the Schools so differently that no one can please all the masters they answer to. The CSRP expects the Director to be their tool, answerable only to them; the current Chair especially demands that the Director enforce her agenda and "manage" the charter schools to make them act like she thinks they should, often regardless of the law. The schools expect the director primarily to be their advocate and to champion their autonomy at every turn, also often regardless of the law. The Legislature -- and especially those Reps and Senators who have long chaired the money and education committees -- seem to take particular delight in using the CSAO and the charters as a political soccer ball they can kick around in their various power-and-money battles with each other, the Gov's office and the Feds. And the DOE's default position on charters is invariably adversarial -- take a look at the testimony the Department submits on any pro-charter bill, especially if it concerns facilities funding, teachers and/or labor issues, NCLB testing requirements, or Hawaiian-culture-based curriculum. Regardless of whether you think Love did a good job or a terrible job, whether you think she should have been fired long ago or is being treated unfairly now, the fact is that no one will ever be able to stay in the job long enough to stabilize the system and the CSAO until the review panel and the charters agree that the director is either a bureaucrat/enforcer or a politician/advocate. She/He can't be expected to be both, much less be everything to all the stakeholders involved -- which is exactly why Love and all the others who have held that job have been "asked to resign." (Gee, I wonder what would have happened if one of them had said "no"?)

Like Reply

**euphrosyne18** 02/04/2011 07:30 AM

Another fired executive director. These so-called charters are just dreadful. Let us strengthen public schools and let those who want something different go to private schools.

2 people liked this. Like Reply

**Barefoot\_hooligan** 02/04/2011 12:48 PM in reply to euphrosyne18

Hahahahaha, what fifty years of incompetence from the DoE is not enough for you, to consider giving a newer/different form of alternative education a chance? The individual schools seem to be doing just fine, it's the administrative overseer's department for charter schools that seems to be the one's experiencing all the growing pains and bearing the brunt of the "ire" from the Charter schools revue panel (are they some form of bored of governors?) and the legislature..

Sounds like the typical meddling board, wanting to flex its authority, without getting it's hands dirty or taking responsibility for any and all actions concerning the charter schools. with so many chiefs, it's a wonder why, they don't have enough puppets to get the job done.

(Edited by author 1 week ago)

4 people liked this. Like Reply

**euphrosyne18** 02/04/2011 12:52 PM in reply to Barefoot\_hooligan

alternative, innovative education=private schools.

Like Reply

**Barefoot\_hooligan** 02/04/2011 01:57 PM in reply to euphrosyne18

Sure, if you can afford such in these trying times, but then the subject of discussion was about "charter schools," and not private schools or education. quit trying to change the subject. But since you have, with all the monies the DoE gets with their "per student" weighted cost formula, sending them to private schools is not that big of a leap to consider.

But then there is a major hitch in that scenario, as there are not enough private school campuses to encompass the student populations currently attending public school campuses.....

Which is where the charter schools system can make and earn it's own reputation, if given more than half a chance to succeed. Oh well, there goes your "alternative and innovative education = private schools" theory but for one small detail.....CSRP & our state legislature.....dang it, and it was looking so good, too! Don't you just hate it when it's the "minor" details that derail such promising scenarios from being considered?

(Edited by author 1 week ago)

2 people liked this. Like Reply

**euphrosyne18** 02/04/2011 02:32 PM in reply to Barefoot\_hooligan

Only 5% of the DOE students go to charters so the private schools can handle that number. Most charters are not very good so it will be a step up!

Like Reply

**Barefoot\_hooligan** 02/04/2011 08:42 PM in reply to euphrosyne18

true, but the student cost ratio is based on the other 95% of the public school population, and not on the charter schools students. Which begs the question as to what would happen if the charter schools student population had parity with the other 95% of the public schools student cost ratio? intriguing thought...

(Edited by author 1 week ago)

1 person liked this. Like Reply

**edutopian** 02/04/2011 11:11 PM in reply to Barefoot\_hooligan

Although charters are not perfect (they have the same problems as the DOE, including nepotism and lack of accountability for public dollars), they do cost taxpayers significantly less.

The legislature spent only \$5,000 per charter school child last year, while

funding the DOE at close to \$8,300 per DOE child.

Outrageous.

Shame on Obama for awarding Hawaii \$75million in Race to the Top funding. Part of the award was because they treat ALL CHILDREN equally. Lying to the Feds is not nice.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

**VanillaLatte** 02/04/2011 07:11 AM

"That's probably one of Maunalei's problems. She really believes strongly that the charter schools need to be autonomous and other entities should not be interfering with their autonomy."

.....so they can continue to hire unqualified family members (Myron Thompson) and others who just don't show up for work but collect their full paycheck from TWO jobs (Myron Thompson) until they get caught.

THAT kind of autonomy?

3 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

**TwoCentz** 02/04/2011 05:39 PM in reply to VanillaLatte

I disagree. Cheap shot. Walk in the shoes of these people - no money, endless needs from kids. They struggle and go well beyond the call of duty. Compare them to a DOE administrator, and see... lazy and overpaid vs. the opposite at the Thompson Academy.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

[Load more comments](#)

Site Index

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Home</b><br>Back Issues<br>Corrections<br>Mobile Edition<br>Movie Showtimes<br>Weather and Surf<br>RSS<br>Twitter / Facebook<br>Place My Ad<br>Terms of Service<br>Privacy Policy<br>Contact Us<br>About Us | <b>News</b><br>Newswatch<br>Police and Fire<br>Obituaries<br>Vital Statistics<br>Island Images<br>Facts of the Matter<br>fASHback<br>Incidental Lives<br>Kokua Line<br>Lee Cataluna<br>Ocean Watch<br>Volcanic Ash<br>New York Times<br>Special Projects | <b>Sports</b><br>Ferd's Words<br>Further Review<br>Hawaii Prep World<br>Hawaii Beat<br>Hawaii Grown Report<br>Notebook<br>Scoreboards<br>TV and Radio | <b>Business</b><br>The Buzz<br>Parkway<br>Akamai Money<br>Health and Money<br>Tech View<br>Business Briefs<br>Real Estate Sales<br><br><b>Editorials</b><br>Our View<br>Guest Columns<br>Off the News<br>Letters to the Editor<br>On Politics<br>Under the Sun<br>Kauakūkalahale | <b>Calendars</b><br><br><b>Features</b><br>By Request<br>Cel Shaded<br>K-Drama<br>Outtakes<br>The Green Leaf<br>By the Glass<br>Crescendo<br>It's About Time<br>Looking Back<br>Weekly Eater<br>Wood Craft | <b>Pulse</b><br><i>includes TGIF</i><br><br><b>Hawaii Five-0</b><br>Official CBS website<br><br><b>Multimedia</b><br>Hawaii News Now<br><br><b>Travel</b><br>Hawaii's Back Yard<br>Isle Hopping<br>Vegas Deals | <b>Homes</b><br>Place My Ad<br>Listings<br>Rentals<br>Foreclosures<br>Find an Agent<br>Homes<br><br><b>Jobs</b><br>Place My Ad<br>Monster.com<br><br><b>Cars</b><br>Place My Ad<br>Hawaii's Cars<br>AutoTrader.com | <b>Star-Advertiser Store</b><br><br><b>Classifieds</b><br>Place My Ad<br>Obituaries<br>Cars<br>Jobs<br>Foreclosures<br>Homes<br><br><b>Member Services</b><br>Log In<br>Register<br><br><b>Advertising Media Kit</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|