



# KANU O KA 'ĀINA

New Century Public Charter School

*Kūlia i ka nu' u – Strive to reach you highest*

## **Kauhale Attendance Policies**

Attendance is a vital factor for success at Kanu o ka 'Āina. Coming to school and participating in Kanu o ka 'Āina's project-based learning activities are a critical part of our haumāna's education. Research confirms that haumāna who come to school every day learn more, earn better grades, and achieve greater success.

Charter schools are held to Hawai'i's school accountability and improvement system called Strive HI. Schools are ranked by indicators on an Academic Performance Index (API) that incorporates achievement, growth, and readiness. Chronic absenteeism is a readiness indicator. As a K-12 school, Kanu is held accountable for high school performance/readiness indicators. It is important for 'ohana to be aware of the significance placed on chronic absenteeism in the new State of Hawai'i measures for academic success. Chronic absenteeism for this purpose is defined as the percentage of haumāna that are absent for 15 or more school days during the school year, excluding those absences attributed to a medical emergency.

It is the kuleana of both haumāna and mākua to ensure that haumāna come to school every day and on time. If a child is unable to attend school the mākua/guardian must report absences by calling the attendance hotline at 890-8144 for all haumāna before 9 a.m. for each day of the child's absence to report the absence.

## **Excessive Absences**

Excessive absenteeism will result in a family court referral for neglect. Kanu and the State of Hawai'i Board of Education recognizes any student with 15 or more days absent as being considered chronically absent. Students and families in this situation may have a Family Court Non-Attendance petition filed which requires going before a family court judge. To help support attendance, Kanu will implement the following process:

- **Step 1:** Upon 5 days absent, Kanu will send a 5 day letter to the 'ohana.
- **Step 2:** Upon a 10th absence, Kanu will send a 10 day letter to the 'ohana & contact will be made to the family by a member of the Ka 'Ohana Paepae team (KOP).
- **Step 3:** Upon the 15th absence, Kanu will send a 15 day letter to the 'ohana and a required meeting/conference with a KOP member and/or administration will be scheduled. A Family Court Non-Attendance filing is possible at this point and may be made by Kanu administration.

Note: There may be special circumstances like emergency situations, and other occasions where absences will occur. A review of these special circumstances will be conducted on a case by case basis. Consistent communication between the 'ohana and school is expected in order to accurately support the attendance of all haumāna. For inquiries about extended times away from school, an ILP (Individual Learning Plan) may be requested at least 2 weeks in advance before the projected days absent. ILPs will be reviewed/considered before approval or denial. (Please refer to the table of contents for the page number of the Extended Absences Procedure - ILP).

**Tardies**

The pū for piko will sound at 7:55 a.m. each morning. School begins promptly at 8:00 am. Arrival after 8:00 am is considered tardy. Haumāna who enter the campus after piko request permission to enter (by chanting into the rest of the school) accompanied by their mākua /guardian. Haumāna with excessive tardiness will be referred to the Kanu administration for action.

Students that arrive after the completion of piko must check in with the main office to receive a pass before attending class.