

RESEARCH &  
EVALUATION



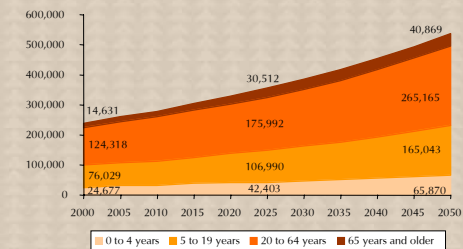
# Why Hawai'i Needs Public Charter Schools

The Positive Effects of Hawaiian-Focused  
Charter Schools on Student Outcomes

October 15, 2008

# Today's Outlook...

- There are about 60,000+ Hawaiian children in public schools  
→ This population will double in the next 40 years
- The most rapid growth is occurring in youngest age groups
- Research shows a lack of positive educational experiences that have endured for the past 50 years, resulting in substantial gaps in:
  - Achievement/growth, engagement, promotion, graduation
  - Post-high enrollment, completion, economic sufficiency



## Hawai'i's Public Schools...

- Are more likely to be in restructuring status when they contain high proportions of Hawaiian students
- Are more likely to have less experienced teachers when they contain high proportions of Hawaiian students
- Are more likely to have high teacher turnover when they contain high proportions of Hawaiian students
- Have lower family involvement and lower parent satisfaction when they contain high proportions of Hawaiian students
- Struggle for resources, especially Hawaiian immersion schools and those in rural, Hawaiian communities
- Are more likely to be successful when they have strong, focused, data-oriented learning communities, shared accountability and leadership, active community involvement, ongoing professional development opportunities



## Who are the Hawaiian-focused public charter schools?

Start-up Charters (SY08-09)	Island	Enrollment
Hālau Kū Māna	O'ahu	130
Hakipu'u Learning Center	O'ahu	96
Hālau Lōkahi	O'ahu	250
Ka Waihona o Ka Na'auao	O'ahu	531
Kanu 'o Ka 'Āina	Hawai'i	193
Kanuikapono	Kaua'i	43
Kua o Ka Lā	Hawai'i	83
Ke Ana La'ahana	Hawai'i	84
Kawaikini	Kaua'i	83
Ke Kula Ka 'Umeke Kā'eo	Hawai'i	204
Ke Kula Ni'ihau o Kekaha	Kaua'i	38
Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau	O'ahu	106
Ke Kula Aupuni Ni'ihau a Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA)	Kaua'i	60
Ke Kula 'o Nāwahīokalani'ōpu'u Iki	Hawai'i	142
	<b>Total</b>	2,043
Conversion Charters	Island	Enrollment
Kualapu'u Elementary School	Moloka'i	367
Waimea Middle School	Hawai'i	368
Kamaile Elementary School	O'ahu	740
	<b>Total</b>	1,475

- Hawaiian-focused start-up charter schools are families and communities who seek positive choices in public education and who are committed to **improving the experiences of Native Hawaiians in the public school system**
  - Committed to successful Hawaiian educational programs
  - Firmly rooted in culture-based education
- Serve high proportions of children of Hawaiian ancestry (approximately 88%)
- Serve high proportions of socioeconomically and educationally disadvantaged children

# What does highly relevant, culture-based education look like in public charter schools?

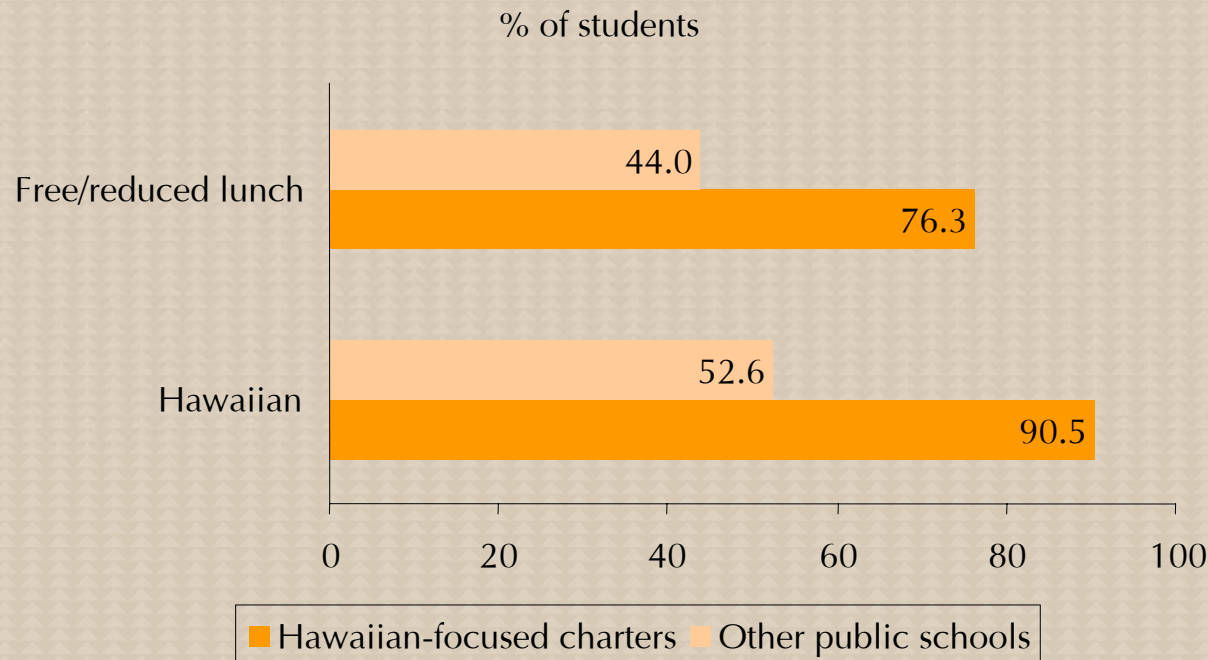
## **Educators** in Hawaiian-focused charters:

- Embrace a strong culture of **innovation**;
- Utilize high levels of culture-based education through culturally relevant content and context, authentic **assessment, family & community** integration, and exposure to 'ōlelo Hawai'i **without sacrificing** “best practices” in teaching;
- Provide curriculum and instruction grounded in Hawaiian **values, culture and practices**;
- Offer place-based and project-based learning designed to **engage** young hearts and minds.
- Are catalysts for **community** change

Ledward, B, & Takayama, B. (2008). *Ho'opilina Kumu: Culture-Based Education among Hawai'i Teachers*. Honolulu: Kamehameha Schools, Research & Evaluation Division.



# Student characteristics

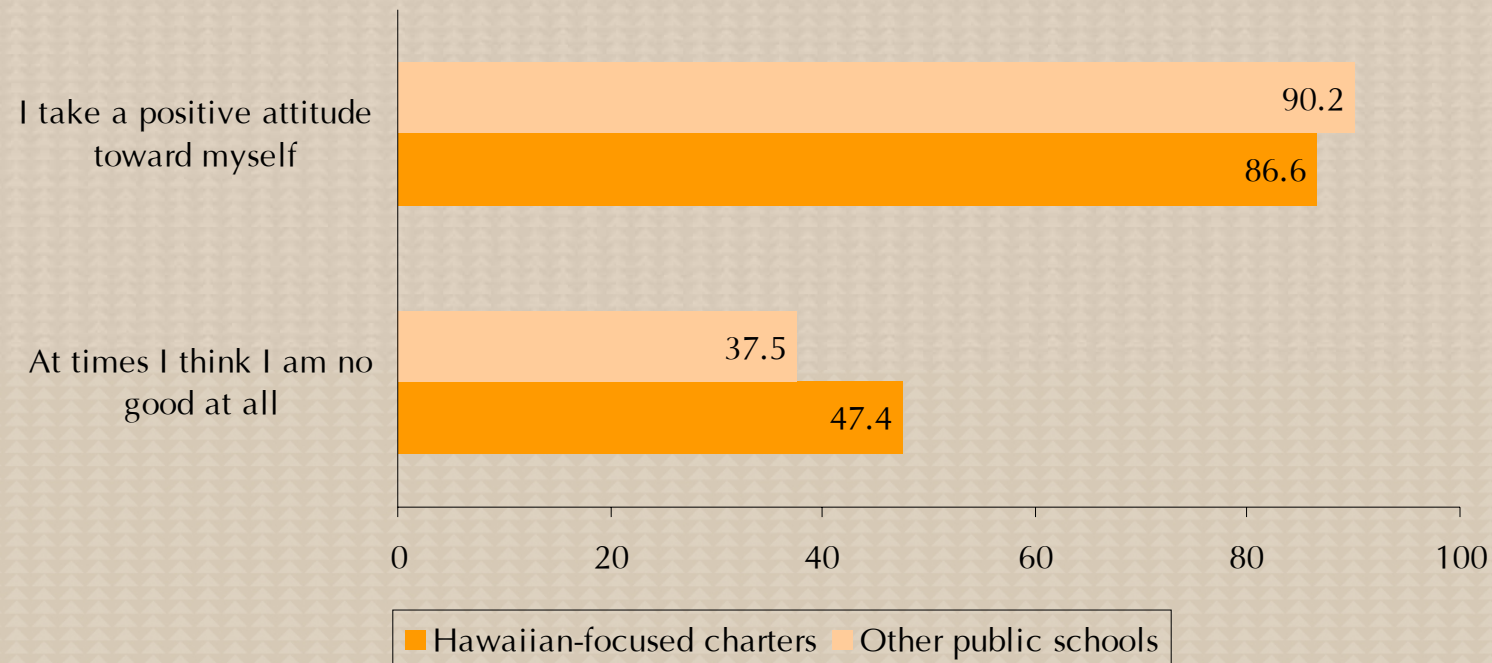


- Hawaiian-focused charters are more likely than their counterparts in other public schools to live in 'at risk' conditions
- Hawaiian-focused charters also enroll higher percentages of Hawaiian children

Findings from the 2006 Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education (HCIE) study, a partnership of Kamehameha Schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and Nā Lei Na'auao alliance of Hawaiian-focused charter schools. Participants include 3,000 8-10<sup>th</sup> grade students in 62 schools across the state.

# At-risk conditions: self-esteem

% of students who agree



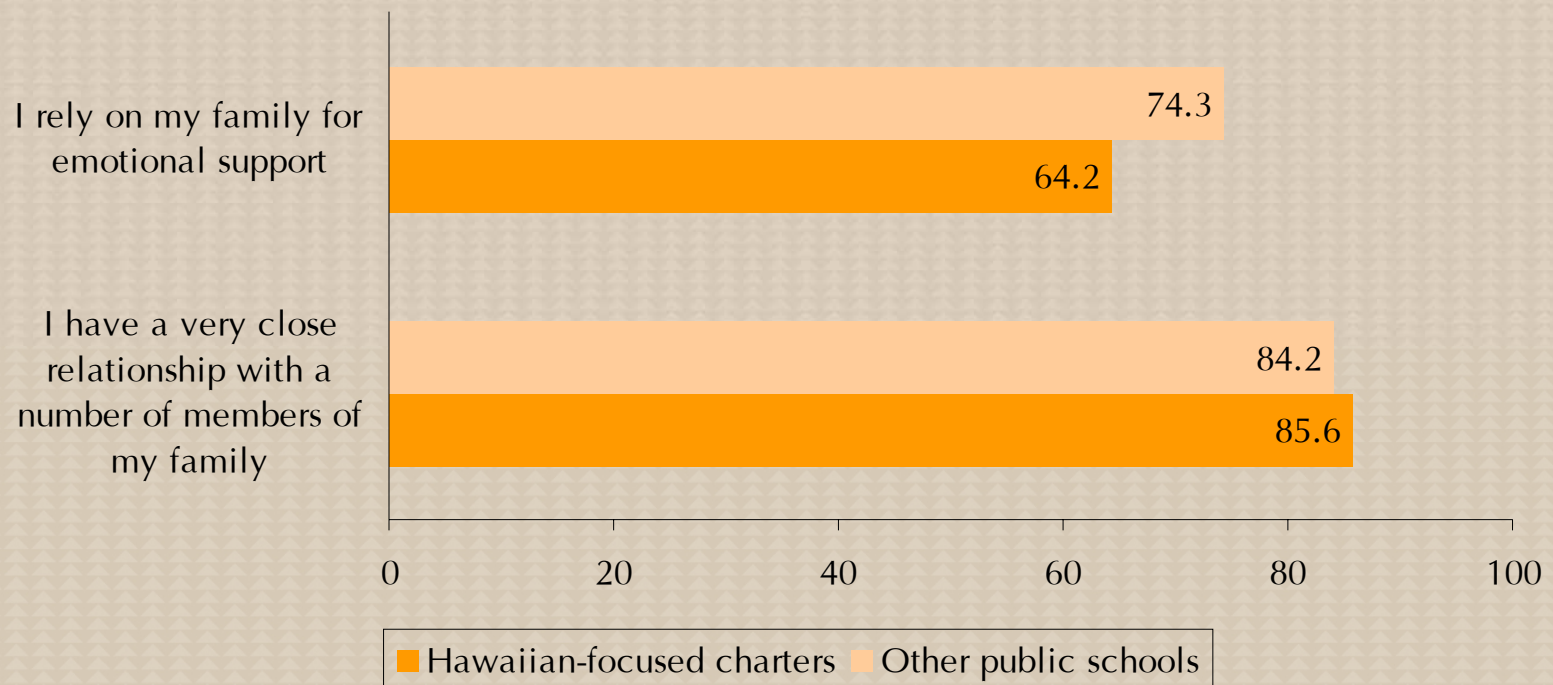
- Students in Hawaiian-focused charters are more likely than their counterparts in other public schools to experience low self-esteem

Findings from the 2006 Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education study, a partnership of Kamehameha Schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and Nā Lei Na'auao alliance of Hawaiian-focused charter schools



# At-risk conditions: family relationships

% of students who agree



- Students in Hawaiian-focused charters are less likely than their counterparts in other public schools to receive emotional support from their families

Findings from the 2006 Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education study, a partnership of Kamehameha Schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and Nā Lei Na'auao alliance of Hawaiian-focused charter schools

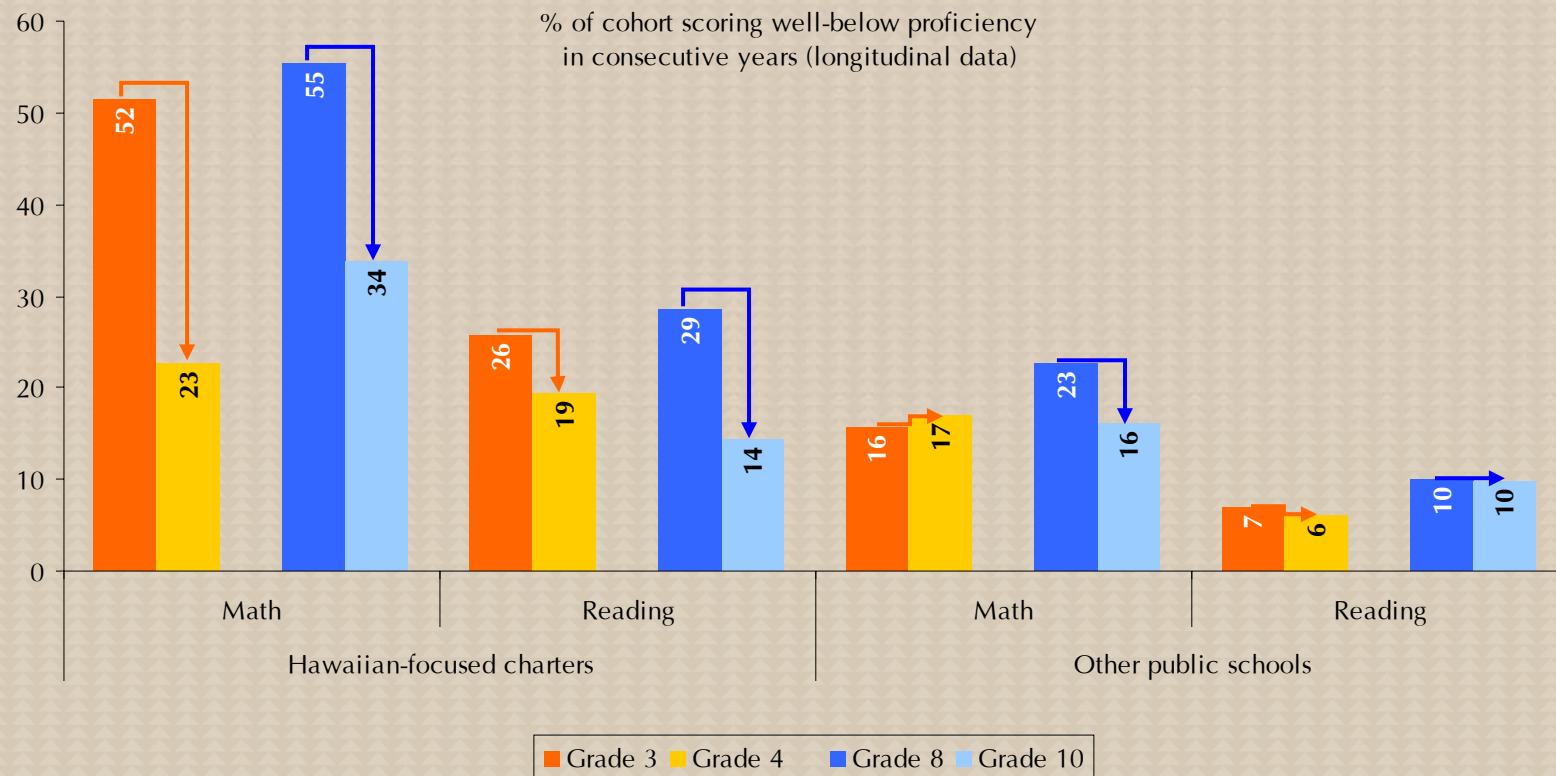
# Public Charter Schools Early Indicators of Success

Outcomes for  
children in  
Hawaiian-  
focused charters





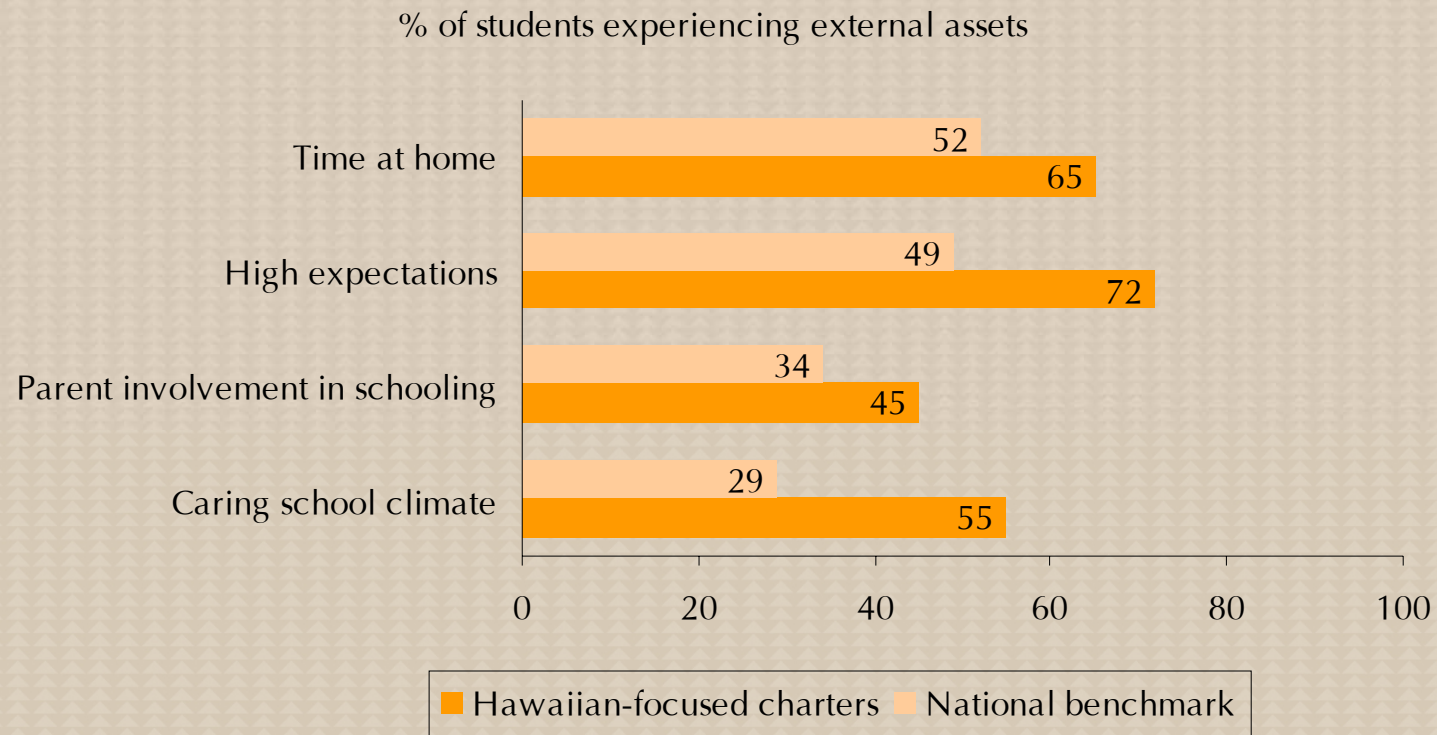
# Students show academic gains



- Students in Hawaiian-focused charters are more likely to move out of well-below reading and math proficiency, between 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grades, than are their counterparts in other public schools
- Data for middle school grades shows mixed results

HSA test scores recorded by the Hawaii Department of Education for SY 03-04 and SY 05-06

# Students feel supported

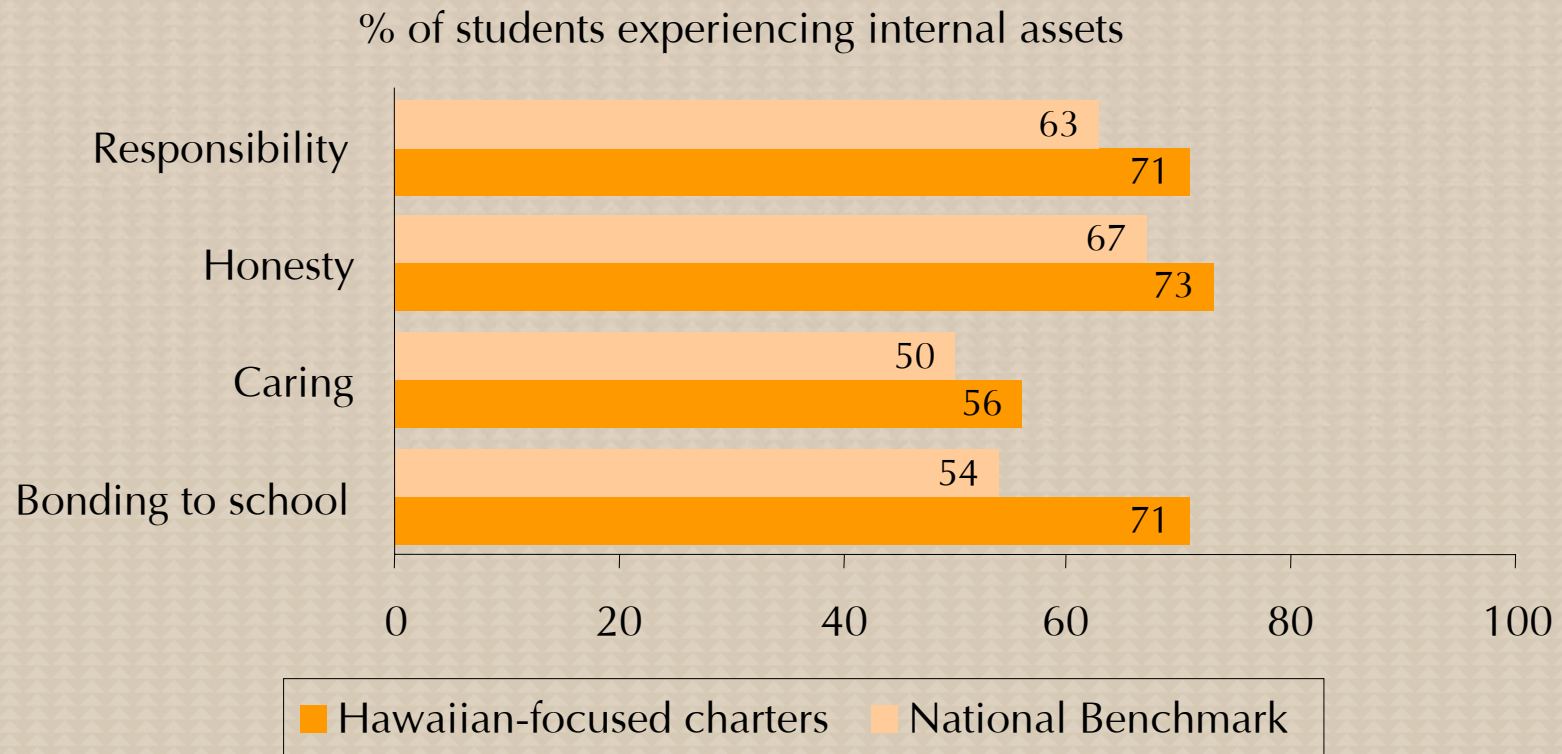


- Compared to a national benchmark, students in Hawaiian-focused charters are more likely to experience caring school climate, parent involvement in schooling, high teacher/parent expectations about school, and time at home for school projects.

Tibbetts, KA, Kahakalau, K, & Johnson, Z. (2007). Education with Aloha and Student Assets. *Hūlili: Multidisciplinary Research on Hawaiian Well-Being*, 4, 147-181.



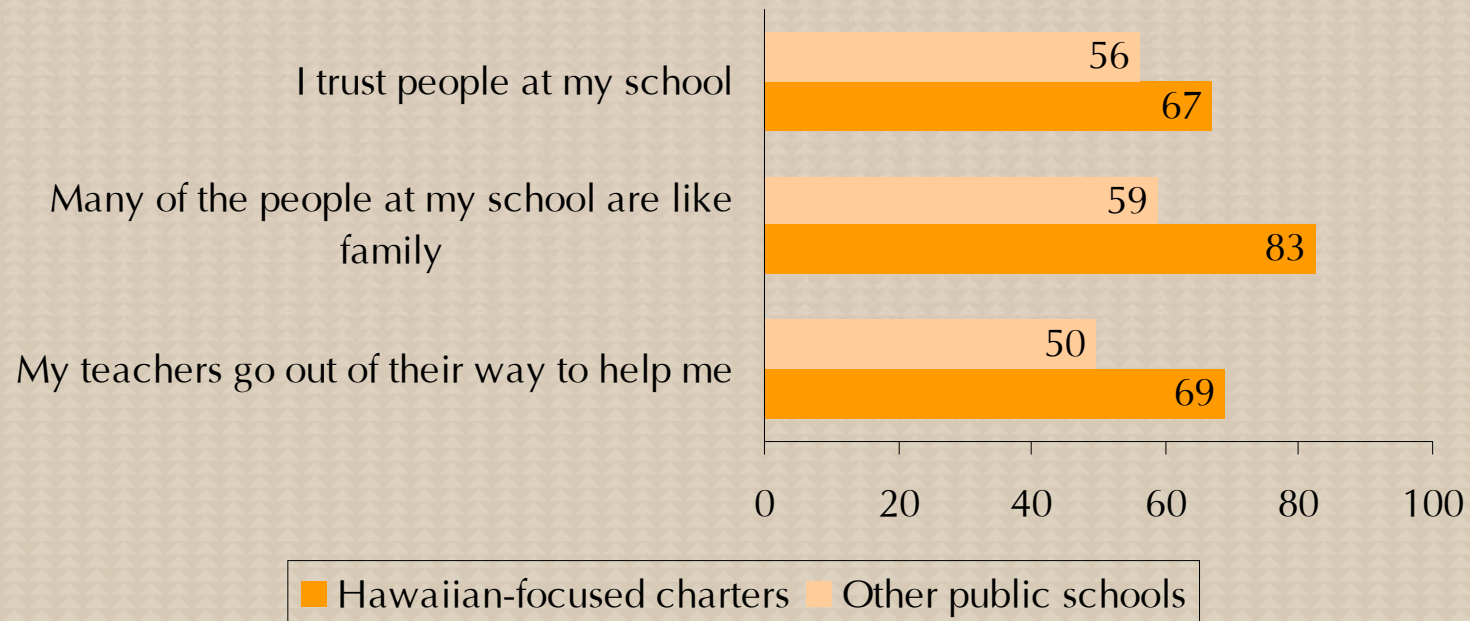
# Students learn about character & integrity



- Compared to a national benchmark, students in Hawaiian-focused charters are more likely to show strength of character, including bonding to school, caring for others, honesty, and responsibility.

# Teachers & staff are trusted allies

% of students who agree

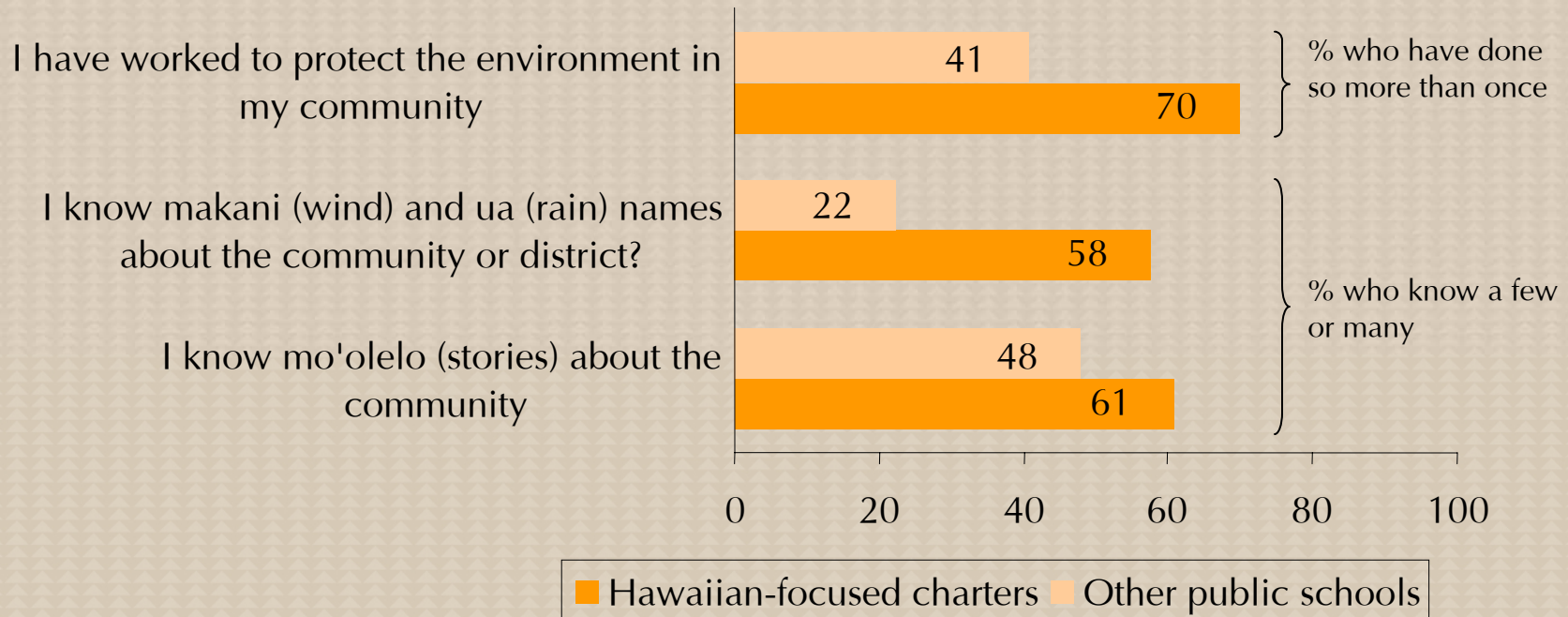


- Although family relationships among students in Hawaiian-focused charters may not be as strong as those in other public schools, teacher connectedness is a positive mediating force for this population with high risk factors.

Findings from the 2006 Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education study, a partnership of Kamehameha Schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and Nā Lei Na'auao alliance of Hawaiian-focused charter schools



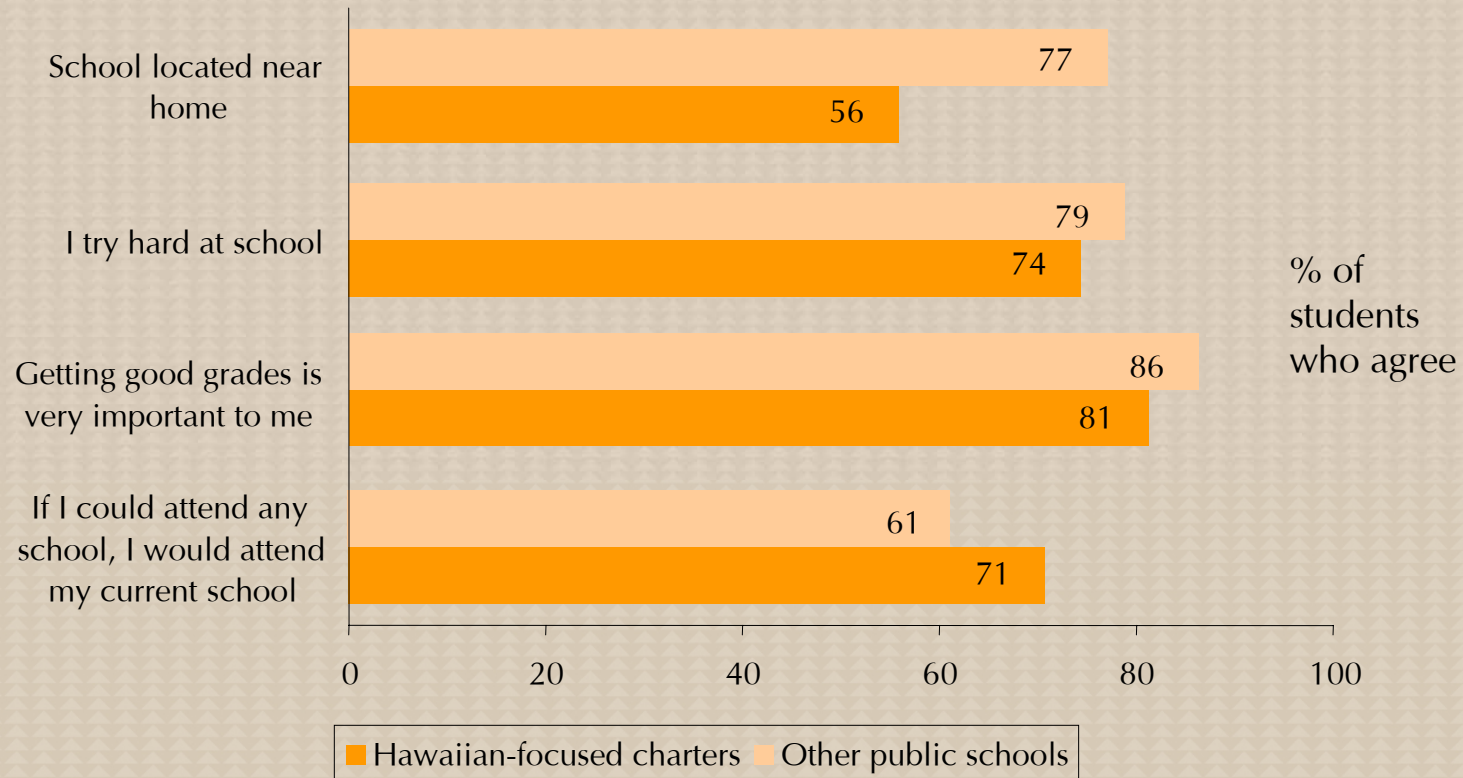
# Students practice community stewardship & giveback



- Students in Hawaiian-focused charters are more likely to have knowledge about their communities and to **practice** environmental stewardship.
- An increased sense of place and pride in where one comes from helps foster greater civic responsibility and sense of community

Findings from the 2006 Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education study, a partnership of Kamehameha Schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and Nā Lei Na'auao alliance of Hawaiian-focused charter schools

# Students are engaged at school

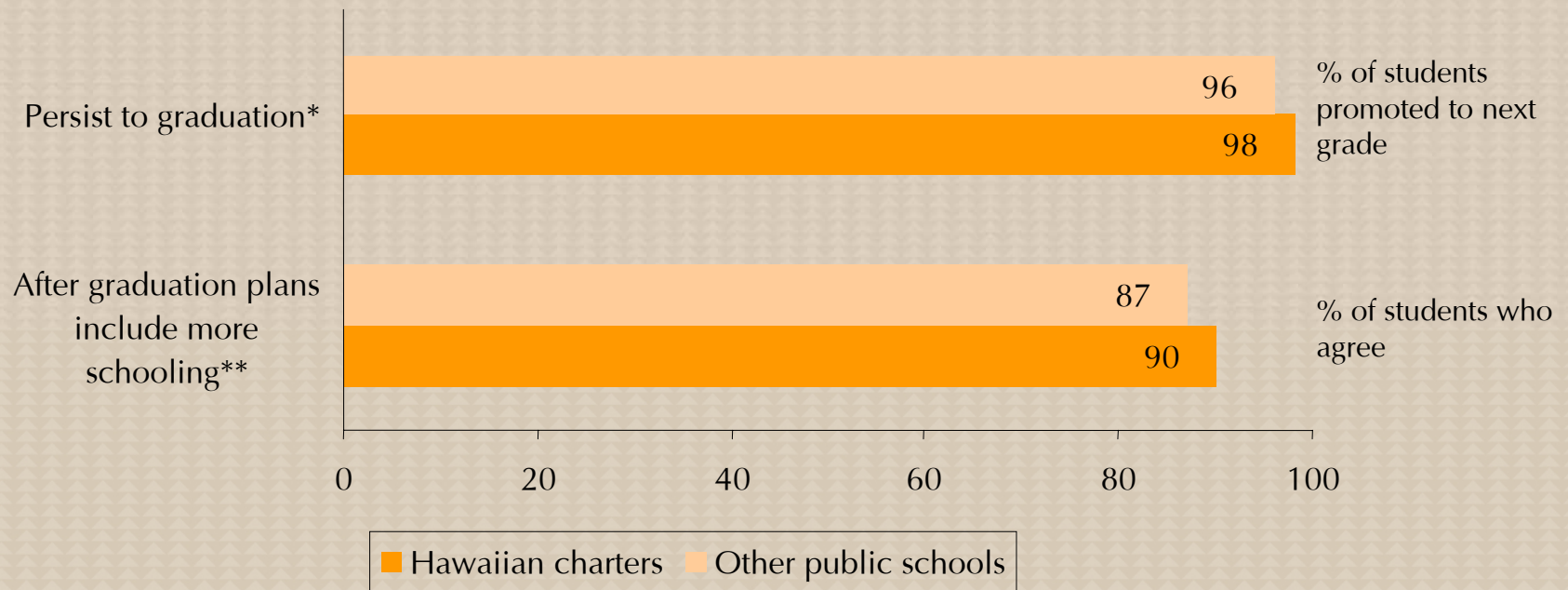


- Students in Hawaiian-focused charters are seven times less likely to be excessively absent than those in other public schools (not shown)
- Students in Hawaiian-focused charters travel farther to school, and yet would not change schools if given a choice
- Students try hard and want to get good grades

Findings from the 2006 Hawaiian Cultural Influences in Education study, a partnership of Kamehameha Schools, the Hawai'i Department of Education, and Nā Lei Na'auao alliance of Hawaiian-focused charter schools



# Students progress towards graduation & expect to attend college



- Hawaiian charter school students have slightly higher rates of timely grade completion
- Charter school students report a commitment to continue a post secondary education

\*Figures based on DOE data for SY 0607 all available grades

\*\*Data from the HiDOE Senior Exit Plan Survey, total includes ALL charter schools

# Hawai'i Needs Public Charter Schools Because...

- They demonstrate success in helping “at-promise” students jumpstart academic momentum
- They provide culturally relevant education in ways that engage both Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian students
- They cultivate values of environmental stewardship and civic responsibility among future leaders
- They build on a strong sense of ‘ohana to develop caring and supportive school relationships
- They enhance the wellbeing, family involvement, and economic sustainability of communities (jobs and resources)



# Mahalo a nui loa!

Any questions?

For more information, please contact:

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