

At-Risk Youth Team Charter

This team is comprised of (7) non-profit, (3) State and (1) Labor union representatives, with expertise and experience in assisting at-risk youth, who strive to increase student attendance.

According to the Department of Education's most recent study, Dole Middle School has a 10% chronic absenteeism rate while Waianae Intermediate has an 18.9% rate, compared to the Oahu average absenteeism rate of 5.4%.

This is compounded by school administration noting many youth are absent partial days¹. It is known that chronic absenteeism leads to high dropout rates in high school².

This group chose to target middle school youth to determine the contributing factors to their absenteeism and then to evaluate strategies to alleviate those stressors. Specifically, the team will initially target Dole Middle and Waianae Intermediate Schools which are demonstrating high absenteeism as these schools absenteeism is 2-3 times higher than the average Oahu rate.

This group will survey and interview students, parents, school personnel and critical collaterals at Dole Middle and Waianae Intermediate School who are demonstrating absenteeism (have had more than XX unexcused absences per XX) to identify and coordinate programs/services for students tailored to increase attendance.

This group's mission will be to ensure that youth in two schools will have available opportunities, services and support to ensure a successful transition to high school.

¹ As noted in meetings with Dole and Waianae School's administrators.

² Balfanz, R., & Byrnes, V. *The Importance of Being in School: A Report on Absenteeism in the Nation's Public Schools*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Center for Social Organization of Schools. May 2012.