



A Case Study of a progressive charter school in Makawao, Hawaii

Confronting Persistent Security Concerns On Premise

Challenge

A progressive charter school in Makawao, Hawaii, confronted persistent security concerns within its premises. These concerns were not unique to the school, as the region had witnessed a history of security incidents. Recognizing the need to bolster security infrastructure and preparedness, the charter school faced the daunting challenge of acquiring the necessary funding and expertise to implement comprehensive security measures.

Solution

In 2023, the charter school sought the expertise of EMD, a seasoned consulting firm specializing in grant acquisition and management. EMD collaborated closely with the school to secure two consecutive Federal Non-profit Security Grants through the FEMA National Security Grant Program (NSGP). These grants were instrumental in providing the funding required to implement a range of security upgrades and training programs.

The proposed solution encompassed the installation of an advanced video surveillance system to enhance security monitoring throughout the school's premises, including classrooms. Additionally, access control software will be installed for the monitoring of unauthorized access, panic buttons and intercom systems will be strategically deployed, locks and doors reinforced for added physical security, and a comprehensive active threat training program will be introduced. EMD provided expert guidance and support throughout the grant application process, ensuring a thorough review of the vulnerability of the campus, and subsequently submitted compelling grant proposals on behalf of the charter school.



Results

The transformation currently being brought about by these security measures will have a significant impact for the school year ahead and many years to come. The improvements scheduled for the video surveillance system will significantly enhancing monitoring capabilities within the charter school, while the upgrading access control software for the security of restricted areas. The addition of panic buttons and intercom systems will greatly improve emergency communication, and reinforce locks and doors providing an additional layer of physical protection.

Most importantly, the implementation of an active threat training program equipping both staff and students with the knowledge and skills needed to respond effectively to potential threats will be invaluable. Collectively, these security enhancements will instill a newfound sense of confidence and preparedness within the school's community. Staff and students will feel safer and more reassured, knowing that proactive measures are being taken to mitigate potential security risks.

The successful acquisition of grant funding and the subsequent implementation of comprehensive security measures demonstrated the charter school's unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of its students and staff. This commitment fostered a stronger sense of community resilience, solidifying the bonds among the school's members and fortifying their collective resolve.

In conclusion, the collaborative efforts of the charter school and EMD, along with the support of FEMA NSGP grants, effectively addressed the challenge of enhancing security in the face of potential threats. The solution involved securing crucial grant funding and implementing a comprehensive suite of security measures, resulting in a safer environment for education. The proactive approach taken by the charter school has cultivated a resilient community better prepared to confront potential security risks and ensure the safety of all its members.