
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM FULFILLS
ITS STATUTORY PURPOSE OF EQUALIZING OPERATIONAL FUNDING
AMONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public charter schools are a part of the
2 state public education system and contribute to that system as a
3 whole by providing alternative educational options and modeling
4 innovative practices; and
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6 WHEREAS, each public charter school is a single state
7 entity, self-governed by a volunteer governing board,
8 independently managed, and primarily dependent on state funding
9 in order to operate; and
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11 WHEREAS, charter schools receive the majority of their
12 funding through general fund appropriations based on a general
13 fund per-pupil allotment, which is based on a formula that adds
14 up the total funding allocated to certain programs within the
15 Department of Education and then distributes monies based on
16 reasonable projected enrollment figures for each public charter
17 school; and
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19 WHEREAS, section 302D-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, mandates
20 that the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding for public
21 charter school students be the same as the general fund per-
22 pupil amount provided to the Department of Education in its most
23 recently approved executive budget; and
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25 WHEREAS, questions have been raised about whether the per-
26 pupil funding system equalizes funding for public charter
27 schools as intended; and
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1 WHEREAS, public charter schools must also meet other
2 expenses, including facility costs; and
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4 WHEREAS, the State Public Charter School Commission has
5 warned in its annual reports that financial data from the public
6 charter schools reveal both short-term financial strain as well
7 as long-term operational sustainability challenges; now,
8 therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative
13 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study on the per-
14 pupil funding system to determine whether the system fulfills
15 its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among
16 public schools; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by June 30, 2016, the
19 Department of Education and State Public Charter School
20 Commission are requested to provide specific data to the
21 Legislative Reference Bureau detailing what the present system
22 of funding is comprised of within the statutory allocation, to
23 permit the Bureau to target its study and complete it in a
24 timely manner; and
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School
27 Commission, Hawaii Public Charter School Network, Hawaii
28 Educational Policy Center, and other stakeholder agencies are
29 requested to provide other information and assistance as
30 requested by the Legislative Reference Bureau; and
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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
33 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and
34 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
35 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
36 the Regular Session of 2017; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
40 Legislative Reference Bureau, Chairperson of the Board of
41 Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the State
42 Public Charter School Commission, Executive Director of the



1 State Public Charter School Commission, Executive Director of
2 the Hawaii Public Charter School Network, and Director of the
3 Hawaii Educational Policy Center.
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