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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that facilities funding  
2       has been a long-standing issue for charter schools nationally  
3       and locally. In Hawaii, start-up charter schools have paid the  
4       costs of their facilities from operational funds. However,  
5       Act 159, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, authorized the state  
6       public charter school commission to request facilities funding  
7       as part of its annual budget request to the director of finance  
8       beginning with the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Act 234, Session Laws  
9       of Hawaii 2015, authorized a framework for providing facilities  
10      funding and support for public charter school facilities with  
11      adequate prioritization, oversight, and accountability by the  
12      charter school facilities funding working group.

13      The legislature further finds that public charter schools  
14      receive inadequate funding to support student learning. While  
15      the state public charter school commission may request  
16      facilities funding in addition to its annual budget request, the  
17      amounts received in recent fiscal years have not kept pace with



1 the cost of providing and maintaining high-quality facilities.  
2 Public charter schools that lack adequate building facilities  
3 are sometimes forced to hold classes outdoors, on covered  
4 lanais, or in unstable temporary structures.

5 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 6 (1) Allow funding for rental or lease of facilities under  
7 legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to  
8 the state public charter school commission for the  
9 design, planning, construction, repair, and  
10 maintenance of public charter school improvements; and  
11 (2) Provide funding to the state public charter school  
12 commission for infrastructure costs, the rental or  
13 lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and  
14 maintenance of network infrastructure for charter  
15 schools.

16 SECTION 2. Section 302D-29.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

18 "(a) Beginning with the 2016-2017 fiscal year, and each  
19 fiscal year thereafter, the legislature shall consider making an  
20 appropriation and bond authorization to the commission for the  
21 design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of



1 public charter school improvements to address issues of health,  
2 safety, and legal compliance; expand or improve instructional  
3 space; provide for rental or lease of facilities; provide for  
4 food services; or provide restroom facilities. The  
5 appropriation and bond authorization for charter schools shall  
6 be separate from, and in addition to, any appropriation made to  
7 charter schools pursuant to [~~this section and~~] section 302D-28.  
8 These amounts shall be prioritized for allocation by the charter  
9 school facilities funding working group."

10 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the  
13 state public charter school commission to allocate to charter  
14 schools for infrastructure costs, lease or rent assistance based  
15 in part on the need and financial performance of the charter  
16 schools, and repair and maintenance of network infrastructure,  
17 as determined by the state public charter school commission.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state public  
19 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



**Report Title:**

Charter Schools; Facilities Funding; Infrastructure;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Allows funding for rental or lease of facilities under legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the state public charter school commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements. Appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, rental or lease assistance, and the repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools. Takes effect on 7/1/2025. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

