
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.



1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. 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. Effective 7/1/2025. (SD2)

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