
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENTS TO PROVIDE THE LEGISLATURE WITH A
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON VACANT STATE FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, public charter schools are an essential part of
2 Hawaii's public education system and provide a quality education
3 to 10,900 students; and
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5 WHEREAS, public charter schools improve education standards
6 by giving families a choice, implementing innovative education
7 strategies, and often integrating Hawaiian language, culture,
8 and history into the curriculum; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii charter schools have experienced a 160%
11 growth since their conception in 2001-2002, with 36 charter
12 schools in the islands; and
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14 WHEREAS, the legislature finds that funding for facilities
15 has been a longstanding issue for charter schools, both
16 nationally and locally, and impacts the long-term sustainability
17 of charter schools; and
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19 WHEREAS, public charter schools must use per-pupil dollars
20 to pay rent, salaries, and other operational expenses while the
21 Department of Education schools use rent-free, state-owned
22 facilities and receive funds for other costs in addition to
23 pupil allotments; and
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25 WHEREAS, in order to identify suitable state-owned
26 facilities for public charter schools and early learning
27 programs, Act 234 was enacted into law in 2015 and required
28 state departments to provide notice to the Superintendent of
29 Education and the Public Charter School Commission of suitable
30 unused facilities; and



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2 WHEREAS, since 2015, the Department of Accounting and
3 General Services has been unable to identify space and no vacant
4 facilities have been reported; and
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6 WHEREAS, public charter schools have been left to explore
7 other creative options to meet their need for affordable
8 facilities; and
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10 WHEREAS, an example of an innovative collaboration between
11 a Department of Education school and a charter school is the co-
12 existing partnership between Kaimuki High School and a public
13 charter middle school, the School for Examining Questions of
14 Sustainability (SEEQS) for the 2017 school year; and
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16 WHEREAS, Kaimuki High School had experienced lower
17 enrollment in recent years with the student body at 750 students
18 when the facility was built to accommodate 1,400; and
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20 WHEREAS, Kaimuki High School has released six of its
21 eighty-eight classroom spaces to be used by SEEQS' one hundred
22 and eighty students, including a portable classroom that was
23 once used as a special-education classroom, an old science
24 laboratory classroom, a large section of the school's cafeteria,
25 and use of a field for outdoor activities; and
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27 WHEREAS, this first-ever partnership between a startup
28 charter school and a Department of Education school is expected
29 to benefit both institutions, with SEEQS saving \$150,000 on rent
30 annually and Kaimuki High receiving a use-of-facilities fee to
31 cover utilities and associated costs; and
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33 WHEREAS, although little interaction is expected between
34 the two sets of students, SEEQS Principal Buffy Cushman-Patz and
35 Kaimuki High Principal Wade Araki have agreed that the schools
36 have similar philosophies, including an emphasis on project-
37 based learning; and
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39 WHEREAS, this is an example of how it can be cost effective
40 for the state to have a charter school in a state-owned
41 facility; and
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3 WHEREAS, an inventory of existing vacant, state-owned
4 facilities can help lead to successful co-existing partnerships;
5 now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education
10 is requested to provide the Legislature with a comprehensive
11 report on state school facilities deemed vacant and appropriate
12 for use by charter schools; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following state departments
15 are also requested to provide the Legislature with a
16 comprehensive report of facilities currently occupied and
17 maintained by its department and the number of vacant rooms and
18 facilities appropriate for use by charter schools:
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- 20 (1) Department of Human Resources Development;
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22 (2) Department of Accounting and General Services;
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24 (3) Department of the Attorney General;
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26 (4) Department of Budget and Finance;
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28 (5) Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs;
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30 (6) Department of Taxation;
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32 (7) University of Hawaii;
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34 (8) Department of Health;
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36 (9) Department of Human Services;
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38 (10) Department of Land and Natural Resources;
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40 (11) Department of Agriculture;
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(15) Department of Public Safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Comptroller, the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, the Attorney General, the Director of Finance, the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, the Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, the Director of Health, the Director of Human Resources Development, the Director of Human Services, the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of Public Safety, the Director of Taxation, the Director of Transportation, the Chairperson of the Board of Regents, the President of the University of Hawaii, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, the Chairperson of the Public Charter School Commission, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Governor of the State of Hawaii.

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