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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO PERFORM A STUDY  
OF THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SYSTEM AND TO CREATE  
ACTIONABLE PROPOSALS FOR FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURAL REFORM.

1 WHEREAS, public charter schools are an essential part of  
2 Hawaii's public education system and provide a quality education  
3 to over 11,000 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 by integrating Hawaiian language, culture,  
8 and history into the curriculum; and  
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10 WHEREAS, although the public charter school system benefits  
11 Hawaii's students, the existing legal and financial frameworks  
12 under which public charter schools must operate continue to  
13 shortchange students; and  
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15 WHEREAS, the existing legal framework gives an unclear  
16 scope of authority to the charter school commission, leading to  
17 inconsistent enforcement of regulatory standards ranging from  
18 inadequate to overbearing, and leaving students without clear  
19 due process rights; and  
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21 WHEREAS, the broken financial system too often leaves  
22 charter schools with inadequate facilities, underfunded special  
23 education programs, and understaffed faculties; and  
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25 WHEREAS, according to section 302D-28, Hawaii Revised  
26 Statutes, charter schools should receive the same per-pupil  
27 allocation from general fund appropriations as Department of  
28 Education schools, but public charter schools must use per-pupil  
29 dollars to pay for rent, salaries, and other expenses while  
30 Department of Education schools use rent-free state-owned



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1 facilities and receive funds for other costs in addition to per-  
2 pupil allotments; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the practical effect of this financial system is  
5 that public charter schools must operate with thousands of  
6 dollars less per student than Department of Education schools;  
7 and  
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9 WHEREAS, because the pervasive financial and legal  
10 inequalities in Hawaii's education system are so great and the  
11 flaws too complex to fix piecemeal, the system needs to be  
12 fundamentally rethought and reworked to protect children's  
13 educational futures; now, therefore  
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
17 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference  
18 Bureau is requested to perform a study of:  
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20 (1) The current legal frameworks pertaining to public  
21 charter schools; and  
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23 (2) The current financial systems pertaining to public  
24 charter schools; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
27 Bureau is requested to create:  
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29 (1) Actionable proposals for structural reform of the  
30 legal frameworks and financial systems pertaining to  
31 public charter schools, incorporating multiple  
32 philosophical perspectives; and  
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34 (2) Actionable proposals for financial reform aimed at  
35 providing equal per-pupil funding for charter school  
36 students; and  
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
40 Bureau is requested to submit a written report of its findings  
41 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



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1 Legislature at least 20 days prior to the convening of the  
2 Regular Session of 2019; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and  
5 the Charter School Commission are each requested to provide  
6 statistics and other information as may be requested by the  
7 Bureau to assist in the timely completion of the study; and  
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
10 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
11 Legislative Reference Bureau, the Chairperson of the Board of  
12 Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the Chairperson  
13 of the Charter School Commission.  
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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Spola", is written over a horizontal line.

MAR - 9 2018

