
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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



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, that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to
18 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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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference
39 Bureau is requested to submit a written report of its findings
40 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the



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Legislature at least 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and the Charter School Commission are each requested to provide statistics and other information as may be requested by the Bureau to assist in the timely completion of the study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the Chairperson of the Charter School Commission.

OFFERED BY:

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