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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION, TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON INCREASING ACCESS TO STABLE, SUITABLE, AND AFFORDABLE FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public charter schools serve a critical  
2 role as laboratories of innovation in the State's education  
3 system; and

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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public charter schools enroll more than  
6 twelve thousand students; and

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8 WHEREAS, lack of funding for, and availability of, proper  
9 facilities has been a long-standing issue for charter schools  
10 nationally and locally, forcing some charter schools in the  
11 State to hold classes outdoors, on covered lanais, or in  
12 unstable temporary structures; and

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14 WHEREAS, public charter schools receive inadequate funding  
15 to support student learning; and

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17 WHEREAS, while the State Public Charter School Commission  
18 may request funding for facilities as part of its annual budget  
19 request, the amounts received in recent fiscal years have not  
20 kept pace with the cost of providing and maintaining  
21 high-quality facilities; and

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23 WHEREAS, despite the Department of Accounting and General  
24 Services and Department of Education being mandated to conduct  
25 biennial surveys and submit biennial reports relating to any  
26 unused state facility that may be used for public charter  
27 schools, the Departments have not identified any such facility;  
28 and  
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1 WHEREAS, unused or underutilized state facilities would  
2 help alleviate the lack of proper facilities for public charter  
3 schools; and

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5 WHEREAS, in addition to the existence of unused and  
6 underutilized facilities in the State, there are various  
7 financing options, such as federal support, that can be used to  
8 help support public charter schools; and

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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the opportunity and responsibility to  
11 maximize existing assets that are currently available to assist  
12 public charter schools to ensure all students have proper  
13 facilities for their education; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
16 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
17 Session of 2024, that the Board of Education, in partnership  
18 with the State Public Charter School Commission, is requested to  
19 submit a report on increasing access to stable, suitable, and  
20 affordable facilities for public charter schools, including any  
21 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty  
22 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the report, the  
25 Board of Education is requested to:

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27 (1) Assess why no unused facilities have been identified  
28 by the appropriate state departments;
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30 (2) Propose changes in policy or practice in establishing  
31 an affirmative duty to connect charter schools with  
32 unused or underutilized facilities, along with  
33 increased accountability and oversight over unused  
34 facilities;
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36 (3) Obtain and publish an updated list from the Department  
37 of Education of unused or underutilized facilities;
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39 (4) Coordinate with the School Facilities Authority to  
40 include public charter school facilities as a priority  
41 for the Authority;
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- 1           (5) Assess the amount of federal funds that are available
- 2           to benefit eligible public charter school facilities
- 3           in the State but are not being accessed; and
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- 5           (6) Assess the feasibility of expanding the range of
- 6           financing options for public charter schools, such as
- 7           tax-exempt bonds, credit enhancement programs, and
- 8           revolving loan funds; and
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10           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller,  
12 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of  
13 Education, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School  
14 Commission, and Executive Director of the School Facilities  
15 Authority.

