
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 for
4 the costs of their facilities from operational funds. However,
5 section 302D-29.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides that the
6 legislature can make appropriations to and authorize bonds for
7 the state public charter school commission for public charter
8 school improvements to address issues of health, safety, and
9 legal compliance; expand or improve instructional space; provide
10 for food services; or provide restroom facilities.

11 Additionally, Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,
12 authorized a framework for providing facilities funding and
13 support for public charter school facilities with adequate
14 prioritization, oversight, and accountability by the charter
15 school facilities funding working group.

16 On March 11, 2019, the charter school facilities funding
17 working group issued its report providing the framework and



1 process for distributing charter school facilities funding that
2 prioritizes funding based on the following:

3 (1) The needs of the charter school, overall benefit to
4 the surrounding community, amount of risk and
5 availability of recourse to the State, and whether a
6 particular charter school received facilities funding
7 through other state funding, including grants-in-aid
8 or a separate appropriation;

9 (2) The existence of substandard facilities; the need to
10 address providing equity and adequacy as well as
11 issues of health, safety, and legal compliance;

12 (3) Whether a school's facilities are located on state
13 property or under an agreement whereby the State
14 controls the property with at least twenty years
15 remaining;

16 (4) Benefits to the surrounding community, including:
17 (A) Relieving overcrowding in district schools caused
18 by an increasing student population;
19 (B) Providing families an option when schools in
20 their district are low performing; and

1 (C) Requiring schools to provide a clear statement of
2 public need along with policies and guidelines
3 for public use if requesting funds for a new
4 building or renovating an existing space,
5 including cafeterias, libraries, or auditoriums,
6 that would be made available to the public;

7 (5) Title I schools; and

8 (6) Facilities to be built or repaired meet requirements
9 for or have been issued building permits and comply
10 with county laws.

11 The legislature further finds that public charter schools
12 receive inadequate funding to support student learning and that
13 more funding for charter school facilities needs to be made.
14 Public charter schools that lack adequate building facilities
15 are sometimes forced to hold classes outdoors, on covered
16 lanais, or in unstable temporary structures and need sufficient
17 funding to address these inadequacies.

18 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to the state
19 public charter school commission for distribution to public
20 charter schools, based on the distribution methodology
21 determined by the charter school facilities funding working



1 group report, for infrastructure costs, the rental or lease of
2 charter school facilities, and the repair and maintenance of
3 network infrastructure for charter schools.

4 SECTION 2. Section 302D-29.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

6 "(a) Beginning with the [~~2016-2017~~] 2026-2027 fiscal year,
7 and each fiscal year thereafter, the legislature shall consider
8 making an appropriation and bond authorization to the commission
9 for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance
10 of public charter school improvements to address issues of
11 health, safety, and legal compliance; expand or improve
12 instructional space; provide for rental or lease of facilities;
13 provide for food services; or provide restroom facilities. The
14 appropriation and bond authorization for charter schools shall
15 be separate from, and in addition to, any appropriation made to
16 charter schools pursuant to [~~this section and~~] section 302D-28.
17 These amounts shall be prioritized for allocation by the charter
18 school facilities funding working group."

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for



1 the state public charter school commission to allocate to
2 charter schools, based on the distribution methodology
3 determined by the charter school facilities funding working
4 group, for infrastructure costs, lease or rent assistance based
5 in part on the need and financial performance of the charter
6 schools, and repair and maintenance of network infrastructure.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state public
8 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Charter Schools; Facilities Funding; Infrastructure;
Appropriation

Description:

Authorizes the funding for rental or lease of facilities by 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 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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