
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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, In the 2024-2025 school year, the total enrollment
6 for Hawaii charter schools exceeded thirteen hundred students;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, the Hawaii charter school sector continues to grow
10 since the COVID-19 pandemic; however, despite the growing
11 population of youth being enrolled in charter schools, public
12 charter schools struggle to secure and pay for their own school
13 buildings; and
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15 WHEREAS, many charter schools have been forced to operate
16 out of tents, old offices and former restaurants when space is
17 scarce, sometimes searching for years for permanent facilities
18 that can keep up with their growth; and
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20 WHEREAS, lack of funding for, and availability of, proper
21 facilities has been a long-standing issue for charter schools
22 nationally and locally, forcing some charter schools in the
23 State to hold classes outdoors, on covered lanais, or in
24 unstable temporary structures; and
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26 WHEREAS, Hālau Lokahi, which closed in 2015, spent roughly
27 \$33,000 a month on facilities, in addition, Kamalani Academy
28 used more than half its budget roughly \$39,000 to rent an old
29 Catholic school campus in Wahiawā; and



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2 WHEREAS, despite the Department of Accounting and General
3 Services and Department of Education being mandated to conduct
4 biennial surveys and submit biennial reports relating to any
5 unused state facility that may be used for public charter
6 schools, the departments have not identified any such facility;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, unused or underutilized state facilities would
10 help alleviate the lack of proper facilities for public charter
11 schools, despite the closure of many small public schools; and

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13 WHEREAS, allowing charters to share campus space with
14 shrinking Department of Education schools would create more
15 educational options for families; now, therefore,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the Board of Education, in
20 partnership with the State Public Charter School Commission, is
21 requested to submit a report on increasing access to stable,
22 suitable, and affordable facilities for public charter schools,
23 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
24 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
25 of 2027; and

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

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

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OFFERED BY:  _____
FEB 17 2026

