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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO CONDUCT  
A STUDY 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 13,000 students; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the Hawaii charter school sector continues to grow  
9 since the COVID-19 pandemic; however, despite the growing  
10 population of youth being enrolled in charter schools, public  
11 charter schools struggle to secure and pay for their own school  
12 buildings; and  
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14           WHEREAS, many charter schools have been forced to operate  
15 out of tents, old offices, and former restaurants when space is  
16 scarce, sometimes searching for years for permanent facilities  
17 that can keep up with their growth; and  
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19           WHEREAS, lack of funding for, and availability of, proper  
20 facilities has been a long-standing issue for charter schools  
21 nationally and locally, forcing some charter schools in the  
22 State to hold classes outdoors, on covered lanais, or in  
23 unstable temporary structures; and  
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25           WHEREAS, Hālau Lokahi, which closed in 2015, spent roughly  
26 \$33,000 a month on facilities, which Kamalani Academy used more  
27 than half its budget, roughly \$39,000, to rent an old Catholic  
28 school campus in Wahiawā; and  
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1           WHEREAS, despite the Department of Accounting and General  
2 Services and Department of Education being mandated to conduct  
3 biennial surveys and submit biennial reports relating to any  
4 unused state facility that may be used for public charter  
5 schools, the departments have not identified any such facility;  
6 and  
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8           WHEREAS, unused or underutilized state facilities would  
9 help alleviate the lack of proper facilities for public charter  
10 schools; and  
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12           WHEREAS, allowing charters to share campus space with  
13 shrinking Department of Education schools would create more  
14 educational options for families; now, therefore,  
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16           BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
17 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
18 of 2026, the Senate concurring, that the State Public Charter  
19 School Commission is requested to conduct a study on increasing  
20 access to stable, suitable, and affordable facilities for public  
21 charter schools; and  
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23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the study, the  
24 State Public Charter School Commission is requested to:  
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- 26           (1) Assess why no unused facilities have been identified  
27 by the appropriate state departments;  
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- 29           (2) Propose changes in policy or practice in establishing  
30 an affirmative duty to connect charter schools with  
31 unused or underutilized facilities, along with  
32 increased accountability and oversight over unused  
33 facilities;  
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- 35           (3) Obtain and publish an updated list from the Department  
36 of Education and Department of Accounting and General  
37 Services of unused or underutilized facilities;  
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- 39           (4) Identify Department of Education public schools with  
40 low enrollment that could share their facilities with  
41 charter schools;  
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- 1 (5) Coordinate with the School Facilities Authority to  
2 include public charter school facilities as a priority  
3 for the Authority;  
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- 5 (6) Assess the amount of federal funds or any lands that  
6 are available to assist eligible public charter school  
7 with their facilities needs in the State but are not  
8 being accessed; and  
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- 10 (7) Assess the feasibility of expanding the range of  
11 financing options for public charter schools, such as  
12 tax-exempt bonds, credit enhancement programs, and  
13 revolving loan funds; and  
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School  
16 Commission is requested to submit the study, including any  
17 findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation, to the  
18 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
19 the Regular Session of 2027; and  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
22 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,  
23 Comptroller, Chairperson of the Board of Education,  
24 Superintendent of Education, Executive Director of the State  
25 Public Charter School Commission, and Executive Director of the  
26 School Facilities Authority.

