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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, 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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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, despite the closure of many small public 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,

15  
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, that the Board of Education, in partnership with the  
19 State Public Charter School Commission, is requested to submit a  
20 report on increasing access to stable, suitable, and affordable  
21 facilities for public charter schools, including any proposed  
22 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior  
23 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

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

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- 28 (1) Assess why no unused facilities have been identified  
29 by the appropriate state departments;
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  - 31 (2) Propose changes in policy or practice in establishing  
32 an affirmative duty to connect charter schools with  
33 unused or underutilized facilities, along with  
34 increased accountability and oversight over unused  
35 facilities;
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  - 37 (3) Obtain and publish an updated list from the Department  
38 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;  
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- 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller,  
21 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of  
22 Education, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School  
23 Commission, and Executive Director of the School Facilities  
24 Authority.  
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OFFERED BY:



FEB 17 2026

