
HOUSE 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
24

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
29

30 WHEREAS, despite the Department of Accounting and General
31 Services and Department of Education being mandated to conduct
32 biennial surveys and submit biennial reports relating to any



1 unused state facility that may be used for public charter
2 schools, the departments have not identified any such facility;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, unused or underutilized state facilities would
6 help alleviate the lack of proper facilities for public charter
7 schools; and
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9 WHEREAS, allowing charters to share campus space with
10 shrinking Department of Education schools would create more
11 educational options for families; now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
15 of 2026, that the State Public Charter School Commission is
16 requested to conduct a study on increasing access to stable,
17 suitable, and affordable facilities for public charter schools;
18 and
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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the study, the
21 State Public Charter School Commission is requested to:
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23 (1) Assess why no unused facilities have been identified
24 by the appropriate state departments;
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26 (2) Propose changes in policy or practice in establishing
27 an affirmative duty to connect charter schools with
28 unused or underutilized facilities, along with
29 increased accountability and oversight over unused
30 facilities;
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32 (3) Obtain and publish an updated list from the Department
33 of Education and Department of Accounting and General
34 Services of unused or underutilized facilities;
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36 (4) Identify Department of Education public schools with
37 low enrollment that could share their facilities with
38 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
9
- 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller,
23 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of
24 Education, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School
25 Commission, and Executive Director of the School Facilities
26 Authority.

