

MAR 16 2026

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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THIS BODY TO ESTABLISH A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE THE SUPPORT SYSTEMS AVAILABLE TO STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRALIZED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SIMILAR SERVICE COOPERATIVE WOULD PROVIDE IMPROVED SUPPORT TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

1           WHEREAS, the State's public charter schools were  
2 established to provide innovative, community-driven educational  
3 opportunities that serve diverse student populations and  
4 strengthen educational outcomes across the State; and  
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6           WHEREAS, public charter schools serve thousands of students  
7 statewide, including many Native Hawaiian students and  
8 underserved communities, and provide culturally grounded, place-  
9 based, and innovative educational models; and  
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11           WHEREAS, the State Public Charter School Commission is  
12 responsible for authorizing and overseeing public charter  
13 schools, which operate independently from the Department of  
14 Education; and  
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16           WHEREAS, public charter schools often face operational  
17 challenges related to facilities acquisition and maintenance,  
18 transportation procurement, food services compliance, and human  
19 resources administrative support structures; and  
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21           WHEREAS, despite these structural differences, public  
22 charter schools remain an integral part of the State's public  
23 education system and should receive equitable consideration in  
24 policies and programs designed to support students and  
25 educators; and  
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27           WHEREAS, this body continues to recognize the importance of  
28 supporting educators and students in all public schools,  
29 including public charter schools, such as through legislation



1 clarifying that charter school teachers are eligible for  
2 statewide incentive programs; and

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4 WHEREAS, policymakers, educators, and community leaders  
5 have raised questions regarding whether additional structural  
6 support systems may be necessary to ensure public charter  
7 schools receive adequate operational support and services; and

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9 WHEREAS, one potential option for consideration is the  
10 establishment of a centralized administrative charter school  
11 district or a statewide service cooperative that could provide  
12 coordinated back-office administrative and operational support  
13 for public charter schools statewide; and

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15 WHEREAS, further discussion and collaboration among key  
16 education stakeholders are necessary to evaluate the  
17 feasibility, fiscal impact, and potential challenges of a  
18 centralized administrative structure; now, therefore,

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20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
21 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the  
22 House of Representatives concurring, that this body is urged to  
23 establish a Public Charter School Working Group to examine the  
24 support systems available to state public charter schools and  
25 determine whether the establishment of a centralized public  
26 charter school district or similar service cooperative would  
27 provide improved support to public charter schools; and

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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Public Charter  
30 Schools Network is requested to convene and lead the Public  
31 Charter School Working Group; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
34 to include the following members or their designees:

- 35  
36 (1) One representative of the Hawaii Public Charter  
37 Schools Network who is requested to serve as chair of  
38 the Working Group;  
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40 (2) The Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on  
41 Education;  
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- 1 (3) The Chair of the House of Representatives Standing  
2 Committee on Education;
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- 4 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Education;
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- 6 (5) The Executive Director of the State Public Charter  
7 School Commission;
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- 9 (6) The Superintendent of Education;
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- 11 (7) One representative from Na Lei Na'auao - Native  
12 Hawaiian Charter School Alliance to be invited by the  
13 members of the Working Group;
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- 15 (8) One representative from a non-Hawaiian-focused public  
16 charter school to be invited by the members of the  
17 Working Group;
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- 19 (9) One representative from a conversion charter school to  
20 be invited by the members of the Working Group; and
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- 22 (10) One representative who serves as a Business Manager or  
23 Operations Coordinator at an active public charter  
24 school to be invited by the members of the Working  
25 Group; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested  
28 to:

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- 30 (1) Examine the current governance and support structure  
31 for public charter schools in the State;
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- 33 (2) Identify specific challenges faced by public charter  
34 schools related to facilities maintenance, operational  
35 support, and access to statewide services;
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- 37 (3) Evaluate whether the creation of a centralized public  
38 charter school district or similar service cooperative  
39 would help to provide more effective administrative  
40 and operational support, including the separation of  
41 school authorization functions from school support  
42 services;



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(4) Identify potential policy or statutory changes that may be required to implement the structure evaluated pursuant to paragraph (3); and

(5) Develop recommendations to strengthen support for the State's public charter schools, including a preliminary cost-benefit analysis of centralized support services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School Commission, Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network, and President of Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning Ohana.

OFFERED BY:



