
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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1 WHEREAS, this body continues to recognize the importance of
2 supporting educators and students in all public schools,
3 including public charter schools, such as through legislation
4 clarifying that charter school teachers are eligible for
5 statewide incentive programs; and

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

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

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

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

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Public Charter
33 Schools Network is requested to convene and lead the Public
34 Charter School Working Group; and

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

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39 (1) One representative of the Hawaii Public Charter
40 Schools Network who is requested to serve as chair of
41 the Working Group;
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- 1 (2) The Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on
2 Education;
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- 4 (3) The Chair of the House of Representatives Standing
5 Committee on Education;
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- 7 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Education;
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- 9 (5) The Executive Director of the State Public Charter
10 School Commission;
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- 12 (6) The Superintendent of Education;
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- 14 (7) One representative from Na Lei Na'auao - Native
15 Hawaiian Charter School Alliance, to be invited by the
16 Chairperson or members of the Working Group;
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- 18 (8) One representative from a non-Hawaiian-focused public
19 charter school, to be invited by the Chairperson or
20 members of the Working Group;
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- 22 (9) One representative from a conversion charter school,
23 to be invited by the Chairperson or members of the
24 Working Group;
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- 26 (10) One representative who serves as a Business Manager or
27 Operations Coordinator at an active public charter
28 school, to be invited by the Chairperson or members of
29 the Working Group; and
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- 31 (11) One representative of HawaiiKidsCAN, to be invited by
32 the Chairperson or members of the Working Group; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
35 to:

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- 37 (1) Examine the current governance and support structure
38 for public charter schools in the State;
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- 40 (2) Identify specific challenges faced by public charter
41 schools related to facilities maintenance, operational
42 support, and access to statewide services;



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- 2 (3) Evaluate whether the creation of a centralized public
- 3 charter school district or similar service cooperative
- 4 would help to provide more effective administrative
- 5 and operational support, including the separation of
- 6 school authorization functions from school support
- 7 services;
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- 9 (4) Identify potential policy or statutory changes that
- 10 may be required to implement the structure evaluated
- 11 pursuant to paragraph (3); and
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- 13 (5) Develop recommendations to strengthen support for the
- 14 State's public charter schools, including a
- 15 preliminary cost-benefit analysis of centralized
- 16 support services; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
19 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
20 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
21 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
22 of 2027; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
25 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
26 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of
27 Education, Executive Director of the State Public Charter School
28 Commission, Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Charter
29 Schools Network, President of Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning Ohana, and
30 Executive Director of HawaiiKidsCAN.

