

MAR 16 2026

SENATE 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
5

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
10

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
15

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
20

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
26

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
30 clarifying that charter school teachers are eligible for
31 statewide incentive programs; and
32



S.R. NO. 191

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

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

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

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

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

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
31 to include the following members or their designees:
32

- 33 (1) One representative of the Hawaii Public Charter
34 Schools Network who is requested to serve as chair of
35 the Working Group;
36
- 37 (2) The Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on
38 Education;
39
- 40 (3) The Chair of the House of Representatives Standing
41 Committee on Education;
42



- 1 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Education;
- 2
- 3 (5) The Executive Director of the State Public Charter
- 4 School Commission;
- 5
- 6 (6) The Superintendent of Education;
- 7
- 8 (7) One representative from Na Lei Na'auao - Native
- 9 Hawaiian Charter School Alliance to be invited by the
- 10 members of the Working Group;
- 11
- 12 (8) One representative from a non-Hawaiian-focused public
- 13 charter school to be invited by the members of the
- 14 Working Group;
- 15
- 16 (9) One representative from a conversion charter school to
- 17 be invited by the members of the Working Group; and
- 18
- 19 (10) One representative who serves as a Business Manager or
- 20 Operations Coordinator at an active public charter
- 21 school to be invited by the members of the Working
- 22 Group; and
- 23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Working Group is requested
25 to:

- 26
- 27 (1) Examine the current governance and support structure
- 28 for public charter schools in the State;
- 29
- 30 (2) Identify specific challenges faced by public charter
- 31 schools related to facilities maintenance, operational
- 32 support, and access to statewide services;
- 33
- 34 (3) Evaluate whether the creation of a centralized public
- 35 charter school district or similar service cooperative
- 36 would help to provide more effective administrative
- 37 and operational support, including the separation of
- 38 school authorization functions from school support
- 39 services;
- 40



S.R. NO. 191

- 1 (4) Identify potential policy or statutory changes that
- 2 may be required to implement the structure evaluated
- 3 pursuant to paragraph (3); and
- 4
- 5 (5) Develop recommendations to strengthen support for the
- 6 State's public charter schools, including a
- 7 preliminary cost-benefit analysis of centralized
- 8 support services; and
- 9

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

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the
18 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of
19 the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Executive
20 Director of the State Public Charter School Commission,
21 Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network,
22 and President of Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning Ohana.

23
24
25

OFFERED BY: 

