

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO
CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPACITY ISSUES
THROUGH CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANTS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
ON HOW TO STRENGTHEN THESE EFFORTS.

1 WHEREAS, the public schools located in Leeward Oahu operate
2 at full or near-full capacity while struggling with severe
3 overcrowding on campuses; and
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5 WHEREAS, this growing issue of public school overcrowding
6 has led to many schools operating at full capacity even while
7 providing multi-track schedules; and
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9 WHEREAS, public school capacity concerns are not expected
10 to ease due to the significant demand for additional residential
11 developments in the area; and
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13 WHEREAS, public school capacity concerns are increasingly
14 linked to the projected construction of residential high-rises
15 in the Kakaako community development district; and
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17 WHEREAS, construction of additional public school campuses
18 is the most common method by which public school capacity
19 concerns have been traditionally resolved; and
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21 WHEREAS, this method involves significant costs, demand for
22 available state land, and time before the school may commence
23 operations such that the feasibility and sustainability of
24 continued reliance on this method has been called into question;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, high-quality start-up public charter school
28 campuses may be constructed and able to commence operations more
29 quickly and at a lower cost than construction and commencement
30 of traditional public schools; and
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1 WHEREAS, public charter schools are potentially capable of
2 filling important educational niches absent in the state public
3 school system model, including the operation of programs in
4 non-traditional facilities; and

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6 WHEREAS, in the State Public Charter School Commission's
7 2014 Request for Proposals for new public charter schools and
8 orientation sessions on the application process, applicants had
9 to address anticipated contributions by a proposed school to the
10 state public education system, such as procuring additional
11 sources for school capacity where existing public schools are at
12 or nearing capacity or where significant enrollment increases
13 are projected; and

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15 WHEREAS, the State Public Charter School Commission also
16 has appropriately and significantly increased the rigor of
17 Hawaii's charter school application process, in order to ensure
18 that only high quality applications for new public charter
19 schools are approved, and also has lengthened the start-up time
20 period for an approved applicant to prepare to commence school
21 operations successfully; and

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23 WHEREAS, existing public charter schools are able to submit
24 proposals to the State Public Charter School Commission for the
25 expansion or replication of operations on additional campuses;
26 now, therefore,

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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the State Public
31 Charter School Commission is requested to continue its efforts
32 to encourage prospective public charter school applicants to
33 address larger public education system needs, such as the need
34 for increased school capacity in particular geographic areas;
35 and

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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School
38 Commission is requested to intensify its efforts to raise
39 awareness among community stakeholders, including state and
40 county agencies, developers, and community-based organizations,
41 of the potential of public charter schools to resolve these



S.C.R. NO. 188

1 needs, and the rigorous application process of the State Public
2 Charter School Commission; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School
5 Commission is further requested to assess existing and proposed
6 legislative means for incentivizing prospective public charter
7 school applicants to submit proposals addressing public school
8 overcrowding and the need for additional public school capacity;
9 and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School
12 Commission is requested to submit a report on the status of its
13 efforts and recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
14 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
15 convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
19 Board of Education, Chairperson of the State Public Charter
20 School Commission, and Executive Director of the State Public
21 Charter School Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

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