

MAR 13 2015

SENATE 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
26

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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32 WHEREAS, public charter schools are potentially capable of
33 filling important educational niches absent in the state public



1 school system model, including the operation of programs in
2 non-traditional facilities; and

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4 WHEREAS, in the State Public Charter School Commission's
5 2014 Request for Proposals for new public charter schools and
6 orientation sessions on the application process, applicants had
7 to address anticipated contributions by a proposed school to the
8 state public education system, such as procuring additional
9 sources for school capacity where existing public schools are at
10 or nearing capacity or where significant enrollment increases
11 are projected; and

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

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

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

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



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

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

13
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 15 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 16 Education, Chairperson of the State Public Charter School
 17 Commission, and Executive Director of the State Public Charter
 18 School Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

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