

JAN 20 2017

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that certain department
2 of education schools, such as those located in leeward Oahu, are
3 operating at or near-full capacity and struggling with severe
4 overcrowding. Additionally, public school capacity concerns
5 have been raised in connection with the projected construction
6 of residential high-rises in the Kakaako community development
7 district.

8 Section 302D-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides for the
9 creation of new start-up public charter schools. Public charter
10 schools could be a crucial piece of a larger solution to address
11 school overcrowding as public charter schools can often be
12 established and begin operation in less time than it would take
13 to establish and open a new school under the department of
14 education. The state public charter school commission
15 identified the following priority needs for applications in its
16 2016-2017 request for proposals for new public charter schools:



1 (1) New schools that would provide additional school
2 capacity in geographic areas in which existing public
3 schools are already exceeding, have already reached,
4 or are projected to reach or exceed full enrollment
5 capacity; and

6 (2) New schools that would serve communities in which
7 existing public schools are not performing well
8 academically, as measured by the State's strive HI
9 performance system and other student outcomes, and
10 that present a plan for improving these outcomes.

11 Although the State previously provided start-up grants to
12 assist public charter schools with their pre-opening costs
13 before operating funds become available to them, currently, pre-
14 opening charter schools receive no state assistance in meeting
15 these significant challenges.

16 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for start-up
17 grants to assist one or more new pre-opening charter schools.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



S.B. NO. 197

1 2018-2019 for start-up grants to assist pre-opening charter
 2 schools that meet the priority needs identified by the state
 3 public charter school commission in its 2016-2017 request for
 4 proposals for new schools. The state public charter school
 5 commission shall establish grant criteria and guidelines for use
 6 of grant funds.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the state public
 8 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

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S.B. NO. 197

Report Title:

State Public Charter School Commission; New Charter Schools;
Start-Up Grants; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for start-up grants for newly approved, pre-opening public charter schools.

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