
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENSURE THAT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, INCLUDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE FOOD SERVICES.

1 WHEREAS, all charter schools in Hawai'i are chartered by the
2 State Public Charter School Commission under the oversight of
3 the Board of Education and subject to the operating parameters
4 of the Department of Education for facilities and food services;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, there are two types of charter schools in Hawai'i:
8 start-up charter schools with no operating facilities and
9 charter schools that were converted from Department of Education
10 schools with facilities; and
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12 WHEREAS, there are thirty-seven charter schools in Hawai'i,
13 of which over half are committed to Hawaiian epistemology; are
14 community designed and controlled; and reflect, respect, and
15 embrace 'ōlelo Hawai'i, 'ike Hawai'i, and Hawaiian cultural
16 values, philosophies, and practices; and
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18 WHEREAS, there are nearly twelve thousand charter school
19 students in Hawai'i, all of whom should have equal access to
20 appropriate facilities and food subsidies, but this is currently
21 not the case; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Department of Education assesses the free and
24 reduced lunch applications of all public school students and
25 determined in the 2016 Title I status reports that seventy
26 percent of the student population of Hawaiian charter schools is
27 considered economically disadvantaged and qualifies for federal
28 food subsidies; and
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30 WHEREAS, start-up charter schools have no kitchen
31 facilities, while conversion charter schools may have existing
32 Department of Education kitchen facilities; and
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1 WHEREAS, some charter schools, especially those in rural
 2 areas of Hawai'i, are denied access to National School Lunch
 3 Program subsidies because there are no appropriate United States
 4 Department of Agriculture certified kitchens, besides those
 5 existing in Department of Education public schools; and

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 7 WHEREAS, since 2000, the inception of start-up charter
 8 schools in Hawai'i, the State Public Charter School Commission
 9 has repeatedly requested facilities funding for charter schools;
 10 and

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 12 WHEREAS, without United States Department of Agriculture
 13 appropriate kitchens in charter schools, low income families are
 14 not able to receive federal free and reduced food subsidies that
 15 are provided to all other traditional public school families;
 16 and

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 18 WHEREAS, without United States Department of Agriculture
 19 appropriate kitchens in charter schools, Hawai'i is losing
 20 millions of dollars in food subsidies for low income families
 21 per year; and

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 23 WHEREAS, the lack of appropriate free and reduced food
 24 service severely burdens and adversely impacts charter school
 25 families; and

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 27 WHEREAS, beginning 2012, the Department of Education
 28 decided that charter schools would no longer have access to the
 29 nearest existing Department of Education food service, which
 30 effectively resulted in the denial of access to qualified
 31 families receiving federal subsidized meals under the United
 32 States Department of Agriculture National School Lunch Program;
 33 now, therefore,

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 35 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
 36 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
 37 that the Department of Education is urged to ensure that all
 38 public school students, including public charter school
 39 students, have equal access to appropriate and food services;
 40 and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
2 requested to immediately provide school breakfasts and lunches
3 to charter school students who qualify at no additional expense
4 to the charter school or students; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of the Board of
8 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Executive Director
9 of the State Public Charter School Commission.
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