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# 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 there are nearly  
2 twelve thousand students enrolled in the thirty-seven public  
3 charter schools operating under the governance of the public  
4 charter school commission and the board of education. The  
5 majority of charter school funding is provided on a non-facility  
6 general fund per-pupil basis, calculated from the sum of certain  
7 general fund non-facility operating appropriations to the  
8 department of education and each charter school's pro rata  
9 enrollment compared to the total public education enrollment.  
10 Charter school non-facility general fund per-pupil funding has  
11 been \$6,846, \$7,089 and \$7,323 in school years 2015-2016, 2016-  
12 2017, and 2017-2018, respectively. Charter schools use this  
13 funding to pay for a wide range of school-related expenses, such  
14 as for teachers and administrative staff, school facilities,  
15 meal service, and student transportation. Notably, a  
16 significant amount of charter schools' expenses may not be borne  
17 by schools operated under the department of education.



1 Accordingly, while the non-facility general fund per-pupil  
2 funding provided to charter schools has increased each year,  
3 charter school operational costs continue to rise, and gaps  
4 continue to remain between public charter schools and schools  
5 under the operation of the department of education. As the  
6 public charter school commission's 2019-2023 Strategic Vision  
7 and Plan explains, "[f]unding gaps continue in per pupil  
8 allocation, facilities, payroll, transportation and food  
9 services, causing charter schools to use already meager per  
10 pupil allocation to provide basic services that are provided  
11 through centralized services by the Departments of Education  
12 (DOE), Accounting and General Services (DAGS) and Department of  
13 Transportation (DOT) for other public schools."

14 The legislature further finds that the potential disparity  
15 in per-pupil funding for food services is particularly  
16 concerning. The department of education's 2017-2018 Strive HI  
17 Performance System results show that a majority of public  
18 charter school students meet the poverty threshold for free or  
19 reduced lunch; however, many charter schools report that they  
20 are unable to access National School Lunch Program subsidies for  
21 a number of reasons. As a result, these schools must either ask



1 students to bring their own lunch or purchase lunch from a  
 2 vendor or provide lunch to students at the free or reduced rate  
 3 and waive the subsidy, neither of which is satisfactory or fair  
 4 to the schools and their students.

5 The board of education has recognized the importance of the  
 6 State's public charter schools as an integral component of  
 7 public education strategy, and its Education Strategic Plan  
 8 2017-2020 describes shared objectives for equity and excellence  
 9 for every child across Hawaii's nearly three hundred public  
 10 schools, including the State's public charter schools. Despite  
 11 these objectives, some public charter schools continue to be  
 12 forced to require their students to provide their own lunch, or  
 13 use the schools' non-facility general fund per-pupil funding to  
 14 pay for free or reduced rate lunches for their students.

15 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding to the public  
 16 charter school commission to allocate to public charter schools  
 17 for student meal service costs.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
 19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and  
 21 the same amount or so much thereof as may be necessary for



# H.B. NO. 730

1 fiscal year 2020-2021 for the public charter school commission  
2 to allocate to charter schools for meal service costs, as  
3 determined by the commission.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the public  
5 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

7  
INTRODUCED BY: Ch Todd (BR)  
JAN 22 2019



# H.B. NO. 730

**Report Title:**

Charter Schools; Meal Service Costs; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the public charter school commission to allocate to charter schools for meal service costs.

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