

MAR 03 2016

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO CONVENE
A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING
A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA GRANTING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
PROGRAM FOR ADULT LEARNERS.

1 WHEREAS, there exists a substantial proportion of adult
2 residents without a high school diploma who desire to earn such
3 qualifications; and
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5 WHEREAS, individuals with a high school diploma earn more
6 on average than individuals with a General Educational
7 Development transcript; and
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9 WHEREAS, the existing state high school enrollment age
10 limit enacted by Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, prevents
11 adult learners older than twenty years of age from enrolling in
12 public high school programs; and
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14 WHEREAS, public charter schools are potentially capable of
15 filling important educational niches absent in the state public
16 school system model, including the operation of high school
17 programs for adult learners between the ages of twenty and
18 twenty-six; and
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20 WHEREAS, section 302D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
21 establishes the State Public Charter School Commission for the
22 authorization of high-quality public charter schools throughout
23 the State under the oversight of the Board of Education; and
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25 WHEREAS, the State Public Charter School Commission is the
26 sole authorizer of public charter schools; and
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28 WHEREAS, at least two other state legislatures have enacted
29 legislation creating adult high school diploma public charter
30 school programs, including Arkansas and Texas; and
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32 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to improving the
33 secondary learning opportunities of adult learners in the State



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1 of Hawaii who were previously unable to attain a high school
2 diploma; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
6 that the State Public Charter School Commission is requested to
7 form a working group to evaluate the feasibility of establishing
8 a high school diploma granting public charter school program for
9 adult learners; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group examine
12 potential impacts to existing adult education programs,
13 including the Department of Education's Community School for
14 Adults; and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall consist
17 of, but not be limited to, interested legislators, the
18 Superintendent of the Department of Education, a member of the
19 Board of Education, a member of the State Public Charter School
20 Commission, members of community non-profits who have experience
21 working with adult learners, and other interested stakeholders;
22 and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members are requested to
25 select a chair of the working group from among themselves; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School
28 Commission shall submit a report of the working group's findings
29 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
30 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
31 the Regular Session of 2017; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
34 on June 30, 2017; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 2 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 3 Education, Chairperson of the State Public Charter School
 4 Commission, and Executive Director of the State Public Charter
 5 School Commission.

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OFFERED BY:

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