

JAN 25 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR NEW CENTURY CHARTER
SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 302A-1182, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) Up to a total of [~~twenty-three~~] thirty schools may be
4 established as new century charter schools~~[-]~~; provided that
5 seven new century charter schools focusing on environmental
6 education may be established, one on each of the islands of
7 Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kauai and one each on the east
8 and west sides of the island of Hawaii. These new century
9 charter schools may be established by:

10 (1) The creation of a new school, pursuant to subsections
11 (b) and (c); or

12 (2) The creation of a new school comprising programs or
13 sections of existing public school populations and
14 using existing public school facilities, pursuant to
15 subsections (b) and (c)."

S.B. NO. 2356

1 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

INTRODUCED BY:

BY REQUEST

SB. NO. 2356

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Land and Natural Resources

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR NEW CENTURY CHARTER SCHOOLS.

PURPOSE: To authorize the establishment of New Century Charter Schools focusing on environmental education on the islands of Hawaii, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kauai.

MEANS: Amend section 302A-1182, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: New Century Charter Schools have gained in popularity and enrollment over the past few years, providing an alternative approach to education by accommodating the individual needs of students. These schools encourage innovation and allow parents and the community to play a powerful role in shaping and supporting education in Hawaii. They also afford more flexibility in addressing student-specific needs, and have the freedom to supplement their curriculum and shape their academic programs, which is not readily possible under the traditional school system.

As such, the Department believes that charter schools could serve as a viable conduit in nurturing the youth of Hawaii on our rich natural heritage and the need to conserve and protect our natural resources, by offering environmental education as part of their curriculum.

This bill would increase the maximum amount of New Century Charter Schools, from up to a total of twenty-three, to an additional seven, with one on each of the islands of Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kauai, and one each on east and west side of the island

of Hawaii, provided that these additional schools focus on environmental education.

Impact on the public: This bill would allow more educational opportunities for Hawaii's families and allow for an expansion of environmental education programs and curriculum across the State.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
None.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: EDN 600.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: Department of Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.