
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Following the 2009 legislative session, the
2 chairs of the senate committee on economic development and
3 technology and the house committee on economic revitalization,
4 business and military affairs convened a technology caucus work
5 group to bring together industry stakeholders and interested
6 policymakers to develop recommendations for legislation to
7 enhance Hawaii's struggling economy. The work group provided a
8 forum to review the current status of Hawaii's
9 science/technology industry, identify state or county actions
10 that impede long-term growth and expansion of technology
11 companies, and develop recommendations to address these
12 impediments. The work group also identified best practices
13 supporting the growth and development of science/technology
14 industries in other jurisdictions to aid in developing proposed
15 suggestions for future legislation.

16 In 2007, the legislature strongly endorsed initiatives
17 related to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)
18 fields, and creative media education as the most practical,



1 hands-on means of increasing students' interest in pursuing
2 math/science and technology careers. Emphasizing the need to
3 build upon solid performance outcomes, the legislature enacted
4 Act 111 and Act 271, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, to expand
5 existing and new STEM initiatives in Hawaii's public schools.

6 The initial legislative targets for 2007-2008 were to
7 double the existing forty-eight programs within public schools
8 to achieve a level of eighty-four school initiatives, and the
9 number of schools participating in STEM initiatives far exceeded
10 the 2008 target.

11 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's public schools
12 now have an opportunity to continue this expansion through the
13 \$4,350,000,000 Race to the Top Fund, part of the American
14 Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the largest-ever federal
15 competitive investment in school reform. It will reward states
16 for past accomplishments, create incentives for future
17 improvements, and challenge states to create comprehensive
18 strategies for addressing the four central areas of reform that
19 will drive school improvement:

- 20 (1) Adopting internationally benchmarked standards and
21 assessments that prepare students for success in
22 college and the workplace;



1 (2) Recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding
2 effective teachers and principals, especially where
3 they are needed most;

4 (3) Building data systems that measure student success and
5 inform teachers and principals about how they can
6 improve instruction; and

7 (4) Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

8 Awards will go to states that are leading the way with
9 ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent,
10 compelling, and comprehensive education reform in these four
11 areas. Applications for the first of two rounds of competitions
12 for the grants are due January 19, 2010, and the winners of the
13 first round of funding will be notified by April 2010.

14 Applications for the second round will be due June 1, 2010, with
15 the announcement of all winners being made by September 2010.

16 Hawaii's public charter schools offer a unique opportunity
17 to demonstrate the State's commitment to the goals of the Race
18 to the Top Fund. Currently, there are thirty-one public charter
19 schools, five of which are conversion charter schools. These
20 schools offer innovative learning experiences and the
21 flexibility necessary to achieve both the State's commitment to
22 STEM education, and the goals of the Race to the Top Fund.



1 The purpose of this Act is to implement recommendations of
2 the technology caucus work group by allowing for the additional
3 expansion of Hawaii's public charter schools by deleting the
4 limit on the number of conversion charter schools.

5 SECTION 2. Section 302B-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

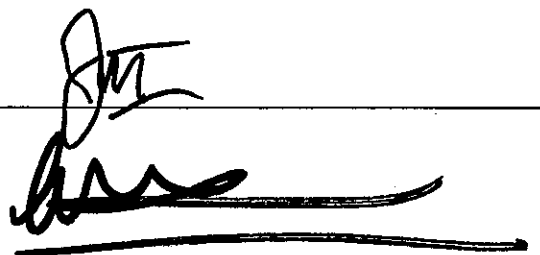
7 "**§302B-4 Limits on charter schools.** The panel may
8 authorize one new start-up charter school for each existing
9 start-up charter school that has received a three-year or longer
10 accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and
11 Colleges or a comparable accreditation authority as determined
12 by the panel, or for each start-up charter school whose charter
13 is revoked. [~~The total number of conversion charter schools
14 authorized by the panel shall not exceed twenty five.~~]"

15 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18

INTRODUCED BY: _____



Report Title:

Charter Schools; Conversion Charter Schools

Description:

Deletes the twenty-five school limit on the number of conversion charter schools.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

