

JAN 29 2010

---

# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ALLOW VACANT CLASSROOMS TO  
BE USED BY CHARTER SCHOOLS.

1           WHEREAS, Act 14, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 2008,  
2 required the Department of Education to submit annual reports  
3 identifying vacant classrooms for conversion into early learning  
4 facilities; and

5  
6           WHEREAS, the Department has identified in its December 2009  
7 annual report that eighty vacant public school classrooms are  
8 available; and

9  
10          WHEREAS, these eighty classrooms are located in various  
11 public elementary and middle schools on Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, and  
12 Kauai; and

13  
14          WHEREAS, these classrooms are at schools such as Aliiolani  
15 Elementary School, Kalihi-Kai Elementary School, Wahiawa Middle  
16 School, Waianae Intermediate School, Kailua Intermediate School,  
17 Kapaa Middle School, Haiku Elementary School, and Keaau Middle  
18 School; and

19  
20          WHEREAS, the report also indicates that it would cost  
21 approximately \$7,204,000 to convert these eighty classrooms for  
22 early learning uses; and

23  
24          WHEREAS, there is increased demand for public charter  
25 schools and a lack of public charter school facilities; and

26  
27          WHEREAS, there were over 2,800 students on waitlists who  
28 were unable to enroll in public charter schools during the 2008-  
29 2009 school year due to a lack of adequate capacity to  
30 accommodate them, according to the Charter School Administrative  
31 Office; and

1 WHEREAS, some public charter schools do not have  
2 conventional classrooms and must use tents, shipping containers,  
3 trailers, and other make-shift structures as classrooms; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the need for public charter school facilities is  
6 as important as the need for early learning facilities; and  
7

8 WHEREAS, some of the eighty vacant classrooms may not be  
9 located in areas where early learning facilities are in demand,  
10 but may be appropriate locations for public charter school  
11 classrooms; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, the cost of converting vacant classrooms to early  
14 learning facilities are likely to cost more than providing the  
15 vacant classrooms for public charter school use; now, therefore,  
16


17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth  
18 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the  
19 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of  
20 Education prioritize a portion of the eighty vacant classrooms  
21 for use by public charter schools; and  
22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and  
24 the Charter School Administrative Office shall coordinate and  
25 allow the use of vacant school classrooms by public charter  
26 schools; and  
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a list of vacant classrooms to  
29 be set aside for public charter schools be prepared promptly and  
30 this list be provided to the Twenty-Fifth Legislature before it  
31 adjourns in May 2010; and  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Department of  
35 Education and the Charter School Administrative Office.  
36

37  
38 OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
BY REQUEST