

JAN 21 2010

S.B. NO. 2292

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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. 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)



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

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

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



- 1 (1) Adopting internationally benchmarked standards and  
2 assessments that prepare students for success in  
3 college and the workplace;
- 4 (2) Recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding  
5 effective teachers and principals, especially where  
6 they are needed most;
- 7 (3) Building data systems that measure student success and  
8 inform teachers and principals about how they can  
9 improve instruction; and
- 10 (4) Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

11 Awards will go to states that are leading the way with  
12 ambitious yet achievable plans for implementing coherent,  
13 compelling, and comprehensive education reform in these four  
14 areas. Applications for the first of two rounds of competitions  
15 for the grants are due January 19, 2010, and the winners of the  
16 first round of funding will be notified by April 2010.  
17 Applications for the second round will be due June 1, 2010, with  
18 the announcement of all winners being made by September 2010.

19 Hawaii's public charter schools offer a unique opportunity  
20 to demonstrate the State's commitment to the goals of the Race  
21 to the Top Fund. Currently, there are thirty-one public charter  
22 schools, five of which are conversion charter schools. These



1 schools offer innovative learning experiences and the  
2 flexibility necessary to achieve both the State's commitment to  
3 STEM education, and the goals of the Race to the Top Fund.

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

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

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

18 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Carol Fukunaga

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**Report Title:**

Charter Schools; Conversion Charter Schools

**Description:**

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

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