

MAR 13 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS EQUITABLE FEDERAL FUNDING TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON ENHANCING HAWAII'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AND CORRECTING ANY INEQUITIES OR INCONSISTENCIES IN DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL FUNDING AMONG PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, charter schools in Hawaii are public schools
2 established with the intent and purpose of supporting new
3 approaches to public education that accommodate individual needs
4 of students, provide the State with successful templates that
5 dramatically improve educational standards for the twenty-first
6 century, and create genuine opportunities for communities to
7 implement innovative models of community-based education; and
8

9 WHEREAS, questions have been raised regarding parity of
10 federal funding for public charter school students, Hawaii
11 Department of Education services and funding of public charter
12 school students, and the distribution of formula-based funding
13 to public charter schools; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the Task Force on Charter School Governance,
16 Accountability, and Authority, established by Act 130, Session
17 Laws of Hawaii 2011, in its report to the Legislature stated in
18 pertinent part (p. 1):
19

20 "Specifically, the goal of the Task Force was to
21 provide clarity to the relationships, responsibilities, and
22 lines of accountability and authority among stakeholders of
23 Hawaii's charter school system, including the Board of
24 Education, Department of Education, Charter School
25 Administrative Office, Charter School Review Panel, and
26 local school boards"; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the Task Force further stated in pertinent part
29 (p. 4):
30



1 "To meet the objectives of Act 130, the Task Force was
 2 ultimately guided by a statement made by NACSA [National
 3 Association of Charter School Authorizers]: "Autonomy Plus
 4 Accountability Equals Increased Student Outcomes." As noted
 5 in NACSA's report, while Hawaii has historically been very
 6 strong on giving autonomy to charter schools, it is
 7 severely lacking in the area of accountability, resulting
 8 in serious questions about student outcomes"; and
 9

10 WHEREAS, with regard to funding, the Task Force stated in
 11 pertinent part (pp. 13-14):
 12

13 "The final option explored by the working group was
 14 what the Task Force deemed the "Nuclear Model." Under the
 15 Nuclear Model, a separate support office would not be
 16 established. Instead, this scenario would require the
 17 direct interaction of the Department of Education and the
 18 authorizer over access to and distribution of federal
 19 funds. It would also require direct reporting from the
 20 authorizer to the Department in meeting federal funding
 21 reporting requirements. . . .
 22

23 * * *

24
 25 In order to implement the Nuclear Model discussed
 26 above, the Task Force recommends the adoption of statutory
 27 language requiring the authorizer to:
 28

29 * * *

30
 31 [r]eceive per pupil funding from the Department of Budget
 32 and Finance and distribute the funding to the public
 33 charter school it authorizes"; and
 34

35 WHEREAS, under the subheading "Items for Continued
 36 Discussion", the Task Force stated in pertinent part (p. 20):
 37

38 "The Task Force recognizes the enormity of challenges
 39 facing Hawaii's charter school system. Due to the short
 40 time line available to the Task Force, and the complexity
 41 of the issues discussed, the Task Force was unable to
 42 address certain issues in great detail. The Task Force
 43 believes the following issues deserve continued discussion
 44 among charter school stakeholders:



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43

- (1) Special education issues;
- (2) Funding, including facilities and transportation;
and
- (3) Collective bargaining"; and

WHEREAS, the inconsistent calculation of charter school funding should be addressed to ensure that an equitable amount of resources and opportunities for learning are provided to charter school students and public non-charter school students alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, that the Department of Education is requested to convene a public charter schools equitable federal funding task force to study and make recommendations to the Legislature on:

- (1) Enhancing Hawaii's efforts to obtain increased federal funding for public charter schools; and
- (2) Correcting any inequities or inconsistencies in distribution of federal funding among public charter schools;

to ensure that an equitable level of resources and opportunities for learning are provided to charter school students and non-charter public school students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public charter schools equitable federal funding task force be composed of the following members:

- (1) The Chairperson of the Senate Education Committee, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (2) The Chairperson of the House Education Committee, or the Chairperson's designee;
- (3) The Director of Finance, or the Director's designee;

- 1 (4) The Chairperson of the Board of Education, or the
2 Chairperson's designee;
- 3
- 4 (5) The Chairperson of the Charter School Commission, or
5 the Chairperson's designee;
- 6
- 7 (6) The Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs or
8 the Administrator's designee;
- 9
- 10 (7) The Superintendent of Education, or the
11 Superintendent's designee;
- 12
- 13 (8) The Federal Programs Officer of the Department of
14 Education, or the Officer's designee;
- 15
- 16 (9) The Chief Financial Officer of the Department of
17 Education, or the Chief Financial Officer's designee;
- 18
- 19 (10) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Public Charter
20 School Network, or the Executive Director's designee;
- 21
- 22 (11) The Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha Schools, or
23 the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
- 24
- 25 (12) The Chief Executive Officer of Kanu o ka 'Aina Learning
26 Ohana, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee; and
- 27
- 28 (13) The Chief Executive Officer of Ho'okako'o Corporation,
29 or the Chief Executive Officer's designee; and
- 30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public charter schools
32 equitable federal funding task force examine the following in
33 making its determinations: all previous Hawaii legislative task
34 force reports and studies and national comparisons of federal
35 funding disbursement methods and formulas, and service formulas
36 for distribution; and

37
38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public charter schools
39 equitable federal funding task force report findings and
40 recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days
41 prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2014; and
42



S.R. NO. 128

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public charter schools
2 equitable federal funding task force dissolve on the day after
3 the filing of its report to the Legislature; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Senate
7 Education Committee, Chairperson of the House Education
8 Committee, Director of Finance, Chairperson of the Board of
9 Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the
10 Charter School Commission, Administrator of the Office of
11 Hawaiian Affairs, Executive Director of the Hawaii Public
12 Charter School Network, Chief Executive Officer of Kamehameha
13 Schools, Chief Executive Officer of Kanu o ka 'Aina Learning
14 Ohana, and Chief Executive Officer of Ho'okako'o Corporation.
15
16
17

OFFERED BY: 

