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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. The legislature finds that certain department  
2 of education schools, such as those located in leeward Oahu, are  
3 operating at or near-full capacity and struggling with severe  
4 overcrowding. Additionally, public school capacity concerns  
5 have been raised in connection with the projected construction  
6 of residential high-rises in the Kakaako community development  
7 district.

8           Section 302D-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, provides for the  
9 creation of new start-up public charter schools. Public charter  
10 schools could be a crucial piece of a larger solution to address  
11 school overcrowding as public charter schools can often be  
12 established and begin operation in less time than it would take  
13 to establish and open a new school under the department of  
14 education. The state public charter school commission  
15 identified the following priority needs for applications in its  
16 2015-2016 request for proposals for new public charter schools:

17           (1) New schools that would provide additional school  
18           capacity in geographic areas in which existing public



1 schools are already exceeding, have already reached,  
2 or are projected to reach or exceed full enrollment  
3 capacity; and

4 (2) New schools that would serve communities in which  
5 existing public schools are not performing well  
6 academically, as measured by the State's strive HI  
7 performance system and other student outcomes, and  
8 that present a plan for improving these outcomes.

9 Although the State previously provided start-up grants to  
10 assist public charter schools with their pre-opening costs  
11 before operating funds become available to them, currently, pre-  
12 opening charter schools receive no state assistance in meeting  
13 these significant challenges.

14 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for start-up  
15 grants to assist one or more new pre-opening charter schools.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for start-  
19 up grants for pre-opening public charter schools that will meet  
20 the priority needs identified by the state public charter school  
21 commission in its request for proposals for new schools. The



1 state public charter school commission shall establish grant  
2 criteria and guidelines for use of grant funds.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state public  
4 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

State Public Charter School Commission; New Charter Schools;  
Start-Up Grants; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates moneys for start-up grants for newly approved, pre-  
opening public charter schools. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

