
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 full or near-full capacity while struggling with
4 severe overcrowding on campuses, even while providing multi-
5 track schedules. Public school capacity concerns have also been
6 raised in connection with the projected construction of
7 residential high-rises in the Kakaako community development
8 district.

9 The legislature further finds that section 302D-13, Hawaii
10 Revised Statutes, provides for the creation of start-up public
11 charter schools, which could be an important part of the
12 solution to school overcrowding. In addition, start-up charter
13 schools can often be established in a shorter time period than
14 it takes to construct and open a new department of education
15 school. Section 302D-14.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, sets forth
16 the start-up process between the state public charter school
17 commission's approval of a pre-opening school and the opening of
18 the charter school to students.



1 The legislature additionally finds that the state public
2 charter school commission, in its 2015-2016 request for
3 proposals for new public charter schools, has identified the
4 following priority needs for applications:

5 (1) New schools that would provide additional school
6 capacity in geographic areas where existing department
7 of education schools are already exceeding, have
8 already reached, or are projected to reach or exceed,
9 full enrollment capacity; and

10 (2) New schools that would serve communities where
11 existing department of education schools are not
12 performing well academically, as measured by the
13 State's strive HI performance system and other student
14 outcomes, and that present a plan for improving these
15 outcomes.

16 The legislature also finds that although in the past, the
17 State provided start-up grants to assist newly approved public
18 charter schools with their pre-opening costs before operating
19 funds became available, pre-opening charter schools currently
20 have no such state assistance in meeting these significant
21 challenges.



1 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for start-up
2 grants to assist one or more newly approved pre-opening charter
3 schools that will meet the priority needs identified by the
4 state public charter school commission.

5 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to provide
8 start-up grants to newly approved pre-opening public charter
9 schools that will meet the priority needs identified by the
10 state public charter school commission in its request for
11 proposals for new schools; provided that the state public
12 charter school commission shall establish grant criteria and
13 guidelines for use of public funds.

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

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



Report Title:

State Public Charter School Commission; Start-up Grants; Pre-opening Public Charter Schools; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates moneys for start-up grants for newly approved pre-opening public charter schools, and requires the state public charter school commission to establish guidelines and criteria for the grants. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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