

JAN 27 2016

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



1           (1) New schools that would provide additional school  
2           capacity in geographic areas where existing public  
3           schools are already exceeding, have already reached,  
4           or are projected to reach or exceed full enrollment  
5           capacity; and

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

11          The legislature further finds that although previously the  
12          State has provided start-up grants to assist public charter  
13          schools with their pre-opening costs before operating funds  
14          become available to them, currently, pre-opening charter schools  
15          receive no state assistance in meeting these significant  
16          challenges.

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

19          SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20          revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much  
21          thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for start-



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1 up grants for new pre-opening public charter schools that will  
 2 meet the priority needs identified by the state public charter  
 3 school commission in its request for proposals for new schools.  
 4 The state public charter school commission shall establish grant  
 5 criteria and guidelines for use of grant funds.

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

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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*[Signature]*



# S.B. NO. 2977

**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.

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

