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# SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A STUDY ON THE PER-PUPIL FUNDING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC  
CHARTER SCHOOLS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE SYSTEM FULFILLS  
ITS STATUTORY PURPOSE OF EQUALIZING OPERATIONAL FUNDING  
AMONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

1           WHEREAS, Hawaii's public charter schools are a part of the  
2 state public education system and contribute to that system as a  
3 whole by providing alternative educational options and modeling  
4 innovative practices; and

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6           WHEREAS, each public charter school is a single state  
7 entity, self-governed by a volunteer governing board,  
8 independently managed, and primarily dependent on state funding  
9 in order to operate; and

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11           WHEREAS, charter schools receive the majority of their  
12 funding through general fund appropriations based on a general  
13 fund per-pupil allotment, which is based on a formula that adds  
14 up the total funding allocated to certain programs within the  
15 Department of Education and then distributes monies based on  
16 reasonable projected enrollment figures for each public charter  
17 school; and

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19           WHEREAS, section 302D-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, mandates  
20 that the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding for public  
21 charter school students be the same as the general fund per-  
22 pupil amount provided to the Department of Education in its most  
23 recently approved executive budget; and

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25           WHEREAS, questions have been raised about whether the per-  
26 pupil funding system equalizes funding for public charter  
27 schools as intended; and



1 WHEREAS, public charter schools must also meet other  
2 expenses, including facility costs; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the State Public Charter School Commission has  
5 warned in its annual reports that financial data from the public  
6 charter schools reveal both short-term financial strain as well  
7 as long-term operational sustainability challenges; now,  
8 therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth  
11 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016, the  
12 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
13 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study on the per-  
14 pupil funding system to determine whether the system fulfills  
15 its statutory purpose of equalizing operational funding among  
16 public schools; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and  
19 State Public Charter School Commission are requested to come to  
20 an agreement on:  
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- 22 (1) The per-pupil funding system cost categories to be  
23 reported to the Legislative Reference Bureau;
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- 25 (2) What is to be included in these categories;
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- 27 (3) The format for data submission; and
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- 29 (4) Any other fiscal information that would be relevant to  
30 the Legislative Reference Bureau's study,

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32 prior to any data's being submitted to the Legislative Reference  
33 Bureau; and  
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by June 30, 2016, the  
36 Department of Education and State Public Charter School  
37 Commission are requested to provide specific data to the  
38 Legislative Reference Bureau detailing what the present system  
39 of funding is comprised of within the statutory allocation, to  
40 permit the Bureau to target its study and complete it in a  
41 timely manner; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School  
2 Commission, Hawaii Public Charter School Network, Hawaii  
3 Educational Policy Center, and other stakeholder agencies are  
4 requested to provide other information and assistance as  
5 requested by the Legislative Reference Bureau; and  
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7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference  
8 Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
9 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
10 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
11 the Regular Session of 2018; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the  
15 Legislative Reference Bureau, Chairperson of the Board of  
16 Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the State  
17 Public Charter School Commission, Executive Director of the  
18 State Public Charter School Commission, Executive Director of  
19 the Hawaii Public Charter School Network, and Director of the  
20 Hawaii Educational Policy Center.

