
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO CONVENE
A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING
A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA GRANTING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
PROGRAM FOR ADULT LEARNERS.

1 WHEREAS, there exists a substantial proportion of adult
2 residents without a high school diploma who desire to earn such
3 qualifications; and

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5 WHEREAS, individuals with a high school diploma earn more
6 on average than individuals with a General Educational
7 Development transcript; and

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9 WHEREAS, the existing state high school enrollment age
10 limit enacted by Act 163, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, prevents
11 adult learners older than twenty years of age from enrolling in
12 public high school programs unless otherwise required by the
13 federal Individuals with Disabilities Act; and

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15 WHEREAS, public charter schools are potentially capable of
16 filling important educational niches absent in the state public
17 school system model, including the operation of high school
18 programs for adult learners between the ages of twenty and
19 twenty-six; and

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21 WHEREAS, section 302D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
22 establishes the State Public Charter School Commission for the
23 authorization of high-quality public charter schools throughout
24 the State under the oversight of the Board of Education; and

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26 WHEREAS, the State Public Charter School Commission is the
27 sole authorizer of public charter schools; and
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1 WHEREAS, at least two other state legislatures have enacted
2 legislation creating adult high school diploma public charter
3 school programs, including Arkansas and Texas; and
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5 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to improving the
6 secondary learning opportunities of adult learners in the State
7 of Hawaii who were previously unable to attain a high school
8 diploma; now, 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 State Public
13 Charter School Commission is requested to form a working group
14 to evaluate the feasibility of establishing a high school
15 diploma granting public charter school program for adult
16 learners; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group examine
19 potential impacts to existing adult education programs,
20 including the Department of Education's Community School for
21 Adults; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall consist
24 of not more than seven individuals, including the Chairperson of
25 the Senate Committee on Education or the Chairperson's designee,
26 the Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee on
27 Education or the Chairperson's designee, the Superintendent of
28 the Department of Education or the Superintendent's designee, an
29 individual designated by the Board of Education, a member of the
30 State Public Charter School Commission, and members of community
31 non-profits who have experience working with adult learners; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members are requested to
34 select a chair of the working group from among themselves; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School
37 Commission shall submit a report of the working group's findings
38 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
39 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
40 the Regular Session of 2017; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
2 on June 30, 2017; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
6 Board of Education, Chairperson of the State Public Charter
7 School Commission, and Executive Director of the State Public
8 Charter School Commission.

