
SENATE 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

4
5 WHEREAS, individuals with a high school diploma earn more
6 on average than individuals with a General Educational
7 Development transcript; and

8
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

14
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

20
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

25
26 WHEREAS, the State Public Charter School Commission is the
27 sole authorizer of public charter schools; and

28
29 WHEREAS, at least two other state legislatures have enacted
30 legislation creating adult high school diploma public charter
31 school programs, including Arkansas and Texas; and



1 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to improving the
2 secondary learning opportunities of adult learners in the State
3 of Hawaii who were previously unable to attain a high school
4 diploma; now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
7 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2016,
8 that the State Public Charter School Commission is requested to
9 form a working group to evaluate the feasibility of establishing
10 a high school diploma granting public charter school program for
11 adult learners; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group examine
14 potential impacts to existing adult education programs,
15 including the Department of Education's Community School for
16 Adults; and
17

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group shall consist
19 of not more than seven individuals, including the Chairperson of
20 the Senate Committee on Education or the Chairperson's designee,
21 the Chairperson of the House of Representatives Committee on
22 Education or the Chairperson's designee, the Superintendent of
23 the Department of Education or the Superintendent's designee, an
24 individual designated by the Board of Education, a member of the
25 State Public Charter School Commission, and members of community
26 non-profits who have experience working with adult learners; and
27

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members are requested to
29 select a chair of the working group from among themselves; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Public Charter School
32 Commission shall submit a report of the working group's findings
33 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
34 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
35 the Regular Session of 2017; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be dissolved
38 on June 30, 2017; and
39
40



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

