
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO PERFORM A STUDY OF THE PUBLIC CHARTER
SCHOOL SYSTEM AND TO CREATE ACTIONABLE PROPOSALS FOR
FUNDAMENTAL STRUCTURAL REFORM.

1 WHEREAS, public charter schools are an essential part of
2 Hawaii's public education system and provide a quality education
3 to over 11,000 students; and
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5 WHEREAS, public charter schools improve education standards
6 by giving families a choice, implementing innovative education
7 strategies, and often by integrating Hawaiian language, culture,
8 and history into the curriculum; and
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10 WHEREAS, although the public charter school system benefits
11 Hawaii's students, the existing legal and financial frameworks
12 under which public charter schools must operate continue to
13 shortchange students; and
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15 WHEREAS, the existing legal framework gives an unclear
16 scope of authority to the charter school commission, leading to
17 inconsistent enforcement of regulatory standards ranging from
18 inadequate to overbearing, and leaving students without clear
19 due process rights; and
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21 WHEREAS, the broken financial system too often leaves
22 charter schools with inadequate facilities, underfunded special
23 education programs, and understaffed faculties; and
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25 WHEREAS, according to section 302D-28, Hawaii Revised
26 Statutes, charter schools should receive the same per-pupil
27 allocation from general fund appropriations as Department of
28 Education schools, but public charter schools must use per-pupil
29 dollars to pay for rent, salaries, and other expenses while
30 Department of Education schools use rent-free state-owned



1 facilities and receive funds for other costs in addition to per-
2 pupil allotments; and
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4 WHEREAS, the practical effect of this financial system is
5 that public charter schools must operate with thousands of
6 dollars less per student than Department of Education schools;
7 and
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9 WHEREAS, because the pervasive financial and legal
10 inequalities in Hawaii's education system are so great and the
11 flaws too complex to fix piecemeal, the system needs to be
12 fundamentally rethought and reworked to protect children's
13 educational futures; and
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15 WHEREAS, the State Auditor's independence and autonomy
16 makes the office ideally suited to produce objective and
17 trustworthy recommendations for structural reform, therefore,
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19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
20 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
21 of 2018, that the Auditor is requested to perform a study of:
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23 (1) The current legal frameworks pertaining to public
24 charter schools; and
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26 (2) The current financial systems pertaining to public
27 charter schools; and
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29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
30 create:
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32 (1) Actionable proposals for structural reform of the
33 legal frameworks and financial systems pertaining to
34 public charter schools, incorporating multiple
35 philosophical perspectives; and
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37 (2) Actionable proposals for financial reform aimed at
38 providing equal per-pupil funding for charter school
39 students; and
40



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auditor is requested to
2 submit a report of the study to the Legislature no later than
3 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
4 2019; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Resolution be transmitted to the Auditor, the Chairperson of the
8 Board of Education, and the Chairperson of the Charter School
9 Commission.
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OFFERED BY:

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JAN 17 2018

