
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL
COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE CURRENT FEDERALLY
FUNDED CHARTER SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has made
2 steady progress in investing in early learning over the years.
3 The legislature further finds that Hawaii's youngest children
4 can benefit from early learning programs before they enter
5 kindergarten at age five. Act 109, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015,
6 set forth the history of early learning in the State of Hawaii
7 and statutorily created the executive office on early learning
8 public prekindergarten program. Under Act 109, the public
9 charter schools were authorized to use their available
10 classrooms for public preschool programs through the executive
11 office on early learning's public prekindergarten program,
12 giving priority to public charter schools that service high
13 populations of underserved or at-risk children.

14 In 2014, the state public charter school commission applied
15 for and received the federal Preschool Development Grant from
16 the United States Departments of Education and of Health and
17 Human Services to establish prekindergarten classrooms in

H.B. NO. 996

Report Title:

Charter School Prekindergarten Classrooms

Description:

Appropriates moneys for school year 2019-2020 to the State Public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue the current federally funded eighteen existing charter school prekindergarten classrooms that were provided for by the federal Preschool Development Grant of 2015.

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JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION.

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN AND CONTINUE THE CURRENT FEDERALLY FUNDED CHARTER SCHOOL PREKINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS.

PURPOSE: Appropriate money for school year 2019-2020 to the State public Charter School Commission to maintain and continue the current federally funded eighteen existing charter school prekindergarten classrooms that were provided for by the federal Preschool Development Grant of 2015.

MEANS: Appropriation measure.

JUSTIFICATION: Provides funding to maintain and continue the existing eighteen prekindergarten charter school classrooms operating in eleven charter schools statewide for school year 2019-2020. The eighteen classrooms were developed and started under the federal Preschool Development Grant of 2015. Federal funding for this program expires at the end of the 2018-2019 school year and further federal funding to sustain this program is not available. This bill allows the State to continue to serve the children, families, and communities in the classrooms currently operating and continue to provide early learning educational opportunities.

Impact on the public: Provides early learning opportunities to children and families. Data from the existing program funded by the federal Preschool Development Grant of 2015 show that children in the program benefit from and show increased educational achievement in kindergarten and first grade.

Impact on the department and other agencies:
Requires the State Public Charter School Commission to hire and maintain staff to administer and provide support to the prekindergarten public charter school classrooms.

GENERAL FUND: \$4,000,000.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: EDN 612.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.