
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that facilities funding
2 has been a long-standing issue for charter schools nationally
3 and locally. In Hawaii, start-up charter schools have paid the
4 costs of their facilities from operational funds. However, Act
5 159, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, authorized the state public
6 charter school commission to request facilities funding as part
7 of its annual budget request to the director of finance
8 beginning with the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Act 234, Session Laws
9 of Hawaii 2015, authorized a framework for providing facilities
10 funding and support for public charter school facilities with
11 adequate prioritization, oversight, and accountability by the
12 charter school facilities funding working group.

13 The legislature further finds that public charter schools
14 receive inequitable funding to support student learning when
15 compared to traditional public schools. While the state public
16 charter school commission may request facilities funding in
17 addition to its annual budget request, the amounts received in



1 recent fiscal years have not kept pace with the cost of
2 providing and maintaining high-quality facilities. Public
3 charter schools that lack adequate building facilities are
4 sometimes forced to hold classes outdoors, on covered lanais, or
5 in unstable temporary structures.

6 The purpose of this Act is to:

7 (1) Provide funding for the rental or lease of facilities
8 through legislative appropriations and bond
9 authorizations to the state public charter school
10 commission for the design, planning, construction,
11 repair, and maintenance of public charter school
12 improvements; and

13 (2) Provide funding to the state public charter school
14 commission for infrastructure costs, the rental or
15 lease of charter school facilities, and the repair and
16 maintenance of network infrastructure for charter
17 schools.

18 SECTION 2. Section 302D-29.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

20 "(a) Beginning with the [~~2016-2017~~] 2020-2021 fiscal year,
21 and each fiscal year thereafter, the legislature shall consider



1 making an appropriation and bond authorization to the commission
2 for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance
3 of public charter school improvements to address issues of
4 health, safety, and legal compliance; expand or improve
5 instructional space; provide for the rental or lease of
6 facilities; provide for food services; or provide restroom
7 facilities. The appropriation and bond authorization for
8 charter schools shall be separate from, and in addition to, any
9 appropriation made to charter schools pursuant to [~~this section~~
10 ~~and~~] section 302D-28. These amounts shall be prioritized for
11 allocation by the charter school facilities funding working
12 group."

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
16 the state public charter school commission to allocate to
17 charter schools for infrastructure costs, lease or rent
18 assistance based in part on the need and financial performance
19 of the charter schools, and repair and maintenance of network
20 infrastructure, as determined by the state public charter school
21 commission.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the state public
2 charter school commission for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 2511

Report Title:

Charter Schools; Facilities Funding; Infrastructure;
Appropriation

Description:

Provides funding for the rental or lease of facilities through legislative appropriations and bond authorizations to the State Public Charter School Commission for the design, planning, construction, repair, and maintenance of public charter school improvements. Appropriates general funds for infrastructure costs, lease or rent assistance, and repair and maintenance of network infrastructure for charter schools.

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