

MAR 08 2024

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION, TO SUBMIT A REPORT ON INCREASING ACCESS TO STABLE, SUITABLE, AND AFFORDABLE FACILITIES FOR PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public charter schools serve a critical
2 role as laboratories of innovation in the State's education
3 system; and

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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's public charter schools enroll more than
6 twelve thousand students; and

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8 WHEREAS, lack of funding for, and availability of, proper
9 facilities has been a long-standing issue for charter schools
10 nationally and locally, forcing some charter schools in the
11 State to hold classes outdoors, on covered lanais, or in
12 unstable temporary structures; and

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14 WHEREAS, public charter schools receive inadequate funding
15 to support student learning; and

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17 WHEREAS, while the State Public Charter School Commission
18 may request funding for facilities as part of its annual budget
19 request, the amounts received in recent fiscal years have not
20 kept pace with the cost of providing and maintaining
21 high-quality facilities; and

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23 WHEREAS, despite the Department of Accounting and General
24 Services and Department of Education being mandated to conduct
25 biennial surveys and submit biennial reports relating to any
26 unused state facility that may be used for public charter
27 schools, the Departments have not identified any such facility;
28 and

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1 WHEREAS, unused or underutilized state facilities would
2 help alleviate the lack of proper facilities for public charter
3 schools; and

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5 WHEREAS, in addition to the existence of unused and
6 underutilized facilities in the State, there are various
7 financing options, such as federal support, that can be used to
8 help support public charter schools; and

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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the opportunity and responsibility to
11 maximize existing assets that are currently available to assist
12 public charter schools to ensure all students have proper
13 facilities for their education; now, therefore,

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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,
17 that the Board of Education, in partnership with the State
18 Public Charter School Commission, is requested to submit a
19 report on increasing access to stable, suitable, and affordable
20 facilities for public charter schools, including any proposed
21 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
22 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025; and

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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in preparing the report, the
25 Board of Education is requested to:

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- 27 (1) Assess why no unused facilities have been identified
28 by the appropriate state departments;
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- 30 (2) Propose changes in policy or practice in establishing
31 an affirmative duty to connect charter schools with
32 unused or underutilized facilities, along with
33 increased accountability and oversight over unused
34 facilities;
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- 36 (3) Obtain and publish an updated list from the Department
37 of Education of unused or underutilized facilities;
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- 39 (4) Coordinate with the School Facilities Authority to
40 include public charter school facilities as a priority
41 for the Authority;
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- 1 (5) Assess the amount of federal funds that are available
- 2 to benefit eligible public charter school facilities
- 3 in the State but are not being accessed; and
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- 5 (6) Assess the feasibility of expanding the range of
- 6 financing options for public charter schools, such as
- 7 tax-exempt bonds, credit enhancement programs, and
- 8 revolving loan funds; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this

11 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Comptroller,

12 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of

13 Education, and Executive Director of the State Public Charter

14 School Commission.

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OFFERED BY: *Stanley J. Aronson*