

# HAWAII

(Law passed in 1994; last amended in 2011; 5th weakest of the nation's 42 charter laws)



Thirty-one charters serving 8,798 students operate much like traditional public schools without a clear separation of authority from existing school systems.

## NOTEWORTHY

Many schools, such as Kihei Public Charter High School and Kua O Ka La Public Charter School, have started to reinforce the native Hawaiian cultures and environment that had been lacking in the traditional schools.

## INDEPENDENT OR MULTIPLE AUTHORIZERS - NO

APPROVAL	The State Board of Education upon review by the Charter School Review Panel.
APPEAL	No. While applications denied by the Charter School Review Panel may be appealed to the State Board of Education, the bodies are interdependent.

## OPERATIONAL AUTONOMY

STATE	Yes. Blanket waiver from most state rules and regulations governing traditional public schools. Virtual schools are allowed. Management contracts with ESPs are at discretion of state.
LOCAL	No. The school board is responsible for the finances, operations, academics, and management of the charter school.
TEACHER FREEDOM	No. Teachers remain covered by district bargaining agreement. Charter schools must participate in state's retirement system.

## NUMBER OF SCHOOLS ALLOWED

CAP	Yes. One new start-up school may be authorized for every one that has its charter revoked or three new schools may be authorized for every one that has been accredited for three years or longer by an education accreditation authority. Twenty-five conversions allowed.
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## EQUITY

<p>STUDENT FUNDING</p>	<p>Funds pass through the state. Charter funding requests are based on conventional school per-pupil funds and the appropriations are determined annually. If enrollment exceeds expectations, charter schools will lose money.</p> <p>“Beginning with fiscal year 2010-2011, and each fiscal year thereafter, the non-facility general fund per-pupil funding request for charter school students shall be the same as the general fund per-pupil amount to the department in the most recently approved executive budget recommendation for the department as set forth in paragraph (2); provided that (1) The general fund per-pupil funding request shall be based upon reasonable projected enrollment figures for all charter schools; and (2) The general fund per-pupil request for each regular education and special education student shall: (A) Include all general fund regular education cost categories, including comprehensive school support services, but excluding special education services[;], adult education, and the after-school plus program; provided that these services are provided and funded by the department.” [HI § 302B-12(a)]</p>
<p>FACILITIES FUNDS</p>	<p>No Additional Funds.</p>

## IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

<p>- 3</p>	<p>Three points are deducted because the state has not encouraged schools or growth and has failed to improve the law in a substantial way.</p>
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[LINK TO THE HAWAII CHARTER SCHOOL LAW](#)