



# Start·a·School

AN EDUCATION FREEDOM FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

## Hawaii

### Charter Schools

The Commission is committed to authorizing high-quality public charter schools throughout the state that will contribute meaningfully to Hawaii's public education system.

At the [December 5, 2023 General Business meeting](#), the Commission approved its Applications Policy. The policy begins the next cycle of the public charter school applications in school year 2024-2025.

The Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission is pleased to announce that the 2024-25 Charter School Application Packet has been approved at the Commission's [August 8, 2024 General Business Meeting](#) and is now live! Applications are due by November 15, 2024, at 12:00 PM HST.

The Commission held an application orientation on September 4, 2024. If you missed the orientation or would like to review it, click [here](#) to watch the recording of the meeting.

### **Virtual Charter**

The definition of a charter school includes virtual instruction as a potential alternative framework for a charter school.

Citations: [Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302D-1](#)

### **General Charter Info**

Hawaii's public charter schools are operated and managed by independent governing boards. They operate under a performance contract with the State Public Charter School Commission. If you're interested in learning more about Hawaii's charter schools, please connect with the Charter School Commission discussed below.

## Steps to Start a Charter School

The first step in creating a Charter school is to register as a corporation. This is usually a non-profit LLC. Register with your state's Division of Corporations.

If you are planning to operate as a non-profit, you will need to obtain your IRS Non-Profit status by submitting [IRS Form 1023](#).

The Commission is in the process of updating its new charter school application, process and timeline. The Application Cycle is projected to open in the fall of school year 2024-2025.

### Charter School Commission

About the Charter School Commission:

The mission of the [State Public Charter School Commission](#) is to authorize high-quality public charter schools throughout Hawaii. The Commission approves quality applications for new charter schools and monitors the performance and legal compliance of existing charter schools. The major responsibilities of the Charter School commission include:

- Providing assistance and support for the development, growth, progress, and success of the charter schools and the charter school system;
- Determining charter school and charter school system needs through analysis and providing recommendations on charter school issues;
- Serving as an advocate for the charter schools and the charter school system and representing them in communications with the Board of Education, governor and Legislature;
- Acting as a liaison, conduit, mediator and facilitator between the charter schools and state agencies; and
- Preparing and executing the overall charter school system budget and allocating and distributing both state and federal funds to the charter schools.

If you have questions about Hawaii's charter schools, you're encouraged to reach out to the Commission:

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Suite 1100  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
[commission.mail@spcsc.hawaii.gov](mailto:commission.mail@spcsc.hawaii.gov)  
Tel: (808) 586-3775  
Fax: (808) 586-3776

## Charter Application

The Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission adopted the 2024-25 application process and schedule at the August 8, 2024, General Business Meeting and the full Application is available in the file below:

[2024-25 Application \(PDF\)](#)

The Commission held an application orientation on September 4, 2024. If you missed the orientation or would like to review it, click [here](#) to watch the recording of the meeting.

Click to view responses to [2024 Application Questions](#)

Please contact Applications at [applications@spcsc.hawaii.gov](mailto:applications@spcsc.hawaii.gov) to receive a ShareFile account for your application, or if you have any questions or concerns.

## Statutes and Rules

- [302D-1](#) Definitions
- [302D-2](#) Repealed
- [302D-3](#) State public charter school commission; establishment; appointment
- [302D-3.2](#) Fees
- [302D-3.5](#) Rules
- [302D-4](#) Chartering authority application for eligible entities
- [302D-5](#) Authorizer powers, duties, and liabilities
- [302D-6](#) Principles and standards for charter authorizing
- [302D-7](#) Authorizer reporting
- [302D-8](#) Conflict of interests
- [302D-9](#) Exclusivity of authorizing functions and rights
- [302D-10](#) Services purchased from authorizer; itemized accounting
- [302D-11](#) Oversight of public charter school authorizers
- [302D-12](#) Charter school governing boards; powers and duties
- [302D-13](#) Start-up and conversion charter schools; establishment
- [302D-14](#) Repealed
- [302D-14.5](#) Approved charter applications; start-up period; pre-opening charter schools
- [302D-15](#) Appeals; charter applications, renewals, or revocations

- [302D-16](#) Performance framework
- [302D-17](#) Ongoing oversight and corrective actions
- [302D-18](#) Renewals, revocations, and nonrenewals
- [302D-19](#) School closure and dissolution
- [302D-20](#) Charter transfers
- [302D-21](#) Annual board report
- [302D-22](#) Repealed
- [302D-23](#) Minimum educational data reporting standards
- [302D-24](#) Occupancy and use of facilities of department schools
- [302D-25](#) Applicability of state laws
- [302D-26](#) Civil service status; employee rights
- [302D-27](#) Administration of workers' compensation
- [302D-28](#) Funding and finance
- [302D-28.5](#) Financial insolvency
- [302D-29](#) Weighted student formula
- [302D-29.5](#) Facilities funding
- [302D-30](#) Responsibilities of the department; special education services
- [302D-31](#) Athletics
- [302D-32](#) Annual audit
- [302D-33](#) Criminal history record checks
- [302D-34](#) Enrollment
- [302D-35](#) Use of vacant department facilities
- [302D-36](#) Youth suicide awareness and prevention protocol
- [302D-37](#) Standardized assessment for students entering kindergarten
- [302D-38](#) Prior early learning programs attendance disclosure
- [302D-39](#) Public early learning and preschool programs; administrative authority
- [302D-40](#) Computer science
- [302D-41](#) Industry-recognized credentials; career development success program

## Resources

[2024-25 Application \(PDF\)](#)

### Fillable Templates:

- [Application Information Sheet](#)
- [Application Questions](#)
- [Virtual Online Blended Questions \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Third Party Providers Questions \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Conversion Charter Schools \(if applicable\)](#)
- [Board Member Information Form](#)
- [Staff Planning Template](#)
- [Final Review Checklist](#)