

Table 4.11

Enrollment in Public Charter Schools in Hawai'i: 1994-95 to 2011-12

School Year	Number of Public Charter Schools	Public Charter School Enrollment
2011-12	31	9,109
2010-11	31	8,202
2009-10	31	7,819
2008-09	31	7,373
2007-08	28	6,003
2006-07	27	5,678
2005-06	27	5,596
2004-05	27	5,167
2003-04	26	4,502
2002-03	25	3,350
2001-02	22	3,066
2000-01	6	1,341
1999-00	2	784
1998-99	2	835
1997-98	2	808
1996-97	2	844
1995-96	2	746
1994-95	2	708

Source: Hawai'i State, Department of Education. Superintendent's Annual Report.

● In the 1994 legislative session, Act 272 authorized the creation of charter schools in Hawai'i. The Act made it possible to convert existing schools in the Department of Education (DOE) to "student centered" schools. Five years later, in 1999, the Hawai'i State Legislature amended the charter school law to permit new charter schools and changed their designation from "student-centered" to "New Century" schools.

The Hawai'i's charter schools (conversion schools, start-up schools, schools-within-schools) are publically funded and open to all students. The direction of each school is determined by a Local School Board. The Board is an autonomous governing body and is responsible for the creation, governing and facilitating the academic program as well as maintaining financial oversight of the school. The schools provide a public alternative to the regular public school system. Some schools choose to have a specialized mission, such as having a science and math concentration, while others have a Hawaiian culture focus. Many of the charter schools follow a Hawaiian or Hawaiian immersion program.