
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING INFORMATION ON
THE PUBLIC SCHOOL JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures
2 reports that pre-kindergarten programs have grown over the last
3 two decades, with nearly two dozen states launching or expanding
4 programs in the 1990s and thirty-six states increasing funding
5 by over \$500,000,000 for pre-kindergarten programs in 2007; and
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7 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures also
8 reports that more than half of children ages three to five but
9 not yet in kindergarten enroll in some form of pre-kindergarten,
10 totaling more than 4,300,000 children in the United States, with
11 parents' demand for pre-kindergarten on the rise; and
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13 WHEREAS, some research indicates that children who attend
14 pre-kindergarten are more likely to graduate from high school,
15 have higher earnings, and are less likely to be arrested than
16 children who go straight to kindergarten; and
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18 WHEREAS, additional benefits of attending pre-kindergarten
19 may include improved language skills, especially for children
20 from low-income and linguistic-minority families; and
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22 WHEREAS, the Legislature found that national and local
23 studies indicate substantial differences between older students
24 and younger students within one grade in terms of performance
25 and ability and, in response, established the public school
26 junior kindergarten program in 2004 (Act 219, Session Laws of
27 Hawaii 2004) as a commitment to adequately prepare children for
28 school and accommodate the range of learners in the existing
29 public school kindergarten program; and
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31 WHEREAS, despite the intent of the public school junior
32 kindergarten program to provide appropriate education and
33 nurturing to younger children prior to entering kindergarten or



1 grade one, issues have arisen regarding the need for more
2 appropriate curriculum for junior kindergarten children, the
3 need for better assessments of junior kindergarten children, the
4 promotion of a large number of junior kindergarten children
5 directly to grade one without adequate assurance that those
6 children would not have benefitted from an additional year of
7 kindergarten, and a dearth of longitudinal data indicating the
8 impact of participation in the junior kindergarten program on
9 subsequent academic progress; and

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11 WHEREAS, more information is necessary to guide
12 improvements to the junior kindergarten program that ensure the
13 program accomplishes the goals for which it was established;
14 now, therefore,

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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
19 Education, in collaboration with the Early Learning Council, is
20 requested to report to the Legislature information on the public
21 school junior kindergarten program including but not limited to
22 the following:

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24 (1) Aggregate data from public schools, regardless of
25 whether the schools have a junior kindergarten
26 program, including:

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28 (A) The number of junior kindergarten children
29 enrolled since inception of the junior
30 kindergarten program, including the data on a
31 school-by-school basis, to the extent possible;
32 and

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34 (B) The number of junior kindergarten children that
35 were retained in junior kindergarten, promoted to
36 kindergarten, and promoted to grade one,
37 including the data on a school-by-school basis,
38 to the extent possible;

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40 (2) The status of accommodations to the junior
41 kindergarten program curriculum, assessment methods
42 used to determine whether to retain or promote to
43 kindergarten or grade one, and preparation of junior
44 kindergarten teachers; and



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2 (3) Long-term assessment data or longitudinal data on the
3 impact of a child's participation in the public school
4 junior kindergarten program on that child's subsequent
5 academic progress, including data from the Hawaii
6 Educational Policy Center's ongoing assessment, on
7 behalf of the Department of Education, of the impact
8 of participation in the junior kindergarten program on
9 academic progress through grade three; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education and
12 the Early Learning Council submit a report of their interim
13 findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, no
14 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular
15 Sessions of 2011 and 2012, and a final report no later than
16 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
17 2013; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Superintendent of
21 Education, the Chairperson of the Board of Education, and the
22 Chair of the Early Learning Council.

