

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING TO EXAMINE AND
CONSIDER A SLIDING SCALE TUITION OR FEE SCHEDULE FOR STATE
PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, it is essential that Hawaii's children attend pre-
2 kindergarten programs to develop the physical, cognitive,
3 linguistic, social, and emotional skills necessary to prepare
4 them for success in school life; and

5
6 WHEREAS, however, Hawaii has one of the highest costs for
7 child care in the nation; and

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9 WHEREAS, the annual tuition cost of many child care
10 facilities in Hawaii exceeds the annual in-state tuition at the
11 University of Hawaii at Manoa; and

12
13 WHEREAS, in many cases, the costs for child care for two
14 children are as much as one full-time working parent would make
15 in a year after taxes; and

16
17 WHEREAS, not surprisingly, in many families, one parent
18 will leave the workforce to care for their children on a full-
19 time basis, instead of enrolling the children in child care; and

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21 WHEREAS, the past decade has seen a substantial increase in
22 public investment in early learning programs by federal, state,
23 and local governments, particularly for economically
24 disadvantaged children; and

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26 WHEREAS, Hawaii launched the Executive Office on Early
27 Learning public pre-kindergarten program in the 2014-2015 school
28 year in twenty classrooms at eighteen schools statewide; and

29
30 WHEREAS, additionally, the preschool open doors program,
31 which is administered by the Department of Human Services,



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1 promotes school readiness by providing child care subsidies to
2 eligible families for the year prior to kindergarten; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Early Learning public pre-
5 kindergarten program and preschool open doors program serve
6 families earning three hundred percent or below and two hundred
7 fifty percent or below of the federal poverty guidelines for
8 Hawaii, respectively; and
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10 WHEREAS, with the State's commitment to early childhood
11 education through the Early Childhood State Plan 2019-2024,
12 there will be greater access to early childhood education for
13 more families, resulting in some households who will be able to
14 pay for some of the costs associated with pre-kindergarten
15 education; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
18 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
19 Representatives concurring, that the Executive Office on Early
20 Learning is urged to examine and consider a sliding scale
21 tuition or fee schedule for State pre-kindergarten programs; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
24 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
25 Executive Office on Early Learning.
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OFFERED BY: *Michelle Tidani*

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