

MAR 08 2019

---

---

# SENATE 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  
8

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  
20

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  
25

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,  
32 promotes school readiness by providing child care subsidies to  
33 eligible families for the year prior to kindergarten; and  
34



# S.R. NO. 49

1 WHEREAS, the Executive Office on Early Learning public pre-  
 2 kindergarten program and preschool open doors program serve  
 3 families earning three hundred percent or below and two hundred  
 4 fifty percent or below of the federal poverty guidelines for  
 5 Hawaii, respectively; and  
 6

7 WHEREAS, with the State's commitment to early childhood  
 8 education through the Early Childhood State Plan 2019-2024,  
 9 there will be greater access to early childhood education for  
 10 more families, resulting in some households who will be able to  
 11 pay for some of the costs associated with pre-kindergarten  
 12 education; now, therefore,  
 13

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
 15 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, that the  
 16 Executive Office on Early Learning is urged to examine and  
 17 consider a sliding scale tuition or fee schedule for State pre-  
 18 kindergarten programs; and  
 19

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
 21 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Executive  
 22 Office on Early Learning.  
 23  
 24  
 25

OFFERED BY: *Inchelle Sedani*

*D. Kan*  
*Clarence K. Nishikawa*

*Ma...*  
*Francine Q. Inouye*

*Daniel...*

*...*