

MAR 03 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE FUNDING OF THE MAINTENANCE AND EXPANSION OF
PRE-KINDERGARTEN IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ALLOW ACCESS TO
ALL CHILDREN OF HAWAII, ESPECIALLY NATIVE HAWAIIANS, IN
BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGE PATHWAYS.

1 WHEREAS, early opportunities support positive outcomes in
2 academics, promotes emotional well-being, and provides keiki
3 with a strong foundation for a lifetime of success; and
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5 WHEREAS, research shows us that more than eighty-five per
6 cent of brain development occurs from the time of birth to the
7 age of five; and
8

9 WHEREAS, students that attend preschool are more likely to
10 graduate from high school and college; and
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12 WHEREAS, unfortunately in Hawai'i, the greatest inequity in
13 education occurs even before a keiki starts kindergarten with a
14 shortage of availability and access to early learning
15 opportunities, where there is only one licensed seat for every
16 four children under the age of six, according to the 2017 Hawai'i
17 Early Needs Assessment; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the 2017 United Way ALICE (Asset Limited, Income
20 Constrained, Employed) report found that forty-eight per cent of
21 Hawai'i households are considered Asset Limited, Income
22 Constrained, Employed and below, and for many of these families
23 the 2017 Hawai'i Early Learning Needs Assessment notes that the
24 cost of full-time childcare - between \$7,800 and \$9,500, on
25 average - is unaffordable; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i's public pre-kindergarten
28 consists of twenty-six Executive Office of Early Learning public
29 pre-kindergarten classrooms and eighteen public charter school



1 pre-kindergarten classrooms, and serve as a starting foundation
2 for universal access; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the Executive Office of Early Learning and the
5 Department of Education seek partnerships with established
6 Hawaiian Medium Education Learning institutions to build
7 capacity and resources for the program; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Language is an official language of
10 the State of Hawai'i and equitable promotion and resourcing for
11 Hawaiian language medium pre-kindergarten education is needed to
12 support and equip families and students that choose the Hawaiian
13 language medium pathways offered through the State of Hawai'i
14 Department of Education's Kula Kaiapuni and Hawaiian immersion
15 public charter schools; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Hawai'i ranked last among all states and the
18 District of Columbia for the percentage of four-year olds
19 attending state-funded preschool, as noted by the 2018 State of
20 Preschool Yearbook by the National Institute for Early Education
21 Research; now, therefore,
22

23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
24 of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
25 Representatives concurring, that funding should be available to
26 financially maintain and expand pre-kindergarten throughout
27 Hawai'i in all public schools to allow access to all children of
28 Hawai'i, especially native Hawaiians, in both official language
29 pathways; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chair of
33 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Director of
34 Department of Education Office of Hawaiian Education, Chair and
35 Executive Director of the State Public Charter School
36 Commission, Chair of Early Learning Board, Director of Executive
37 Office on Early Learning, President of Association
38



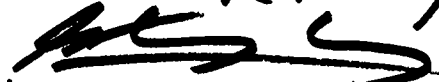
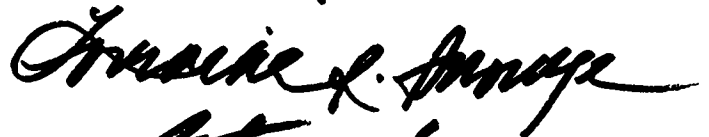
S.C.R. NO. 59

1 of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Chief Executive Officer of Council for
2 Native Hawaiian Advancement, and Chair of Native Hawaiian
3 Education Council.
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OFFERED BY:



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