
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE
REGARDING THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL SPACE AVAILABLE TO BE
USED FOR PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS AND THE NUMBER OF PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS CERTIFIED TO TEACH EARLY CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, investments in early childhood education pay
2 dividends for the formal preparation of children as learners and
3 future citizens, while also benefiting taxpayers and boosting
4 economic vitality; and
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6 WHEREAS, research on the benefits of quality pre-
7 kindergarten programs indicates that for every dollar invested
8 in such opportunities, society saves four to eight dollars on
9 remedial classes, special education, welfare programs, and
10 criminal justice costs; and
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12 WHEREAS, in Hawaii, every dollar spent on high quality
13 early childhood education realizes a \$4.20 reduction in costs
14 for future educational and social interventions; and
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16 WHEREAS, at the national level, every dollar spent on early
17 childhood education saves taxpayers on future social costs,
18 including lowered healthcare costs, reduced rates of educational
19 remediation and prison incarceration, and higher productivity;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, according to modern neuroscience, roughly eighty-
23 five percent of a child's brain develops from birth to age five,
24 emphasizing the importance of providing a quality learning
25 environment during these formative years; and
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27 WHEREAS, access to quality pre-kindergarten programs not
28 only helps working parents fulfill their child rearing



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responsibilities, but is essential for building a twenty-first century labor force; and

WHEREAS, early childhood education is especially important for at-risk students; and

WHEREAS, according to the High Scopes/Perry preschool longitudinal study, at-risk children with access to quality early learning programs are twenty percent more likely to graduate from high school, fourteen percent more likely to be employed, and twenty-four percent less likely to have been incarcerated by age forty than peers without such access; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, preschool enrollment declined precipitously, with Hawaii's public preschool system operating at approximately fifty-five percent capacity in March 2021, and the State's private preschool enrollment decreasing by nearly a third during the same time period; and

WHEREAS, this body has made the expansion of preschool opportunities a high priority in recent years by passing measures to strengthen the State's prekindergarten network, including passing Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, and other measures aimed at funding additional public preschool classrooms; and

WHEREAS, expanding quality preschool offerings is a central component of the current President's Build Back Better agenda; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Education is urged to report to the Legislature regarding the amount of public school space available to be used for the establishment of public preschool classrooms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is urged to include in its report an analysis of the amount of administrative space and vacant classroom space available in public schools, and the number and current disposition of classrooms that were utilized for junior kindergarten before the



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1 program ended in 2013 pursuant to Act 178, Session Laws of
2 Hawaii 2012; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
5 urged to include in its report information about the number of
6 current public school teachers who are licensed to teach early
7 childhood education; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
10 urged to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
11 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
12 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
13 of 2023; and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
16 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board
17 of Education, interim Superintendent of Education, and interim
18 Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning.

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OFFERED BY:



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