
HOUSE 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

5
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

11
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

15
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

21
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

26
27 WHEREAS, access to quality pre-kindergarten programs not
28 only helps working parents fulfill their child rearing
29 responsibilities, but is essential for building a twenty-first
30 century labor force; and



H.R. NO. 17

1
2 WHEREAS, early childhood education is especially important
3 for at-risk students; and
4

5 WHEREAS, according to the High Scopes/Perry preschool
6 longitudinal study, at-risk children with access to quality
7 early learning programs are twenty percent more likely to
8 graduate from high school, fourteen percent more likely to be
9 employed, and twenty-four percent less likely to have been
10 incarcerated by age forty than peers without such access; and
11

12 WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 pandemic, preschool enrollment
13 declined precipitously, with Hawaii's public preschool system
14 operating at approximately fifty-five percent capacity in March
15 2021, and the State's private preschool enrollment decreasing by
16 nearly a third during the same time period; and
17

18 WHEREAS, this body has made the expansion of preschool
19 opportunities a high priority in recent years by passing
20 measures to strengthen the State's prekindergarten network,
21 including passing Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, and other
22 measures aimed at funding additional public preschool
23 classrooms; and
24

25 WHEREAS, expanding quality preschool offerings is a central
26 component of the current President's Build Back Better agenda;
27 now, therefore,
28

29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2022, that the Department of Education is urged to report to
32 the Legislature regarding the amount of public school space
33 available to be used for the establishment of public preschool
34 classrooms; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
37 urged to include in its report an analysis of the amount of
38 administrative space and vacant classroom space available in
39 public schools, and the number and current disposition of
40 classrooms that were utilized for junior kindergarten before the
41 program ended in 2013 pursuant to Act 178, Session Laws of
42 Hawaii 2012; and



H.R. NO. 17

1
2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
3 urged to include in its report information about the number of
4 current public school teachers who are licensed to teach early
5 childhood education; and
6

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

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to Chairperson of the Board of
15 Education, interim Superintendent of Education, and interim
16 Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning.
17
18
19

OFFERED BY:



MAR 02 2022

