

---

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT A STUDY  
ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE STATE ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSAL,  
NO-COST PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, there is an undisputed public benefit from  
2 substantial investment in high-quality, developmentally  
3 appropriate early learning programs; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, significant and continuing research affirms the  
6 positive effects of high-quality early learning programs on the  
7 physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and economic  
8 outcomes of young children; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, longitudinal studies have also shown that high-  
11 quality early learning programs are especially effective for  
12 high-risk children, including low-income and otherwise  
13 disadvantaged children, with great potential to alter their  
14 lifetime trajectories; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, well-executed and well-targeted early learning  
17 programs have immediate and long-term benefits not only for the  
18 children participating in the programs but also for the  
19 societies in which they live, which boast higher levels of  
20 educational attainment; reduced homelessness, crime, and  
21 substance abuse; improved health; and better overall social and  
22 economic well-being; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, although there are pre-kindergarten education  
25 programs offered throughout the State, not all children have  
26 access to these programs, and the programs are cost-prohibitive  
27 for many families; and  
28



1 WHEREAS, a statewide, universal, no-cost pre-kindergarten  
2 program would ensure that every child in the State has equal and  
3 equitable access to early learning education; now, therefore,  
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the  
7 House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative  
8 Reference Bureau is requested to conduct a study on the  
9 feasibility of the State establishing a universal no-cost pre-  
10 kindergarten program; and  
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as a part of the study, the  
13 Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to:  
14

- 15 (1) Research other states that have implemented a  
16 universal pre-kindergarten program, including how they  
17 have addressed transportation, the provision of school  
18 lunches, and other ancillary services for students;  
19
- 20 (2) Research other states that have plans to or are in the  
21 process of implementing universal pre-kindergarten  
22 programs;  
23
- 24 (3) Explore the potential positives and negatives of  
25 implementing a universal pre-kindergarten program in  
26 the State;  
27
- 28 (4) Work with the Department of Education and Executive  
29 Office on Early Learning on examining how universal  
30 pre-kindergarten may be implemented in the State;  
31
- 32 (5) Explain the existing pre-kindergarten programs in the  
33 State and the efficacy of those programs;  
34
- 35 (6) Examine how a universal pre-kindergarten program in  
36 the State may include the following:  
37
  - 38 (A) Appropriate school staffing;
  - 39 (B) Fair teacher compensation;
  - 40 (C) Adequate credentialing requirements; and
  - 41
  - 42



(D) Staff professional development or continuing education;

(7) Discuss child assessment requirements, appropriate curriculum, and school schedules for a universal pre-kindergarten program in the State; and

(8) Provide fiscal analysis and projections, including funding mechanisms that would be relevant to the implementation of a universal pre-kindergarten program in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Interim Superintendent of Education, and Chair of the Early Learning Board.

