

MAR 11 2022

SENATE 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

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

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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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



S.C.R. NO. 209

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: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. S. L.', written over a horizontal line.