

MAR 11 2022

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## SENATE 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

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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

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

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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



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 2 WHEREAS, early childhood education is especially important  
 3 for at-risk students; and  
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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 Senate of the Thirty-first  
 30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
 31 that the Department of Education is urged to report to the  
 32 Legislature regarding the amount of public school space  
 33 available to be used for the establishment of public preschool  
 34 classrooms; and  
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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



