SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD TO PREPARE A REPORT CONTAINING A ROAD MAP, INCLUDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION, FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 46, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2020.

WHEREAS, providing every child with access to early learning opportunities supports positive outcomes in academics, promotes emotional well-being, and establishes for each child a strong foundation for a lifetime of success; and

WHEREAS, Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, granted the Early Learning Advisory Board new powers, including the power to formulate statewide policy on early learning, and renamed the board the Early Learning Board; and

WHEREAS, the Early Learning Board is composed of seventeen public and private sector members that represent the breadth of early care and education in Hawaii's early learning sector; and

WHEREAS, approximately 34,500 children aged three to four years reside in the State; and

WHEREAS, only fifty percent of those children have access to early learning options in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020, is to build the infrastructure and develop resources necessary to achieve the objective of providing the capacity to serve one hundred percent of all otherwise unserved children who are three to four years of age, or will not be at least five years of age on or before July 31 of the current school year, with access to early learning by the year 2032; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 302L-1.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Early Learning Board, among other duties, is responsible for promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that the Early Learning Board is requested to prepare a report containing a road map, including proposed legislation, for the implementation of Act 46, Session Laws of Hawaii 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Early Learning Board is requested to convene a working group, composed of relevant state agency representatives and community stakeholders, to assist the Board for the purposes of the report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Early Learning Board and the working group are requested to update the public regarding the progress of the report at each meeting of the Board or working group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Early Learning Board is requested to submit its final report 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human Services, Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, President of the University of Hawaii System, Chairperson of the Early Learning Board, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning, and Executive Director of the State Public Charter School Commission.