

MAR 11 2022

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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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



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

3  
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

13  
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

19  
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

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

30  
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

37  
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



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1 program ended in 2013 pursuant to Act 178, Session Laws of  
2 Hawaii 2012; and

3  
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

8  
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

14  
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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20  
21 OFFERED BY: 

