

JAN 23 2017

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO EXAMINE THE
APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE PRESCHOOL OPEN DOORS PROGRAM TO
ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL WHO QUALIFY.

1 WHEREAS, preschool is a critical part of raising Hawaii's
2 keiki because preschool prepares children for kindergarten,
3 teaches social skills, and allows children to explore and
4 discover their world while learning through hands-on play
5 experiences; and
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7 WHEREAS, the preschool open doors program is Hawaii's
8 school readiness program that allows approximately one thousand
9 three hundred children to attend licensed preschools to prepare
10 them for kindergarten entry; and
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12 WHEREAS, the preschool open doors program is a child care
13 subsidy program through the Department of Human Services that
14 provides statewide services to eligible low- and moderate-income
15 families sending their children to licensed preschools prior to
16 kindergarten; and
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18 WHEREAS, the goal of the preschool open doors program is to
19 promote school readiness and help children develop a life-long
20 love for learning; and
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22 WHEREAS, it is important that all of Hawaii's families have
23 access to the preschool open doors application process; and
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25 WHEREAS, currently, the application process for the
26 preschool open doors program is administered by People Attentive
27 to Children (PATCH) and does not allow applications to be
28 submitted electronically; and
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30 WHEREAS, some families are unable to apply for the
31 preschool open doors program because they cannot afford a mail-



S.C.R. NO. 12

1 in application, while other families may lack access to the
2 Internet; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the
6 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
7 Human Services is urged to examine the application process for
8 the preschool open doors program to ensure accessibility for all
9 who qualify; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
12 Services is encouraged to consider a paperless or other, cost-
13 free application process that is accessible for all who qualify;
14 and

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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
17 Services is requested to provide information regarding the cost
18 of transitioning to a paperless or cost-free application
19 process; and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
22 Services is requested to submit its findings and
23 recommendations, including the cost of a paperless or cost-free
24 application process, to the Legislature no later than twenty
25 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
29 Services, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning,
30 and People Attentive to Children.

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OFFERED BY:

Kal Rhoads

~~D.C. Kato~~
Breene Hunt

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