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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD TO EVALUATE AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE BOARD'S COMPOSITION AND CHARTER AND TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN.

WHEREAS, Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, expanded the purview of the Early Learning Board, elevated the Board from an advisory to governing capacity, and altered the composition of the board; and

WHEREAS, the Early Learning Board's charter was originally adopted in 2014, when the Board acted solely in an advisory capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Early Learning Board is placed within the Department of Education for administrative purposes, is tasked with the critical function of formulating statewide policy relating to early learning, and is responsible for:

- (1) Directing the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) on how best to meet the developmental and educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten;
- (2) Providing recommendations to EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs;
- (3) Promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and
- (4) Appointing the EOEL director and evaluating the director on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, since 2017, multiple measures have been introduced to amend or add to the composition of the Early Learning Board,

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without comprehensive consideration of the Board's charter or strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, the composition of the Early Learning Board is set by statute and is not subject to the discretion of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Early Learning Board's charter and any strategic planning, on the other hand, are matters within the purview of the Board's discretion; and

WHEREAS, an evaluation of the current board composition and charter, in relation to the development of a strategic plan, is necessary to inform any future legislation related to the composition of the Early Learning Board or its powers and functions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Early Learning Board is requested to conduct an evaluation of its current composition and charter, in relation to the development of a strategic plan; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Early Learning Board is requested to develop a five-year strategic plan, propose amendments to its charter, or both, to guide the Early Learning Board going forward and inform any improvements thereto; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Early Learning Board is requested to submit to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023 a report that includes the following:

(1) Findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, related to the Board's composition;

(2) Findings and recommendations, including any proposed amendments, related to the Board's charter; and

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(3) Findings and recommendations related to the development and implementation of a five-year strategic plan for the Board, if any; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Early Learning Board and Superintendent of Education.

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