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GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/30/2022

Time: 03:15 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Resolution: SCR 0209 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.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SCR 209 and its purpose to assess the availability of public school space that may be used for preschool classrooms and the number of public school teachers certified to teach early childhood education.

With the adoption of this resolution, the Department will undertake an assessment and provide a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

March 29, 2022

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Coleen Momohara, Interim Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: **Measure:** SCR 209 / SR 202
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Time: 3:15 p.m.
Location: Room 229 and videoconference

Bill Description: 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 each early childhood education.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING: Comments

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL provides comments on SCR 209 / SR 202 and defers to the Department of Education (HIDOE) related to the provisions in and implementation of the resolution.

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children. We also administer the EOEL Public Pre-K Program in collaboration with HIDOE.

This resolution urges the HIDOE to report to the Legislature amount of public-school space available to be used for preschool classrooms. We would like to emphasize that classrooms also need to be assessed to determine if the space is conducive for young learners. Although space may be available, some classrooms may need to be repurposed or reconstructed to meet the needs of preschool-aged children.

This resolution also urges the HIDOE to include in its report the number of teachers qualified to teach early childhood education. If the intention of this request is to assess workforce capacity, **one of the things we've learned from our Program, as well as our collaborative work across private and public partners in the field, is that most, if not all, of us cannot find enough qualified staff to expand quickly.** We must be sure this workforce is in place if we want new classrooms and programs to have qualified educators and for successful expansion.

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 302 L-7, both teachers and educational assistants provide direct services to children in the EOEL Public Pre-K classroom and including both in the report may be helpful for the purpose of this resolution.

We are committed to increasing access while building the infrastructure needed to make sure the State's investment reaps the intended returns and should this resolution move forward, we look forward to working with the HIDOE to provide more pertinent information to the Legislature regarding public preschool expansion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee On Education

From: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

Subject: **Measure:** SCR 209/ SR 202
Hearing Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2022
Time: 3:15 PM
Location: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Description: 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.

Early Learning Board Position: Support the Intent

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony about SCR 209/ SR 202 on behalf of the ELB.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning. The ELB is composed of 17 representatives from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors.

Act 046, SLH 2020, assigns EOEL the responsibility for expanding access to early learning programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds, which will require expanded facility capacity appropriate for young children. Knowing the amount of space available in public schools for use as pre-K classrooms would prove helpful in planning for expansion as would estimated cost of retrofitting classrooms if they currently do not meet required pre-K specifications.

The ELB has recently engaged an Institutional Analyst to coordinate the implementation of Act 210, as approved by the Legislature in 2021. Data about the workforce will be critically important to move forward with expansion of access to quality early care and learning in our State and in order to be responsive to individual Island needs and circumstances. In addition to knowing how many teachers currently employed by the DOE are certified to teach early childhood education, it is also important to know how many of those certified teachers are available to do so and where across the State they are located.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments supporting the intent of SCR 209/ SR 202.

LATE



Kamehameha Schools®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 3:15 p.m.

Date: March 30, 2022

Where: Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Kamehameha Schools

RE: SCR 209, 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

E ka Luna Ho‘omalū Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalū Kim, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao o ka ‘Aha Kenekoa, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** SCR 209, which urges 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.

The enactment of Act 46 (2020) was a pivotal step forward and we must remain steadfast in our commitment to this future in Hawai‘i. We support this measure and its request to the Hawai‘i Department of Education to prepare a report on the availability of public school space for public preschool classrooms and the number of public school teachers certified in early childhood education to the Legislature prior to the start of next year’s legislative session. The information and data sought for in the report are critical to the achievement of the goals set forth in Act 46 (2020).

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Hānai i ke keiki; ola ka lāhui.

‘A‘ohe ‘ulu e loa‘a i ka pōkole o ka lou. There is no success without preparation. **Please advance this measure.**