



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.

SR-202

Submitted on: 3/24/2022 6:01:19 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Mendelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear State Legislators,

Why is this data already not available? Shouldn't the DOE know these numbers? Why is it taking so long to open more pre-schools in Hawaii?

Sincerely,

Erin

SR-202

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 1:48:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although this is a great idea that is already practiced in many other states, there is one very important perspective that people are leaving out: Children's molds are completely solidified around the age of seven. What this means is that whatever examples are set before them will become a portion of a child's subconscious way of thinking or relating to the world. Mingling the two demographics of the older children and pre-school aged children is not the best idea.

In contrast, we do not have programs that many kupuna value - available, and from experience in geriatric care I can tell you that putting the preschools on the same grounds as an eldercare facility will be mutually beneficial to the preschool children as well as for the health and wellness of the kupuna. It also provides a loose resource for a free activity for our seniors, as well as beneficial learning activities for the preschoolers. Who else would volunteer to put the kids to sleep at nap time? Who else gets excited to sing the ABC's? Who would absolutely love to tell stories and teach the children arts and crafts, music, of humanities on a child's level? Our kupuna - who are rotting away from civilization in long-term facilities with nothing meaningful to do. Who would be the best influence on your youngest students? Kupuna.



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: SR 202, 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** SR 202, 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.**