DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JON J.P. FERNANDEZ
Superintendent of Education

December 15, 2017

GL# 34-17-1328
Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

DEC 19 2017
Time: 8:55 [ ] AM [ ] PM File No. 34-1319
Received By:

Honorable Benjamin J. F. Cruz
Speaker, Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
34th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Relative to Supporting the Expansion of the Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Program within the Guam Department of Education

Håfa Adai Governor Calvo,

Attached please fund the Guam Education Board ("GEB") Resolution No. 2017-22 relative to Supporting the Expansion of the Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Program within the Guam Department of Education adopted by the GEB on December 12, 2017

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Joseph Sanchez at jsanchez@gdoe.net or 300-1635. Thank you for your continued support of the Department.

Senseramente,

JON J.P. FERNANDEZ

Attachment

cc: Chairman and Members, Guam Education Board
Deputy Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction

2017 DEC 19 AM 9:05

1328

GUAM EDUCATION BOARD
RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-22

Introduced by: **Guam Education Board Members**

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF THE PILOT PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM WITHIN THE GUAM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, quality Pre-Kindergarten Programs prepare children to do their best by nurturing their social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development; enhancing their self-confidence; and fostering a lifelong desire to learn; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to quality Pre-Kindergarten Programs for 4-year-olds whose parents choose to send them has proven to be one of the soundest educational investments the public can make, providing demonstrated, significant, long-term savings on the costs of special education, grade retention, welfare and crime; and

WHEREAS, over the last three-years, a total of two-hundred sixteen (216) children have benefited from their participation at the five Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Programs, which aimed to support and enhance young children's learning through high-quality early experiences. The implementation of the Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Program continues to meet the strategy in Goal 1 of the State Strategic Plan, which is to "Support efforts to implement a high quality pre-kindergarten program in all of our schools to promote early learning opportunities and school readiness in all children."

WHEREAS, during July 2017, Department of Education submitted the Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Program Evaluation of its current five program to the Guam Education Board. The evaluation reflected the implementation of the program activities of SY2015-2016. The Evaluator compiled the evidence/artifacts on the Pilot Pre-Prekindergarten Program and concluded that the program was "a successful well-planned, well-managed program that is worthy to be replicated in other public elementary schools";

WHEREAS, quality preschool programs should be funded adequately in order to assure adherence to established standards of quality and to attract and keep certified Early Childhood Education professionals and compensate them at levels comparable to those in the Guam Department of Education's K-12 system; be inclusive of children with special needs; be offered in culturally, ethnically and linguistically appropriate settings; be clearly articulated with the K-12 system and programs serving younger children; be linked to full-day, to meet the needs of working families;

WHEREAS, during SY2017-2018, the Guam Department of Education will begin planning for the expansion of the Pilot Prekindergarten Program to commence in SY2018-2019. The second phase of the pilot of a full-day Pre-Kindergarten Program will include an additional five elementary schools and will be distributed across the Haya, Kattan, Luchan and Lagu districts; and

WHEREAS, further expansion of the pre-kindergarten program must take into account the availability of other pre-kindergarten options at the schools being considered; the cost of construction, equipment and supplies; and community demand for pre-k services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Guam Education Board of the Guam Department of Education approves the expansion of five additional pre-kindergarten classrooms at Maria Ulloa Elementary School, Agana Heights Elementary School, P.C. Lujan Elementary School, Inarajan Elementary School, and, subject to the availability of funds, D.L. Perez Elementary School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Guam Education Board will work with a broad spectrum of community members and policy makers to increase voluntary access to high-quality Prekindergarten for 4-year-olds in a variety of settings, including schools, child care centers, Head Start programs and family child care homes.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE GUAM EDUCATION BOARD ON THIS 12TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2017.

MARIA A. GUTIERREZ,
Chairwoman, Guam Education Board

JON J.P. FERNANDEZ
Executive Secretary, Guam Education Board