

THE GREATER ISLAND COUNCIL OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND AND BLUFFTON

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

WHEREAS: The Greater Island Council of Hilton Head Island and Bluffton (GIC), is an organization of concerned citizens working together to make the regional community better;

WHEREAS: The Children's Center is the largest Childcare and Early Learning facility on Hilton Head Island and principally serves working class parents;

WHEREAS: The GIC Childcare Task Force is a joint initiative of the Greater Island Council and The Children's Center, whose initial project is to expand enrollment at The Children's center by undertaking, in partnership with the SC Department of Social Services, a pilot demonstration project using the Tri-Share funding model being employed in other locales;

WHEREAS: Childcare and Early Learning in South Carolina is in crisis, with too many working class families unable to afford or find quality Childcare and Early Learning, with the result that too few South Carolina children (36%) reach kindergarten and first grade with the development and skills necessary to undertake a successful lifetime of learning and education;

WHEREAS: The crisis in Childcare and Early learning has an adverse effect on workforce availability and results in an estimated \$1.4 billion loss to the South Carolina economy.

WHEREAS: Increasing the availability and affordability of high-quality Childcare and Early Learning will enhance the programs and goals of the SC Department of Commerce and Department of Education;

WHEREAS: There is a useful and innovative Childcare and Early Learning supplemental funding model called Tri-Share that is being successfully employed in other locales to expand the availability and affordability of Childcare and Early Learning, enables tax dollars to be spent more efficiently and effectively, and which appears to be readily adaptable for use in South Carolina;

NOW THEREFORE: The Greater Island Council of Hilton Head Island and Bluffton resolves and requests the Beaufort County Legislative Delegation and the Jasper County Legislative Delegation undertake those steps necessary to enable, fund and ensure that the South Carolina Department of Social Services, with the support of the Department of Commerce and the Department of Education, will establish and conduct a Childcare Demonstration Project utilizing the Tri-Share funding model, in Beaufort and Jasper Counties and such other counties as may be appropriate, with such demonstration project to be organized and managed to increase the availability, affordability, and quality of programs offered by South Carolina Childcare and Early Learning providers.

Done this _____ day of January, 2025

Ray E. Warco, Chair