
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that preschool and other
2 early learning programs are critical to the development of young
3 children in gaining essential skills, being prepared for school,
4 and charting a course for lifelong success. The legislature
5 also finds that the preschool open doors program established
6 within the department of human services' child care assistance
7 program aims to provide low- and moderate-income families with
8 the opportunity to send their children to preschool by providing
9 eligible families with subsidies to help pay preschool tuition.

10 The legislature further finds that accreditation from
11 national early learning accrediting organizations is one
12 indicator that a child care program is providing exceptional
13 level of care that meets the high-quality standards set by these
14 organizations. The State's preschool open doors program
15 therefore requires service providers who wish to participate in
16 the preschool open doors program to obtain accreditation from
17 national early learning accrediting organizations, and service



1 providers who have not done so by July 1, 2022, must start the
2 accreditation process no later than July 1, 2024, and be
3 accredited by July 1, 2029. The department of human services is
4 required to provide operational and financial support to assist
5 these service providers to obtain accreditation and may contract
6 with a private entity for that purpose.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Establish within the department of human services'
9 child care assistance program, a child care
10 accreditation program to support licensed or
11 registered child care providers to obtain
12 accreditation from a national early learning
13 accrediting organization;
- 14 (2) Extend the deadlines by which unaccredited service
15 providers of the preschool open doors program must
16 commence the accreditation process and obtain
17 accreditation;
- 18 (3) Appropriate funds for the establishment,
19 implementation, and administration of the child care
20 accreditation program, including funding for one full
21 time equivalent (1.00 FTE) position; and



1 provider's facilities required by the national early
2 learning accrediting organization to issue the
3 accreditation.

4 (c) The department of human services may contract with a
5 private entity in accordance with chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes, to administer the program.

7 (d) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with
8 chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out the purpose of
9 this Act, including rules on the standards, policies, and
10 procedures for the administration of the child care
11 accreditation program.

12 (e) The department of human services shall submit a report
13 regarding the implementation and performance of the child care
14 accreditation program, including any proposed legislation, to
15 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
16 of each regular session. The annual report shall include the
17 status of the program, including:

18 (1) The total number and general location of child care
19 providers applying for the program;



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1 including funding for one full time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
2 position.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2024-2025 to be deposited into the child care grant program
8 special fund established pursuant to section 346-183, Hawaii
9 Revised Statutes.

10 The sums appropriated shall be disbursed and expended by
11 the department of human services to award grants to private
12 child care providers participating in the child care
13 accreditation program established pursuant to section 2 of this
14 Act, for the purposes set forth in section 2 of this Act,
15 without regard to section 346-183, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

16 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Lacien Matsumoto*
JAN 20 2023



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Report Title:

Child Care; Early Childhood Education; Preschool Open Doors Program; Child Care Accreditation Program; Department of Human Resources; Appropriation

Description:

Establish within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Assistance Program, a Child Care Accreditation Program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization. Extends the deadline by which unaccredited service providers of the Preschool Open Doors Program must commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation. Appropriate funds.

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