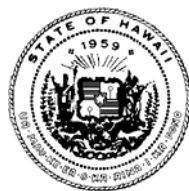


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELawe KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 3, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 327 – RELATING TO STATE CHILD CARE.**

Hearing: February 6, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill, defers to the Office of the Governor, and provides comments. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Office of the Governor for a state child care facility for state employees and their families.

The number of licensed and registered family child care providers and center-based providers has been on the decline since prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Establishing a state childcare facility for employees and their children would provide another childcare option for state employees and their families. It may contribute to improving workforce recruitment, retention, and continuity of employment.

DHS will work with the entity through the licensing process to ensure that the health and safety standards for the licensing of child care facilities per Hawaii Administrative Rules are met and maintained when children are in care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII

Executive Office on Early Learning

Ke'ena Ho'okele Ho'ona'auao Pae Kamali'i o Hawai'i Moku'āina
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

TO: Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services & Homelessness

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 327 – RELATING TO STATE CHILDCARE
Committee: HSH
Date: Thursday, February 6, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Conference Room 329

Executive Office on Early Learning's Position: **COMMENTS**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) offers the following comments on H.B. No. 327 which appropriates funds to the office of the Governor for a childcare facility for state employees and their children ages two and below. We defer to the Governor regarding implementation and funding.

EOEL supports the expansion of early learning programs and services for Hawai'i's young children (prenatal to age five) and appreciates the intent of this bill. Employer-sponsored early learning programs are a valuable tool for both recruiting and retaining employees, benefiting both employers and their workforce. Additionally, a statewide shortage of infant and toddler care makes it especially challenging for families to secure childcare for children in the age group targeted by this bill.

Should this bill become law, we would be interested in learning more about the details of this project and would be happy to collaborate with the Governor's office and other state agencies on this effort.

We appreciate the Legislature's continued investment in our youngest keiki and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments.

HB-327

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 7:48:32 PM

Testimony for HSH on 2/6/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Childcare costs are a significant challenge for working and middle class families. Providing this type of support is crucial to supporting families and retaining/recruiting top talent for the state. I urge the Committee to PASS this bill!

JON N. IKENAGA
STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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HB327 RELATING TO STATE CHILDCARE

Chair Martin, Vice Chair Olds, and Committee Members,

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **SUPPORTS THIS BILL**

In addition to employing over 100 exempt attorney positions, the OPD employs numerous support staff who are represented by the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) and Unified Public Workers (UPW). In recent years, we have had significant issues with recruiting for positions, with many applicants citing issues regarding childcare. This bill would make the ability to recruit for our office in furtherance of the mission of the OPD more attractive and equitable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.