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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

January 30, 2024

To: The Honorable Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 2035 – RELATING TO CHILD CARE.**

Hearing: Thursday, February 1, 2024, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the measure and offers comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to codify program modification requirements for demonstration projects established by child care facilities that are licensed by the Department of Human Services.

DHS respectfully notes that codification in statute is not required as existing administrative rules regarding program modification requirements for demonstration projects already address the issues. Program modifications for child care facilities to operate a demonstration project are in Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), chapters 17-892.1 Licensing of Group Child Care Centers and Group Child Care Homes, 17-895.1 Licensing of Infant and Toddler Child Care Centers, and 17-891.2 Registration of Family Child Care Homes. Since HAR has the force and effect of law, establishing the same program modifications for child care facilities to operate a demonstration project through statute is not needed and is duplicative.

DHS has been working with child care facilities to approve demonstration project proposals when child care facilities submit written proposals to the department indicating the same requirements as listed in the measure in section 1, page 1, lines 8-15:

- (b) The child care facility shall submit a written proposal to the department indicating the following:
 - (1) Purpose of the project;
 - (2) Description of the project;
 - (3) Length of the project;
 - (4) Specific child care rules that shall be exempted by the project; and
 - (5) Justification for the proposed exemptions.

Demonstration projects allow child care facilities to show the department that by operating under changes or modifications to the child care administrative rules while complying with the child care rules, except as specifically exempted or modified in the department's approval, through the developments, findings, recommendations, and suggestions by the child care facility during the demonstration project period, the department may use these as factors to consider for rule amendments.

Should DHS need to make changes to one or more provisions in the administrative rule section, "Program modifications for demonstration projects," based on the findings and recommendations from approved demonstration projects, the rule amendment process is available at any time throughout the year; also, amendments through rules does not require the legislature to be in session.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.

To: House Committee on Human Services

Re: HB 2035 – in strong support

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 329

February 1, 2024; 9:00AM

Aloha Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato and members of the committee:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill 2035 relating to Child Care.**

This bill demonstrates an understanding and commitment to the child care needs of Hawai'i's families by recognizing the unique challenges involved in providing these essential services in an efficient and timely manner. The careful consideration given to the items outlined to be included in written proposals reflects a thoughtful balance between regulatory compliance and the urgent need to expand child care access to families across Hawai'i.

We at HCAN Speaks! believe this bill, with its focus on streamlined processes supported by proposals unique to the child care needs of Hawai'i's communities, will contribute significantly to meeting the existing and growing demand for quality child care facilities and services.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue. **Please pass HB 2035.**

Mahalo,

Deborah Zysman, MPH

Executive Director



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services
Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 9AM
Conference Room 329**

RE: HB2035 Relating to Child Care

Chair Marten, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports HB2035**, which codifies program modification requirements for child care facilities licensed by the Department of Human Services.

In discussions with our members, increasing the availability of childcare is a high priority. This measure will help to expedite the building of such child care facilities needed for the viability of our workforce. Our business community cannot increase their capacity without such support.

Limited access to childcare is one of the challenges that our local workforce faces today and a significant reason for Hawaii's overall workforce shortage. Low wages and a high cost of living make it difficult for childcare facilities to retain and grow the workforce. This bill would help retain and expand the local childcare workforce which is critical to ensure a thriving future for all of Hawaii businesses.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2035

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 9:14:01 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/1/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB2035 which would improve the childcare offered in Hawaii.