HOUSE RESOLUTION

DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022 AS CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION MONTH.

WHEREAS, early childhood is a critical development period for an individual; and

WHEREAS, the majority of human brain development occurs before a child reaches the age of five, with a significant portion of the development happening before the age of three;

WHEREAS, high quality early care and education have a variety of positive outcomes for children, including ameliorating the effects of poverty, detecting and remediating developmental delays, identifying signs of child neglect and preventing further neglect, and better preparing them for school, which all contribute to increasing their likelihood of success in life; and

WHEREAS, the majority of children under five years of age in Hawaii have working parents who cannot care for them during all hours of the day; and

WHEREAS, over thirty thousand children under the age of six in Hawaii are currently receiving licensed child care services; and

WHEREAS, many Hawaii families spend almost a third of their income on child care; and

WHEREAS, the average wage of child care workers in Hawaii, however, is less than \$30,000 a year; and

WHEREAS, one in three child care workers in Hawaii are experiencing food insecurity, which is likely due to inadequate compensation; and

WHEREAS, the devaluing of child care services and the profession of child care service providers stems from racist and

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sexist views that child care services do not deserve appropriate compensation or compensation at all because the work is largely performed by women of color; and

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WHEREAS, young children need consistent care from early childhood educators who are skilled, educated, competent, and appropriately compensated; and

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WHEREAS, early childhood educators need and deserve to earn a wage that is sufficient to sustain their families and is commensurate with the skills and education required to perform their work and the critical role they play in the development of children who will form Hawaii's future; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, that the month of September 2022 be designated as Child Care Provider Appreciation Month in the State of Hawaii; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all policy makers, community organizations, and residents in Hawaii are encouraged to recognize the critical importance of child care, especially during early childhood, and child care providers and their services; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Human Services, and Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning.

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