

JAN 21 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD REGISTRY.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a strong early  
2 childcare and education workforce is necessary to support  
3 Hawaii's children, working families, and communities. The  
4 legislature further finds that the demand for quality early  
5 childcare and education far exceeds the currently available and  
6 qualified early childcare capacity of the State. The  
7 legislature also finds that disruptions to the early childcare  
8 and education system due to the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019  
9 pandemic have created more challenges to expanding access to  
10 quality, affordable early childcare and education programs.

11           According to the Center on the Study of Child Care  
12 Employment, the lack of early childcare and education workforce  
13 data prevents policymakers from understanding the needs of this  
14 workforce, which may then lead to inefficiencies regarding early  
15 childcare and education legislation and programs. The  
16 legislature recognizes that workforce registries have been used  
17 to provide an objective framework for professional development



1 and compensation. The legislature further recognizes that  
2 timely, clear, and detailed data on early childcare workers and  
3 educators is critical to ensure and increase the quality of  
4 these workers and educators in the State, while helping to craft  
5 data-informed policies. Currently, the department of human  
6 services only requires the staff used to meet the staff-child  
7 ratio in licensed childcare facilities to enroll and update  
8 their information on its early childhood registry.

9       Given the need to expand access to and the availability of  
10 high-quality early childcare and education programs in the  
11 State, the legislature also recognizes that data in the Hawaii  
12 early childhood registry must be consistently collected and  
13 analyzed. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to address  
14 the needs of Hawaii's early childcare and education workforce by  
15 requiring the department of human resources to annually collect  
16 certain information from all early childcare workers and  
17 educators in the State through its early childhood registry.

18       SECTION 2. The department of human services shall require  
19 all staff used to meet the staff-child ratio in both licensed  
20 and registered childcare programs in the State to annually  
21 update their information in its early childhood registry. The



1 data collected from the early childhood registry shall include  
2 social determinates, including but not limited to: gender,  
3 race, age, paid years of experience, preferred learning  
4 languages, languages spoken with children, median hourly wage,  
5 paid planning time, health insurance, paid sick leave, paid  
6 vacation, retirement benefits, participation in an  
7 apprenticeship program, level of education, and training hours.  
8 Training includes but is not limited to health and safety  
9 training and voluntary professional development training.

10 SECTION 3. The department of human services shall submit a  
11 report of its findings and recommendations, including any  
12 proposed legislation, regarding updates to the early childhood  
13 registry to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
14 the convening of the regular session of 2024.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$80,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
18 purpose of improving the State's early childhood registry.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
20 human services for the purposes of this Act.



# S.B. NO. 2700

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
2 provided that section 4 of this Act shall take effect on July 1,  
3 2022.

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INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bennett J. Neel", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and extends to the right of the line.

# S.B. NO. 2700

**Report Title:**

Early Childhood Registry; Department of Human Services;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the Department of Human Services' Early Childhood Workforce Registry. Requires a report to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

