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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 for 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  
15      legislation for early childcare and education 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 and will help to craft  
5 data-informed policies.

6 Currently, the department of human services only requires  
7 the staff used to meet the staff-to-child ratio in licensed  
8 childcare facilities to enroll and update their information on  
9 its early childhood registry. Given the need to expand the  
10 availability of access to high-quality early childcare and  
11 education programs in the State, the legislature also recognizes  
12 that data in the Hawaii early childhood registry must be  
13 consistently collected and analyzed.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to address the  
15 needs of Hawaii's early childcare and education workforce by  
16 requiring the department of human services to annually collect  
17 certain information from all early childcare workers and  
18 educators in the State through its early childhood registry.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new section to part VIII to be appropriately  
21 designated and to read as follows:



1        "§346-        Early childhood registry. (a) The department  
2   shall require all staff used to meet the staff-to-child ratio in  
3   both licensed and registered childcare programs in the State to  
4   annually update their information in its early childhood  
5   registry. The data collected in the early childhood registry  
6   shall include social determinates, including but not limited to:  
7   gender, race, age, paid years of experience, preferred learning  
8   languages, languages spoken with children, median hourly wage,  
9   paid planning time, health insurance, paid sick leave, paid  
10   vacation, retirement benefits, participation in an  
11   apprenticeship program, level of education, and training hours.  
12   The data collected shall not include the first or last names of  
13   staff members.

14        (b) As used in this section, "training" includes health  
15   and safety training and voluntary professional development  
16   training."

17        SECTION 3. No later than twenty days prior to the  
18   convening of the regular session of 2024, the department of  
19   human services shall submit to the legislature a report of its  
20   findings and recommendations, including any proposed



1 legislation, relating to the aggregate data of the social  
2 determinates collected pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
6 purpose of improving the State's early childhood registry.

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

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
10 2050.



**Report Title:**

Early Childhood Registry; DHS; 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. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD2)

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

