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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many families with  
2 children in Hawaii are impacted by the continuing health and  
3 economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and need an array  
4 of services. In response to these consequences, staff from the  
5 departments of human services, education, health, labor and  
6 industrial relations; the governor's coordinator on  
7 homelessness; the executive office on aging; the executive  
8 office on early learning; workforce development council; and  
9 community providers have worked on various initiatives to  
10 respond to the needs of Hawaii's residents.

11           In August 2020, the National Governors Association for Best  
12 Practices and Casey Family Programs launched the child and  
13 family well-being learning cohort I and II to coordinate  
14 strategic solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect and  
15 ensure child and family well-being. Several months into the  
16 pandemic, there was a national concern that cases of child abuse  
17 and neglect were going unreported as schools, health care



1 systems, and other mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect  
2 were providing limited in-person activities. Following the  
3 early months of pandemic-related lockdown in 2020, reports of  
4 child abuse and neglect declined in some states by twenty to  
5 seventy per cent. As part of the cohort, the National Family  
6 Support Network presented information and training opportunities  
7 about family resource centers, also referred to as family  
8 support centers, as a model to assist families and prevent  
9 incidents of child abuse and neglect.

10 Family resource centers play a critical role in:

- 11 (1) Preventing child abuse and neglect;
- 12 (2) Strengthening children and families;
- 13 (3) Connecting family-impacting agencies and programs;
- 14 (4) Creating opportunities for community-level  
15 coordination;
- 16 (5) Creating connections to resources and support systems;  
17 and
- 18 (6) Increasing family engagement,

19 which all lead to greater student success in school.

20 Various studies of communities having family resource  
21 centers showed lower rates of child abuse and neglect



1 investigations, lower numbers of children entering foster care,  
2 and an increase in parents or custodians gaining employment  
3 within one year after participating in services provided through  
4 the centers.

5 The primary goal of family resource centers is to assist  
6 families with supportive services before problems become crises  
7 that require intervention by child or other protective services.  
8 For school-based family resource centers, an added goal is to  
9 support a child's educational needs.

10 Family resource centers serve diverse populations, and are  
11 family-focused, culturally sensitive resource hubs that provide  
12 families and caregivers targeted services or referrals for  
13 services based on the needs and interests of families or  
14 caregivers. Family resource centers may provide services that  
15 include assistance accessing government programs, job training  
16 and placement, educational support, housing assistance, child  
17 care, skills training for parents or caregivers on a variety of  
18 subjects, counseling, and referrals for case management or  
19 treatment services.

20 The purpose of this Act is to establish within the  
21 department of human services and fund a five-year family



1 resource centers pilot program and one full-time equivalent (1.0  
2 FTE) family resource centers coordinator position to:

- 3 (1) Further develop and implement a statewide network of  
4 school- and community-based family resource centers;
- 5 (2) Establish definitions, standards, and best practices;
- 6 (3) Identify and align available services, goals, and  
7 outcomes; and
- 8 (4) Develop referral and data tracking protocols.

9 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
10 of human services a family resource centers pilot program, which  
11 shall:

- 12 (1) Develop and implement a statewide network of school-  
13 and community-based family resource centers;
- 14 (2) Establish definitions, standards, and best practices;
- 15 (3) Identify and align available services, goals, and  
16 outcomes; and
- 17 (4) Develop referral and data tracking protocols.

18 (b) There is established within the department of human  
19 services one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource  
20 centers coordinator position. The director of human services  
21 shall appoint the family resource centers coordinator without



1 regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out the  
2 functions of the pilot program.

3 (c) The department of human services, along with the  
4 department of education and the department of health, may  
5 coordinate with other public or private entities, as  
6 appropriate, to develop and implement family resource centers,  
7 including establishing standards of practice, and a strategic  
8 plan to identify minimum services, align goals and outcomes, and  
9 document referral and data tracking protocols.

10 (d) For purposes of the pilot program:

11 (1) A family resource center shall be designed to meet the  
12 needs, cultures, and interests of the communities  
13 served by the family resource center;

14 (2) Family services, including family preservation  
15 services and the identification of community support  
16 systems, may be delivered directly to a family at a  
17 family resource center by family resource center staff  
18 or by providers who contract with or have provider  
19 agreements with the family resource center, or with  
20 any of the departments identified in this section; and



1           (3) Each family resource center may have one or more  
 2           family advocates who screen and assess a family's  
 3           needs and strengths. If requested by the family, the  
 4           family advocate may assist the family with setting its  
 5           own goals and, together with the family, develop a  
 6           written plan for the family to pursue the family's  
 7           goals while working toward attaining a greater level  
 8           of self-reliance or self-sufficiency through the  
 9           pursuit of education, job training, or employment.

10           (e) As used in this section:

11           "Community support system" means the support system that  
 12           may be organized through extended family members, friends,  
 13           neighbors, religious organizations, community programs, cultural  
 14           and ethnic organizations, or other support groups or  
 15           organizations.

16           "Family preservation services" means in-home or community-  
 17           based services that draw on the strengths of the family and its  
 18           individual members, while addressing family needs, to keep the  
 19           family together where possible. These services include:

20           (1) Respite care of children to provide temporary relief  
 21           for parents and other caregivers;



1           (2) Services designed to improve parenting skills with  
 2           respect to matters including child development,  
 3           household budgeting, stress management, health,  
 4           safety, and nutrition; and

5           (3) Services designed to promote the well-being of  
 6           children and families; increase the strength and  
 7           stability of families; increase parents' confidence  
 8           and competence in their parenting abilities; promote a  
 9           safe, stable, and supportive family environment for  
 10          children; and otherwise enhance children's  
 11          development.

12          "Family resource center" means a unified single point of  
 13          entry where families, individuals, children, and youth in  
 14          communities may obtain information, an assessment of needs, and  
 15          direct delivery of or referrals for family services, in a manner  
 16          that is welcoming and strengths-based.

17          SECTION 3. (a) Contracts entered into by the departments  
 18          identified in subsection (c) of section 2 of this Act shall be  
 19          exempt from the requirements of chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii  
 20          Revised Statutes.



1 (b) The departments identified in subsection (c) of  
2 section 2 of this Act may accept grants, donations, and  
3 contributions from private or public sources for the purposes of  
4 this Act, which may be expended by the receiving department in a  
5 manner consistent with the donors' wishes.

6 (c) The departments identified in subsection (c) of  
7 section 2 of this Act shall establish, no later than December 1,  
8 2023, the following:

- 9 (1) Criteria that the departments intend to use to  
10 evaluate potential family resource centers;
- 11 (2) Milestones that the departments expect to meet in  
12 establishing one or more family resource centers over  
13 the course of the five-year pilot program;
- 14 (3) Specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and  
15 time-based performance measures that the departments  
16 expect to meet by the end of each fiscal year;
- 17 (4) Controls that the departments intend to use to monitor  
18 and oversee family resource centers; and
- 19 (5) Data and referral system tracking needs and protocols  
20 that comply with applicable state and federal laws.



1 (d) The family resource centers coordinator shall submit  
 2 reports to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
 3 the convening of each of the regular sessions of 2023, 2024,  
 4 2025, 2026, and 2027. Each report shall include a description  
 5 of the items identified in subsection (c) and of any grants,  
 6 donations, and contributions received by the departments  
 7 pursuant to subsection (b) in the prior fiscal year.

8 (e) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,  
 9 2027.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
 12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
 13 establishment of the family resource centers pilot program, one  
 14 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers  
 15 coordinator position, and expenses related to the development  
 16 and implementation of a statewide network of family resource  
 17 centers.

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

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
 21 2050.



**Report Title:**

DHS; Family Resource Centers; Pilot Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the family resource centers pilot program within the Department of Human Services. Establishes 1 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers coordinator position. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys. 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.*

