

JAN 21 2022

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY EDUCATION.

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

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

11           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12           (1) Establish and make an appropriation for an early child  
13           care worker subsidy pilot program; and  
14           (2) Make an appropriation to the Hawaii early childhood  
15           educator special fund.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of human services shall  
2 establish and implement a one-year early child care worker  
3 subsidy pilot program.

4 (b) The department of human services shall develop  
5 standards and qualifications for participation in the pilot  
6 program by early childhood educators, which at a minimum shall  
7 require that the:

- 8 (1) Pilot program serve five per cent of the early  
9 childhood educators in the State;
- 10 (2) Early childhood educators not be employed by the  
11 department of education, executive office on early  
12 learning, or State public charter school commission;
- 13 (3) Early childhood educators include those working in  
14 rural areas and child care deserts; and
- 15 (4) Early childhood educators who apply for participation  
16 in the pilot program be selected by lottery.

17 (c) The department of human services shall establish best  
18 practices to bring all early childhood educators' pay to, at a  
19 minimum, \$17.00 per hour.

20 (d) The department of human services shall submit a report  
21 on the pilot program, including any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
2 the regular session of 2023.

3 (e) For the purpose of this section, "child care desert"  
4 means any geographic area where child care supply meets less  
5 than one-third of the potential demand.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
9 the early child care worker subsidy pilot program.

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

12 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
15 the Hawaii early childhood educator special fund established  
16 pursuant to section 302L-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
18 office on early learning for the purposes of the Hawaii early  
19 childhood educator stipend program established pursuant to  
20 section 302L-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
2 provided that sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall take effect on  
3 July 1, 2022; provided further that section 2 of this Act shall  
4 be repealed on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Bennett C. Mesoluck



# S.B. NO. 2701

**Report Title:**

Early Childhood Educators; Subsidy; Pilot Program; Special Fund; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and makes an appropriation for an early child care worker subsidy pilot program. Makes an appropriation to the Hawaii Early Childhood Educator Special Fund.

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

