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

12           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

13           (1) Establish a one-year child care worker subsidy pilot  
14                 program to retain the existing early child care  
15                 workforce;



1 (2) Appropriate funds for the child care worker subsidy  
2 pilot program to be expended by the department of  
3 human services; and

4 (3) Appropriate funds to be deposited into the early  
5 learning special fund and expended by the executive  
6 office on early learning for the Hawaii early  
7 childhood educator stipend program.

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

11 (b) The department of human services shall develop  
12 standards and qualifications for participation in the pilot  
13 program by child care workers, which at a minimum shall meet the  
14 following requirements:

15 (1) The pilot program shall serve five per cent of the  
16 child care workers in the State;

17 (2) Participants shall not be employed by the department  
18 of education, executive office on early learning, or  
19 any public charter schools;

20 (3) Participants shall include those working in rural  
21 areas and child care deserts;



1 (4) Participants shall be limited to child care workers  
2 working in licensed child care centers, licensed  
3 infant and toddler centers, registered family child  
4 care homes, and licensed group child care centers; and

5 (5) Applicants for the pilot program shall be selected by  
6 lottery.

7 (c) The department of human services shall establish best  
8 practices to bring all participants' pay to, at a minimum,  
9 \$17.00 per hour.

10 (d) For the purpose of this section, "child care desert"  
11 means any geographic area where child care supply meets less  
12 than one-third of the potential demand.

13 SECTION 3. (a) The department of human services shall  
14 submit an interim report on the pilot program, including any  
15 proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty  
16 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2023.

17 (b) The department of human services shall submit a final  
18 report, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature  
19 no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
20 session of 2024.



1 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
4 the child care worker subsidy pilot program established by  
5 section 2 of this Act.

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

8 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be  
11 deposited into the early learning special fund established  
12 pursuant to section 302L-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

13 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the early learning  
14 special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be  
15 necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the early childhood  
16 educator stipend program established pursuant to section 302L-9,  
17 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
19 office on early learning for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060;  
21 provided that sections 4, 5, and 6 of this Act shall take effect



1 on July 1, 2022; provided further that section 2 of this Act  
2 shall be repealed on July 1, 2023.



**Report Title:**

Child Care and Early Education Workforce; Subsidy; Pilot Program; Special Fund; Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes a one-year child care worker subsidy pilot program to assist in retaining the existing child care workforce. Appropriates funds for the pilot program to be expended by the department of human services. Appropriates funds to be deposited into the early learning special fund and expended by the executive office on early learning for the Hawaii early childhood educator stipend program. Repeals the pilot program on 7/1/2023. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

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

