

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that preschool and other  
2 early learning programs are critical to the development of young  
3 children in gaining essential skills, being prepared for school,  
4 and charting a course for lifelong success. The legislature  
5 also finds that the preschool open doors program established  
6 within the department of human services' child care assistance  
7 program aims to provide low- and moderate-income families with  
8 the opportunity to send their children to preschool by providing  
9 eligible families with subsidies to help pay preschool tuition.

10           The legislature further finds that accreditation from  
11 national early learning accrediting organizations is one  
12 indicator that a child care program is providing a level of care  
13 that meets high-quality standards set by these organizations.  
14 The State's preschool open doors program therefore requires  
15 service providers who wish to participate in the preschool open  
16 doors program to obtain accreditation from national early  
17 learning accrediting organizations, and service providers who



1 have not done so by July 1, 2022, must start the accreditation  
2 process no later than July 1, 2024, and be accredited by July 1,  
3 2029. The department of human services is required to provide  
4 operational and financial support to assist these service  
5 providers to obtain accreditation and may contract with a  
6 private entity for that purpose.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Establish within the department of human services'  
9 child care subsidy program office, a child care  
10 accreditation program to support licensed or  
11 registered child care providers to obtain  
12 accreditation from a national early learning  
13 accrediting organization or an accrediting  
14 organization approved by the director of human  
15 services;
- 16 (2) Extend the deadlines by which unaccredited service  
17 providers of the preschool open doors program must  
18 commence the accreditation process and obtain  
19 accreditation;
- 20 (3) Appropriate funds for the establishment,  
21 implementation, and administration of the child care



1 accreditation program, including funding for one full  
 2 time equivalent (1.00 FTE) position; and  
 3 (4) Appropriate funds to be deposited into the child care  
 4 grant program special fund to be disbursed and  
 5 expended to award grants to private child care  
 6 providers participating in the child care  
 7 accreditation program for certain costs required to  
 8 obtain and maintain accreditation.

PART I

10 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
 11 of human services' child care subsidy program office, a child  
 12 care accreditation program to support child care providers in  
 13 obtaining accreditation from a national early learning  
 14 accrediting organization or an accrediting organization approved  
 15 by the director of human services.

16 (b) The program shall award upfront grant funding to an  
 17 eligible child care provider who has committed to obtaining  
 18 accreditation from a national early learning accrediting  
 19 organization, which shall be used to pay for the expenses  
 20 necessary for the child care provider to obtain the  
 21 accreditation, including:



- 1 (1) Expenses to retain technical assistance for the
- 2 accreditation process; and
- 3 (2) Incidental expenses to obtain furniture and equipment
- 4 and to make minor renovations to the child care
- 5 provider's facilities required by the national early
- 6 learning accrediting organization to issue the
- 7 accreditation.

8 (c) The department of human services may contract with a  
9 private entity in accordance with chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised  
10 Statutes, to administer the program.

11 (d) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with  
12 chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out the purpose of  
13 this Act, including rules on the standards, policies, and  
14 procedures for the administration of the child care  
15 accreditation program.

16 (e) The department of human services shall submit a report  
17 regarding the implementation and performance of the child care  
18 accreditation program, including any proposed legislation, to  
19 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
20 of each regular session. The annual report shall include the  
21 status of the program, including:



1 (1) The total number and general location of child care  
2 providers applying for the program;

3 (2) An aggregated summary of the categories of expenses  
4 and amounts of expenses covered for childcare  
5 providers under the program; and

6 (3) The percentage of service providers in the preschool  
7 open doors program who:

8 (A) Have commenced the process of obtaining  
9 accreditation; and

10 (B) Are currently accredited.

11 (f) For the purposes of this Act:

12 "Child care provider" means the same as "provider" as  
13 defined in section 346-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and  
14 includes licensed child care centers, licensed infant and  
15 toddler centers, registered family child care homes, and  
16 licensed group child care centers.

17 "Eligible child care provider" means a child care facility  
18 that is not part of or owned or operated by a private  
19 educational institution; provided that an organization or  
20 individual that owns or operates both a private educational  
21 institution and a child care facility may be deemed an "eligible



1 child care provider" if the organization or individual can  
2 provide evidence that the operations and finances of the private  
3 educational institution are completely separate from the  
4 operations and finances of the child care facility so that it is  
5 clear that a child care grant would not support or benefit the  
6 private educational institution in violation of article X,  
7 section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

8 "National early learning accrediting organization" means  
9 one of the accrediting organizations identified in section 346-  
10 184(b); Hawaii Revised Statutes.

11 PART II

12 SECTION 3. Section 346-184, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

14 "(a) Each service provider of the preschool open doors  
15 program shall be accredited or shall obtain accreditation within  
16 seven calendar years of first receiving any funds from the  
17 preschool open doors program; provided that any existing service  
18 provider unaccredited on July 1, 2022, shall commence the  
19 accreditation process no later than July 1, ~~[2024]~~ 2029, and  
20 obtain accreditation by July 1, ~~[2029]~~ 2034; provided further



1 that the director may grant to any service provider one or more  
2 extensions to obtain accreditation on a case-by-case basis."

3 PART III

4 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
8 year 2024-2025 for the establishment, implementation, and  
9 administration of the child care accreditation program  
10 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including paying  
11 the cost of annual accreditation fees incurred by eligible child  
12 care providers participating in the preschool open doors  
13 program.

14 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
15 of human services for the purposes of this Act and may be used  
16 for necessary administrative and other costs of implementation,  
17 including funding for one full time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
18 position.

19 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and



1 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
2 year 2024-2025 to be deposited into the child care grant program  
3 special fund established pursuant to section 346-183, Hawaii  
4 Revised Statutes.

5 The sums appropriated shall be disbursed and expended by  
6 the department of human services to award grants to private  
7 child care providers participating in the child care  
8 accreditation program established pursuant to section 2 of this  
9 Act, for the purposes set forth in section 2 of this Act,  
10 without regard to section 346-183, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

11 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
12 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
14 2050.



**Report Title:**

Child Care; Early Childhood Education; Preschool Open Doors Program; Child Care Accreditation Program; Department of Human Resources; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Subsidy Program Office, a Child Care Accreditation Program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization or an accrediting organization approved by the Director of Human Services. Extends the deadline by which unaccredited service providers of the Preschool Open Doors Program must commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050.  
(SD1)

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

