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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that high-quality early  
2 childhood education programs are critical for young children's  
3 development. The legislature further finds that accreditation  
4 by a national organization is one marker of quality in early  
5 childhood education. The legislature also finds that service  
6 providers who wish to participate in the preschool open doors  
7 program must achieve accreditation by July 1, 2029.

8           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 9           (1) Establish a program to support accreditation of  
10           licensed and registered child care providers;
- 11           (2) Delay the deadlines for existing preschool open doors  
12           service providers to commence the accreditation  
13           process and obtain accreditation;
- 14           (3) Appropriate funds for the child care accreditation  
15           program; and
- 16           (4) Appropriate funds for deposit into the child care  
17           grant program special fund.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§346- Child care accreditation program; established.

5 (a) The department shall establish and implement a child care  
6 accreditation program.

7 (b) The department shall develop standards, policies, and  
8 procedures for the administration of the child care  
9 accreditation program, which shall, at minimum:

10 (1) Provide upfront grant funding to cover the cost of  
11 accreditation by one of the national early learning  
12 accrediting organizations, as identified in section  
13 346-184(b), or as approved by the director;

14 (2) Provide grant funding for technical assistance to  
15 assist a child care provider through the accreditation  
16 process; and

17 (3) Be available to licensed child care centers, licensed  
18 infant and toddler centers, registered family child  
19 care homes, and licensed group child care centers.

20 (c) The child care accreditation program may provide grant  
21 funding to cover incidental expenses to allow a child care



1 provider to receive accreditation, including but not limited to  
2 expenses for furniture, equipment, or minor renovations.

3 (d) The department may contract with a service provider in  
4 accordance with chapter 103D and 103F, as applicable, to operate  
5 the child care accreditation program.

6 (e) The department shall report to the legislature no  
7 later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular  
8 session the number and general location of programs applying for  
9 and participating in the child care accreditation program, an  
10 aggregated breakdown of the type and amount of costs the program  
11 covered for providers, and the percentage of preschool open  
12 doors providers that have begun or are currently accredited."

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

15 "(a) Each service provider of the preschool open doors  
16 program shall be accredited or shall obtain accreditation within  
17 seven calendar years of first receiving any funds from the  
18 preschool open doors program; provided that any existing service  
19 provider unaccredited on July 1, 2022, shall commence the  
20 accreditation process no later than July 1, [~~2024,~~] 2027, and  
21 obtain accreditation by July 1, [~~2029,~~] 2032; 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 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2024-2025 for the child care accreditation program  
8 established by section 2 of this Act, including for the  
9 establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent  
10 position for the child care accreditation program.

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

13 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
17 year 2024-2025 to be deposited into the child care grant special  
18 fund established pursuant to section 346-183, Hawaii Revised  
19 Statutes.

20 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.




# H.B. NO. 261

1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 19 2023



# H.B. NO. 261

**Report Title:**

Early Learning; Child Care; Accreditation; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of human services to establish a child care accreditation program to assist licensed and registered child care providers obtain accreditation. Amends the time period for when existing preschool open doors service providers are required to obtain accreditation. Appropriates funds for the child care accreditation program, including for the establishment of one full-time position for the program. Appropriates funds into the child care grant 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.*

