A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION.

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

1 The legislature finds that preschool and other SECTION 1. early learning programs are critical to the development of young 2 children in gaining essential skills, being prepared for school, 3 4 and charting a course for lifelong success. The legislature 5 also finds that the preschool open doors program established within the department of human services' child care assistance 6 7 program aims to provide low- and moderate-income families with the opportunity to send their children to preschool by providing 8 9 eligible families with subsidies to help pay preschool tuition. 10 The legislature further finds that accreditation from national early learning accrediting organizations is one 11 12 indicator that a child care program is providing exceptional 13 level of care that meets the high-quality standards set by these 14 organizations. The State's preschool open doors program 15 therefore requires service providers who wish to participate in 16 the preschool open doors program to obtain accreditation from 17 national early learning accrediting organizations, and service

- 1 providers who have not done so by July 1, 2022, must start the
- 2 accreditation process no later than July 1, 2024, and be
- 3 accredited by July 1, 2029. The department of human services is
- 4 required to provide operational and financial support to assist
- 5 these service providers to obtain accreditation and may contract
- 6 with a 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 assistance program, a child care
- 10 accreditation program to support licensed or
- 11 registered child care providers to obtain
- accreditation from a national early learning
- 13 accrediting organization;
- 14 (2) Extend the deadlines by which unaccredited service
- providers of the preschool open doors program must
- 16 commence the accreditation process and obtain
- 17 accreditation;
- 18 (3) Appropriate funds for the establishment,
- implementation, and administration of the child care
- 20 accreditation program, including funding for one full
- time equivalent (1.00 FTE) position; and

| 1 | (4) Appropriate funds to be deposited into the child care |
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| 2 | grant program special fund to be disbursed and |
| 3 | expended to award grants to private child care |
| 4 | providers participating in the child care |
| 5 | accreditation program for certain costs required to |
| 6 | obtain accreditation. |
| 7 | PART I |
| 8 | SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department |
| 9 | of human services' child care assistance program, a child care |
| 10 | accreditation program to support child care providers in |
| 11 | obtaining accreditation from a national early learning |
| 12 | accrediting organization. |
| 13 | (b) The program shall award upfront grant funding to a |
| 14 | child care provider who has committed to obtaining accreditation |
| 15 | from a national early learning accrediting organization, which |
| 16 | shall be used to pay for the expenses necessary for the child |
| 17 | care provider to obtain the accreditation, including: |
| 18 | (1) Expenses to retain technical assistance for the |
| 19 | accreditation process; and |

(2) Incidental expenses to obtain furniture and equipment

and to make minor renovations to the child care

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| 1 | provider's facilities required by the national early |
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| 2 | learning accrediting organization to issue the |
| 3 | accreditation. |
| 4 | (c) The department of human services may contract with a |
| 5 | private entity in accordance with chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised |
| 6 | Statutes, to administer the program. |
| 7 | (d) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with |
| 8 | chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out the purpose of |
| 9 | this Act, including rules on the standards, policies, and |
| 10 | procedures for the administration of the child care |
| 11 | accreditation program. |
| 12 | (e) The department of human services shall submit a report |
| 13 | regarding the implementation and performance of the child care |
| 14 | accreditation program, including any proposed legislation, to |
| 15 | the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening |
| 16 | of each regular session. The annual report shall include the |
| 17 | status of the program, including: |
| 18 | (1) The total number and general location of child care |
| 19 | providers applying for the program; |

| 1 | (2) | An aggregated summary of the categories of expenses |
|----|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | | and amounts of expenses covered for childcare |
| 3 | | providers under the program; and |
| 4 | (3) | The percentage of service providers in the preschool |
| 5 | | open doors program who: |
| 6 | | (A) Have commenced the process of obtaining |
| 7 | | accreditation; and |
| 8 | | (B) Are currently accredited. |
| 9 | (f) | For the purposes of this Act: |
| 10 | "Chi | ld care provider" means the same as "provider" as |
| 11 | defined i | n section 346-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and |
| 12 | includes | licensed child care centers, licensed infant and |
| 13 | toddler c | enters, registered family child care homes, and |
| 14 | licensed | group child care centers. |
| 15 | "Nat | ional early learning accrediting organization" means |
| 16 | one of th | e accrediting organizations identified in section 346 |
| 17 | 184(b), H | awaii Revised Statutes. |
| 18 | | PART II |
| 19 | SECT | ION 3. Section 346-184, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is |
| 20 | amended b | y amending subsection (a) to read as follows: |

| 1 | "(a) Each service provider of the preschool open doors | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2 | program shall be accredited or shall obtain accreditation within | | |
| 3 | seven calendar years of first receiving any funds from the | | |
| 4 | preschool open doors program; provided that any existing service | | |
| 5 | provider unaccredited on July 1, 2022, shall commence the | | |
| 6 | accreditation process no later than July 1, $[\frac{2024}{7}]$ $\underline{2029}$, and | | |
| 7 | obtain accreditation by July 1, $[2029;]$ 2034; provided further | | |
| 8 | that the director may grant to any service provider one or more | | |
| 9 | extensions to obtain accreditation on a case-by-case basis." | | |
| 10 | PART III | | |
| 11 | SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general | | |
| 12 | revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so | | |
| 13 | much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and | | |
| 14 | the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal | | |
| 15 | year 2024-2025 for the establishment, implementation, and | | |
| 16 | administration of the child care accreditation program | | |
| 17 | established pursuant to section 2 of this Act. | | |
| 18 | The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department | | |
| 19 | of human services for the purposes of this Act and may be used | | |
| 20 | for necessary administrative and other costs of implementation | | |

- 1 including funding for one full time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
- 2 position.
- SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general 3
- revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ 4 or so
- 5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
- the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal 6
- year 2024-2025 to be deposited into the child care grant program 7
- special fund established pursuant to section 346-183, Hawaii 8
- 9 Revised Statutes.
- 10 The sums appropriated shall be disbursed and expended by
- the department of human services to award grants to private 11
- 12 child care providers participating in the child care
- accreditation program established pursuant to section 2 of this 13
- Act, for the purposes set forth in section 2 of this Act, 14
- without regard to section 346-183, Hawaii Revised Statutes. 15
- SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed 16
- **17** and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
- SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023. 18

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INTRODUCED BY: Jan 2 0 2023

Report Title:

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

Description:

Establish within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Assistance Program, a Child Care Accreditation Program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization. Extends the deadline by which unaccredited service providers of the Preschool Open Doors Program must commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation. Appropriate funds.

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