
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that existing medicaid
2 and child care programs do not adequately account for situations
3 in which disabled adults are responsible for caring for
4 dependents. Eligibility rules often assume that family members
5 can provide care for another household member without evaluating
6 caregiver capacity, leaving families vulnerable when caregivers
7 themselves face significant health or functional limitations.
8 This gap can result in denial of essential services, increased
9 caregiver strain, unsafe conditions for children or dependents,
10 and even family separation or institutionalization.

11 The legislature further finds that federal medicaid rules
12 require that family caregiving be voluntary and not presumed,
13 but do not provide clear guidance on evaluating caregiver
14 capacity. At the state level, child care subsidies are
15 typically tied to a parent's employment or education, creating
16 barriers for parents with disabilities who are unable to work



1 but nevertheless require safe and reliable care for their
2 children.

3 The purpose of this Act is to strengthen the safety net for
4 Hawaii's most vulnerable families, prevent unnecessary
5 institutionalization, and help families remain safe, stable, and
6 together by establishing a disability and caregiver support
7 working group to explore compliant and fiscally responsible
8 approaches that address the longstanding gap affecting parents
9 and guardians with disabilities whose caregiving capacity may be
10 substantially impaired due to disability or serious medical
11 conditions.

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a disability and
13 caregiver support working group to explore compliant and
14 fiscally responsible approaches that address the longstanding
15 gap affecting parents and guardians with disabilities whose
16 caregiving capacity may be substantially impaired due to
17 disability or serious medical conditions, while preserving
18 federal funding integrity.

19 (b) The working group shall consist of the following
20 members:



- 1 (1) The director of human services, or the director's
- 2 designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the
- 3 working group;
- 4 (2) The executive administrator of the Hawaii state
- 5 council on developmental disabilities, or their
- 6 designee;
- 7 (3) The executive director of the Hawaii Disability Rights
- 8 Center, or their designee, to be invited by the
- 9 chairperson of the working group;
- 10 (4) One member of the senate to be appointed by the
- 11 president of the senate; and
- 12 (5) One member of the house of representatives to be
- 13 appointed by the speaker of the house of
- 14 representatives.

15 (c) The working group shall submit a report of its

16 findings and recommendations, including any proposed

17 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior

18 to the convening of the regular session of 2027.

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general

20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
2 the purposes of this Act.

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

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Department of Human Services; State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Disability and Caregiver Support Working Group; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a Disability and Caregiver Support Working Group to explore compliant and fiscally responsible approaches that address the longstanding gap affecting parents and guardians with disabilities whose caregiving capacity may be substantially impaired due to disability or serious medical conditions, while preserving federal funding integrity. Requires a report to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (SD1)

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

