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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD CARE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has some of  
2 the nation's highest child care costs, and a lack of access to  
3 affordable child care is a burden to families and contributes  
4 substantially to the State's high cost of living. According to  
5 a report by the national clearinghouse Child Care Aware, Hawaii  
6 ranks as the eighth least affordable state for center-based  
7 infant child care and the tenth least affordable state for  
8 center-based toddler care. The average annual cost of center-  
9 based infant care in the State is \$13,704, which is more than  
10 the cost of annual in-state tuition at the University of Hawaii  
11 at Manoa. The annual cost of center-based toddler care, at  
12 \$11,664, is similarly high.

13           The legislature further finds that there is a great unmet  
14 need for child care in the State. There are an estimated 66,262  
15 children in Hawaii under the age of six who potentially need  
16 child care. This stands in contrast to the 35,662 child care  
17 slots that are available in the State. Both the high cost and



1 lack of access to high-quality child care make it difficult for  
2 families in Hawaii to work and thrive.

3 The legislature finds that providing child care to State  
4 employees and their families can help address the State's child  
5 care needs. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to  
6 establish two child care centers on Oahu for state employees and  
7 their families, specifically one in or around the state capitol  
8 building and one in Kapolei.

9 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
10 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
11 as follows:

12 "CHAPTER

13 STATE EMPLOYEE CHILD CARE CENTERS

14 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

15 "Child care center" means a group child care center as  
16 defined in section 346-151.

17 "Department" means the department of accounting and general  
18 services.

19 "Eligible children" are children who have a parent,  
20 grandparent, aunt, uncle, or legal guardian who is an employee  
21 of the State.



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1 "Employee" means any full-time employee of the State,  
2 including any appointed or elected officer, legislator, justice,  
3 or judge.

4 § -2 Child care centers for eligible children of state  
5 employees; established. (a) The department, by contract, shall  
6 establish, equip, and operate on the island of Oahu two child  
7 care centers for eligible children of state employees; provided  
8 that one child care center shall be located in or near the state  
9 capitol building and one child care center shall be located in  
10 Kapolei.

11 (b) Child care centers established under this section may  
12 be located in state-owned office buildings, educational  
13 facilities and institutions, custodial facilities and  
14 institutions, and buildings or spaces used for legislative  
15 activities. Centers may also be located in privately owned  
16 facilities located in convenient proximity to the place of  
17 employment of the employees to be served by the centers.

18 (c) An operator of a child care center under this section  
19 shall be selected in accordance with chapter 103D.

20 (d) The child care centers established under this section  
21 shall provide full-time child care during weekdays on which a



1 majority of state employees are on duty, beginning at least one  
2 half hour before the regular work day begins and ending no  
3 earlier than one half hour after that work day ends.

4 (e) The department, by rule, may establish fees to be  
5 charged to employees to offset the cost of providing child care  
6 services; provided that the fees shall be as minimal as is  
7 practicable.

8 (f) The department may accept money, equipment, or other  
9 property donated for use in connection with the provision of  
10 child care services.

11 (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit  
12 a child care center established under this section from  
13 accepting children of non-state employees if space is available;  
14 provided that fees charged for services shall be as minimal as  
15 practicable.

16 (h) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
17 91 as necessary to implement this chapter."

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much  
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the



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1 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
2 2020-2021 to carry out the purposes of this Act.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Guthrie Thelen*

JAN 18 2019



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**Report Title:**

DAGS; Child Care Centers for Eligible Children of State Employees; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish and operate two child care centers on Oahu for eligible children of state employees, one in or near the state capitol and one in Kapolei. Appropriates funds.

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

