

JAN 22 2021

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. The COVID-19 pandemic has
13 exacerbated this problem. According to a report by the Center
14 for American Progress, more stringent safety guidelines
15 resulting from the ongoing pandemic has caused child care costs
16 for infants to increase by nineteen per cent in the State, while



1 child care costs for toddlers has increased twenty six per cent
2 in the State.

3 The legislature further finds that there is a great unmet
4 need for child care in the State. There are an estimated 66,262
5 children in Hawaii under the age of six who potentially need
6 child care. This stands in contrast to the 35,662 child care
7 slots that are available in the State. Both the high cost and
8 lack of access to high-quality child care make it difficult for
9 families in Hawaii to work and thrive.

10 The legislature finds that providing child care to State
11 employees and their families can help address the State's child
12 care needs. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to
13 establish a child care center pilot program for state employees
14 and their families, with one child care center in or around the
15 state capitol building and one in Kapolei.

16 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
17 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
18 as follows:

19 "CHAPTER

20 STATE EMPLOYEE CHILD CARE CENTER PILOT PROGRAM

21 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:



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

3 "Department" means the department of accounting and general
4 services.

5 "Eligible children" are children who have a parent,
6 grandparent, aunt, uncle, or legal guardian who is an employee
7 of the State.

8 "Employee" means any full-time employee of the State,
9 including any appointed or elected officer, legislator, justice,
10 or judge.

11 **§ -2 Child care centers for eligible children of state**
12 **employees; pilot program.** (a) The department, by contract,
13 shall establish, equip, and operate a child care pilot program
14 consisting of two child care centers on the island of Oahu for
15 eligible children of state employees; one child care center
16 shall be located in or near the state capitol building and one
17 child care center shall be located in Kapolei.

18 (b) The child care centers may be located in state-owned
19 office buildings, educational facilities and institutions,
20 custodial facilities and institutions, or buildings or spaces
21 used for legislative activities. The child care centers may



1 also be located in privately owned facilities located in
2 convenient proximity to the place of employment of the employees
3 to be served by the centers.

4 (c) An operator of the child care centers under this
5 section shall be selected in accordance with chapter 103D.

6 (d) The child care centers established under this section
7 shall provide full-time child care during weekdays on which a
8 majority of state employees are on duty, beginning at least one
9 half hour before the regular work day begins and ending no
10 earlier than one half hour after that work day ends.

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

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

18 (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit
19 the child care centers established under this section from
20 accepting children of non-state employees if space is available;



1 provided that fees charged for services shall be as minimal as
2 practicable.

3 (h) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
4 91 as necessary to implement this chapter."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
9 2022-2023 for the purposes of this Act.

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

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021, and
13 shall be repealed on June 30, 2026.

14

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Paul Nhank



S.B. NO. 522

Report Title:

Child Care Centers for Eligible Children of State Employees;
Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish and operate a child care center pilot program on Oahu for eligible children of state employees, one in or near the state capitol and one in Kapolei. Appropriates funds. Repeals on 6/30/2026.

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