
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD REGISTRY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a strong early child
2 care and education workforce is necessary to support Hawaii's
3 children, working families, and communities. The legislature
4 further finds that the demand for quality early child care and
5 education far exceeds the currently available and qualified
6 early child care capacity of the State. The legislature also
7 finds that disruptions to the early child care and education
8 system due to the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic have
9 increased challenges to expanding access to quality, affordable
10 early child care and education programs.

11 According to the Center for the Study of Child Care
12 Employment, the lack of early child care and education workforce
13 data prevents policymakers from understanding the needs of this
14 workforce, which may then lead to inefficiencies regarding early
15 child care and education legislation and programs. The
16 legislature recognizes that workforce registries have been used
17 to provide an objective framework for professional development
18 and compensation. The legislature further recognizes that



1 timely, clear, and detailed data on early child care workers and
2 educators is critical to ensure and increase the quality of
3 these workers and educators in the State while helping to craft
4 data-informed policies.

5 Currently, the department of human services only requires
6 the staff used to meet the staff-child ratio in licensed child
7 care facilities to enroll and update their information in its
8 early childhood registry. Given the need to expand access to,
9 and the availability of, high-quality early child care and
10 education programs in the State, the legislature also recognizes
11 that data in the Hawaii early childhood registry must be
12 consistently collected and analyzed.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to address the
14 needs of Hawaii's early child care and education workforce by
15 requiring the department of human services to annually collect
16 certain information from all early child care workers and
17 educators in the State through its early childhood registry.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by adding a new section to part VIII to be appropriately
20 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§346- Early childhood registry; staff information

2 required. (a) The department may establish and maintain an
3 information system to be designated as the early childhood
4 registry. The purpose of this registry shall be to maintain a
5 repository of early childhood provider and staff information
6 that is collected annually pursuant to this section.

7 (b) The department may require all staff used to meet the
8 staff-child ratio in all licensed and registered child care
9 programs in the State to annually update their information in
10 the department's early childhood registry.

11 (c) The data collected from the early childhood registry
12 may include social determinants, including but not limited to:
13 gender, race, age, paid years of experience, preferred learning
14 languages, languages spoken with children, median hourly wage,
15 paid planning time, health insurance, paid sick leave, paid
16 vacation, retirement benefits, participation in an
17 apprenticeship program, level of education, and training hours.

18 (d) Any records or reports containing registry information
19 and subject to public disclosure shall be limited to aggregate
20 data and shall not directly contain or indirectly result in the
21 disclosure of personally identifiable information.



1 (e) For purposes of this section, "training" includes but
2 is not limited to health and safety training and voluntary
3 professional development training."

4 SECTION 3. The department of human services shall submit a
5 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
6 proposed legislation, regarding updates to the early childhood
7 registry to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
8 the convening of the regular session of 2024.

9 SECTION 4. Procurements executed pursuant to this Act
10 shall be exempt from the requirements of chapters 103D and 103F,
11 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

12 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

13 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



Report Title:

Early Childhood Registry; Department of Human Services

Description:

Authorizes the Department of Human Services to require the staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the Department's Early Childhood Workforce Registry. Requires a report to the Legislature.
(CD1)

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