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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many families with  
2 children in Hawaii are impacted by the continuing health and  
3 economic consequences of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic  
4 and need an array of services. In response to these  
5 consequences, staff from the departments of human services,  
6 education, health, labor and industrial relations; governor's  
7 coordinator on homelessness; executive office on aging;  
8 executive office on early learning; workforce development  
9 council; and community providers have worked on various  
10 initiatives to address the needs of Hawaii's residents.

11       In August 2020, the National Governors Association for Best  
12 Practices and Casey Family Programs launched the child and  
13 family well-being learning cohort I and II to coordinate  
14 strategic solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect and  
15 ensure child and family well-being. Several months into the  
16 pandemic, there was a national concern that cases of child abuse  
17 and neglect were going unreported as schools, health care  
18 systems, and other mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect



1 were providing limited in-person activities. Following the  
2 early months of pandemic-related lockdown in 2020, reports of  
3 child abuse and neglect declined in some states by twenty to  
4 seventy per cent. As part of the cohort, the National Family  
5 Support Network presented information and training opportunities  
6 about family resource centers, also referred to as family  
7 support centers, as a model to assist families and prevent  
8 incidents of child abuse and neglect.

9 Family resource centers play a critical role in preventing  
10 child abuse and neglect; strengthening children and families;  
11 connecting family-impacting agencies and programs; creating  
12 opportunities for community-level coordination; creating  
13 connections to resources and support systems; and increasing  
14 family engagement, which all lead to greater student success in  
15 school. Additionally, various studies show that communities  
16 with family resource centers show lower rates of child abuse and  
17 neglect investigations, lower numbers of children entering  
18 foster care, and an increase in parents or custodians gaining  
19 employment within one year after participating in services  
20 provided through the centers.



1       The legislature further finds that the primary goal of  
2 family resource centers is to assist families with supportive  
3 services before problems become crises that require intervention  
4 by child or other protective services. For school-based family  
5 resource centers, an added goal is to support a child's  
6 educational needs.

7       Family resource centers serve diverse populations, and are  
8 family-focused, culturally sensitive resource hubs that provide  
9 families and caregivers targeted services or referrals for  
10 services based on the needs and interests of families or  
11 caregivers. Family resource centers may provide services that  
12 include assistance accessing government programs, job training  
13 and placement, educational support, housing assistance, child  
14 care, skills training for parents or caregivers on a variety of  
15 subjects, counseling, and referrals for case management or  
16 treatment services.

17       The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund a five-  
18 year family resource centers pilot program within the department  
19 of human services and fund one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
20 family resource centers coordinator position to:



- (1) Further develop and implement a statewide network of school- and community-based family resource centers;
- (2) Establish definitions, standards, and best practices;
- (3) Identify and align available services, goals, and outcomes;
- (4) Develop referral and data tracking protocols; and
- (5) Make an appropriation for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers coordinator position.

SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department of human services a family resource centers pilot program, which shall:

- (1) Develop and implement a statewide network of school- and community-based family resource centers;
- (2) Establish definitions, standards, and best practices;
- (3) Identify and align available services, goals, and outcomes; and
- (4) Develop referral and data tracking protocols.

(b) There is established within the department of human services one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers coordinator position. The director of human services



1 shall appoint the family resource centers coordinator to carry  
2 out the functions of the pilot program.

3 (c) The departments of human services, education, and  
4 health may coordinate with other public or private entities, as  
5 appropriate, to develop and implement family resource centers,  
6 including establishing standards of practice, and a strategic  
7 plan to identify minimum services, align goals and outcomes, and  
8 document referral and data tracking protocols.

9 (d) For purposes of the pilot program:

10 (1) A family resource center shall be designed to meet the  
11 needs, cultures, and interests of the communities  
12 served by the family resource center;

13 (2) Family services, including family preservation  
14 services and the identification of community support  
15 systems, may be delivered directly to a family at a  
16 family resource center by family resource center staff  
17 or by providers who contract with or have provider  
18 agreements with the family resource center, or with  
19 any of the departments identified in this section; and

20 (3) Each family resource center may have one or more  
21 family advocates who screen and assess a family's



1 needs and strengths; provided that if requested by the  
2 family, the family advocate may assist the family with  
3 setting its own goals and, together with the family,  
4 develop a written plan for the family to pursue the  
5 family's goals while working toward attaining a  
6 greater level of self-reliance or self-sufficiency  
7 through the pursuit of education, job training, or  
8 employment.

9 (e) As used in this section:

10 "Community support system" means the support system that  
11 may be organized through extended family members, friends,  
12 neighbors, religious organizations, community programs, cultural  
13 and ethnic organizations, or other support groups or  
14 organizations.

15 "Family preservation services" means in-home or community-  
16 based services that draw on the strengths of the family and its  
17 individual members, while addressing family needs, to keep the  
18 family together where possible. These services include:

19 (1) Respite care of children to provide temporary relief  
20 for parents and other caregivers;



(2) Services designed to improve parenting skills with respect to matters including child development, household budgeting, stress management, health, safety, and nutrition; and

(3) Services designed to promote the well-being of children and families; increase the strength and stability of families; increase parents' confidence and competence in their parenting abilities; promote a safe, stable, and supportive family environment for children; and otherwise enhance children's development.

"Family resource center" means a unified single point of entry where families, individuals, children, and youth in communities may obtain information, an assessment of needs, and direct delivery of or referrals for family services, in a manner that is welcoming and strengths-based.

SECTION 3. (a) Contracts entered into by the departments of human services, education, and health for the purposes of this Act shall be procured pursuant to chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 (b) The departments of human services, education, and  
2 health may accept grants, donations, and contributions from  
3 private or public sources for the purposes of this Act, which  
4 may be expended by the receiving department in a manner  
5 consistent with the donors' wishes.

6 (c) The departments of human services, education, and  
7 health shall establish, no later than December 1, 2023, the  
8 following:

9 (1) Criteria that the departments intend to use to  
10 evaluate potential family resource centers;

11 (2) Milestones that the departments expect to meet in  
12 establishing one or more family resource centers over  
13 the course of the five-year pilot program;

14 (3) Specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and  
15 time-based performance measures that the departments  
16 expect to meet by the end of each fiscal year;

17 (4) Controls that the departments intend to use to monitor  
18 and oversee family resource centers; and

19 (5) Data and referral system tracking needs and protocols  
20 that comply with applicable state and federal laws.





1 (d) The family resource centers coordinator shall submit  
2 reports to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to  
3 the convening of each of the regular sessions of 2023, 2024,  
4 2025, 2026, and 2027. Each report shall include a description  
5 of the items identified in subsection (c) and of any grants,  
6 donations, and contributions received by the departments  
7 pursuant to subsection (b) in the prior fiscal year.

8 (e) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,  
9 2027.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
13 establishment of the family resource centers pilot program, one  
14 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers  
15 coordinator position, and expenses related to the development  
16 and implementation of a statewide network of family resource  
17 centers.

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

20 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, and  
21 shall repeal on June 30, 2027.



**Report Title:**

Department of Human Services; Department of Education;  
Department of Health; Family Resource Centers; Pilot Program;  
Coordinator; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Family Resource Centers Pilot Program within the Department of Human Services. Requires the Departments of Human Services, Education, and Health to coordinate with public and private entities to develop and implement family resource centers. Establishes one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) Family Resource Centers Coordinator position. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds. Repeals 6/30/2027. (CD1)

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