
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 COVID-19 pandemic and need an array
4 of services. In response to these consequences, staff from the
5 departments of human services, education, health, labor and
6 industrial relations; the governor's coordinator on
7 homelessness; the executive office on aging; the executive
8 office on early learning; workforce development council; and
9 community providers have worked on various initiatives to
10 respond to 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



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

10 Family resource centers play a critical role in:

- 11 (1) Preventing child abuse and neglect;
- 12 (2) Strengthening children and families;
- 13 (3) Connecting family-impacting agencies and programs;
- 14 (4) Creating opportunities for community-level
15 coordination;
- 16 (5) Creating connections to resources and support systems;
17 and
- 18 (6) Increasing family engagement,

19 which all lead to greater student success in school.

20 Various studies of communities having family resource
21 centers showed lower rates of child abuse and neglect



1 investigations, lower numbers of children entering foster care,
2 and an increase in parents or custodians gaining employment
3 within one year after participating in services provided through
4 the centers.

5 The primary goal of family resource centers is to assist
6 families with supportive services before problems become crises
7 that require intervention by child or other protective services.
8 For school-based family resource centers, an added goal is to
9 support a child's educational needs.

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

20 The purpose of this Act is to establish within the
21 department of human services and fund a five-year family



1 resource centers pilot program and one full-time equivalent (1.0
2 FTE) family resource centers coordinator position to:

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

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

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

18 (b) There is established within the department of human
19 services one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource
20 centers coordinator position. The director of human services
21 shall appoint the family resource centers coordinator without



1 regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out the
2 functions of the pilot program.

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

10 (d) For purposes of the pilot program:

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

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



(3) Each family resource center may have one or more family advocates who screen and assess a family's needs and strengths. If requested by the family, the family advocate may assist the family with setting its own goals and, together with the family, develop a written plan for the family to pursue the family's goals while working toward attaining a greater level of self-reliance or self-sufficiency through the pursuit of education, job training, or employment.

(e) As used in this section:

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

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

(1) Respite care of children to provide temporary relief 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 identified in subsection (c) of section 2 of this Act shall be exempt from the requirements of chapters 103D and 103F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



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

6 (c) The departments identified in subsection (c) of
7 section 2 of this Act shall establish, no later than December 1,
8 2023, the 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.



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

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

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

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

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on December 31, 2050.



Report Title:

DHS; Family Resource Centers; Pilot Program; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the family resource centers pilot program within the Department of Human Services. Establishes 1 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers coordinator position. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD2)

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