



Hawai'i  
**Children's Action Network Speaks!**  
Building a unified voice for Hawai'i's children

To: Representative Johanson, Chair  
Representative Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: **HR 62/ HCR 69 HD1, Designating the month of September 2022 as child care provider appreciation month**  
2:00 PM, April 5, 2022

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in strong support of HR 62/ HCR 69 HD1, Designating the month of September 2022 as Child Care Provider Appreciation month.**

Child care is the backbone of our communities. It is child care providers who have kept our hospitals, our emergency services, our government offices, and the other essential services open during the pandemic. But even before the pandemic, child care has held the unique position of being simultaneously absolutely essential and undervalued. Designating September 2022 as Child Care Provider Appreciation month is a small act of gratitude our state can show to those who have supported, loved, and educated the children in Hawai'i.

There are many bills focused on child care this session. The renewed focus on improving working conditions in child care, our state's understanding of the child care workforce, and improving accessibility for parents clearly demonstrates the desire to make major improvements in this sector. This resolution is a compliment to them all and honors those working tirelessly for the future of our state.

A 1973 report by the Legislative Reference Bureau on child care in Hawai'i found that the hourly wage of a private child care teacher was between \$1.80-\$2.00 an hour. When adjusted for inflation, that is between \$12.43-\$13.81, the same median wages of child care providers today.<sup>1</sup> Fifty years later, the statements in the report remain true, the low wages of workers makes retention difficult. The report also acknowledged how vital child care is to working families, families in lower income households, and to the state's economy as a whole.

The Friday before Mother's Day is celebrated as Child Care Provider Appreciation Day, but we feel a day is not enough. Designating September, the month where we honor workers in America, uplifts the profession as just that, a profession deserving of respect and fair compensation.

For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.

Thank you,

Kathleen Algire  
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy

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<sup>1</sup> Legislative Reference Bureau (1973) *Child care in Hawai'i: An overview*, [https://lrb.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/1973\\_ChildCareInHawaii.pdf](https://lrb.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/1973_ChildCareInHawaii.pdf)

Date: April 3, 2022

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for HCR69/HR62, Designating September 2022 Child Care Provider Appreciation Month**

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Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is a statewide cross-sector collaborative designed to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest children and their families. ECAS partners work to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources, and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

**ECAS supports passage of HCR69/HR62**, which would designate the month of September, 2022, as Child Care Provider Appreciation Month.

Over half of Hawai'i's children are in non-parental child care during the week, calling attention to the importance of quality child care services for all children and families in our communities.

High-quality child care nurtures development and provides children with vital learning opportunities that are critical for school readiness and leads to improved educational, economic, health and well-being outcomes for children, lasting into adulthood. Child care also makes a significant difference in the health and security of families, enabling parents/caregivers to work, as well as to get education and training that can be instrumental in improving families' economic stability.

Child care providers are an essential workforce that should be recognized for their contributions to children and families, as well to our local communities and our state's economy. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, child care providers weathered tremendous hardship to meet the needs of families while risking their health and financial stability to remain open. And they continue to struggle to rebuild their businesses and restore services in the face of ongoing economic difficulties and uncertainty.

Our future depends on the quality of the early childhood experiences provided to young children and the support and security provided to families by the state's child care providers. Designating September 2022 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Month would honor the women and men who hold up our families and our communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of these measures.

**HR-62**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 5:06:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HR 62.

Mahalo,

**HR-62**

Submitted on: 4/3/2022 7:06:09 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanewa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HR 62

**HR-62**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 8:38:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Toni Fujimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Chair, Vice Chair , and committee members,**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the resolution to designate September as Child Care Provider Appreciation Month. I support this measure because quality interactions in a child’s early life lead to positive long-term outcomes. For this reason, we require child care providers to have the education, knowledge, and training to care for young children. We must also ensure providers are compensated fairly as a profession. In addition, without child care and child care providers, the majority of working families would not be able to do so.**

**Thank you,**

**Toni Fujimoto**

**HR-62**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 9:30:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justina Acevedo-Cross	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support designating September as Child Care Provider Appreciation Month. Aida, Alison, Tom, Bill, Kiara, Taylor, Michelle, Sandra--what do these names have in common? They are the unnoticed heroes of the Covid-19 pandemic. Each the name of a child care provider that took care of my children in the critical early years of life. They are problem-solvers, ouchie-soothers, brain builders, and parent confidants.

Child care providers are so important to all of us--- to children, to families, to Hawaii's businesses. Let's acknowledge them. Let's make a big deal of it and celebrate them for a whole month!

Please support this resolution.

**HR-62**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 10:03:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Momi Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support whole heartedly HR62

**HR-62**

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 12:50:49 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/5/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiana Kamen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

Child care providers are some of the most underrepresented, underappreciated, and underpaid essential workers in our communities. It's time to show them some dignity by raising our attention and praise to the most important people in growing our children. Child care appreciation month is a simple and important way to do this.

Mahalo,

Tiana Kamen