

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CATHY BETTS  
DIRECTOR

JOSEPH CAMPOS II  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 14, 2022

TO: The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2700 – RELATING TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD REGISTRY.**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 3:10 p.m.  
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the intent of the bill and provides comments. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not reduce or replace priorities identified in the executive budget.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of the bill is to require staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the Department of Human Services' Early Childhood Workforce Registry. Requires a report to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation.

The Department currently has a contract with People Attentive to Children (PATCH) to maintain the early childhood registry database for child care staff in licensed group child care centers, group child care homes, and infant and toddler centers. To meet this measure's goals, registered family child care providers will need to be added to the early childhood registry database. In addition, the early childhood database captures information related to caregiver qualifications and will need to be modified.

The Department respectfully recommends that the information provided be aggregate data and not identify the person's unique information such as first and last name.

If the measure passes as drafted, DHS respectfully requests that the effective date be after or later than December 31, 2022, to give DHS time to make the necessary program and system changes and develop administrative processes and rules.

The Department's current program demands and efforts are focused on complying with provisions of the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant, which provides approximately \$30 million annually in federal Child Care and Development Fund grants. Additionally, DHS is in the process of distributing \$70 million in child care stabilization funds appropriated through the American Rescue Plan Act.

As the session progresses, DHS will update the resources needed to implement such a program. Lastly, we ask that any appropriation not supplant fiscal priorities identified in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Executive Office on Early Learning**  
2759 South King Street  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

February 13, 2022

**TO:** Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

**FROM:** Coleen Momohara, Interim Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT:** **Measure:** S.B. No. 2700 – RELATING TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD REGISTRY  
**Hearing Date:** Tuesday February 15, 2022  
**Time:** 3:10 p.m.  
**Location:** Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**Bill Description:** Requires the staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the Department of Human Services' Early Childhood Workforce Registry. Requires a report to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Provides comments**

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL provides comments on S.B. No. 2700 and defers to the Department of Human Services (DHS).

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

EOEL recognizes that data collection not only helps to provide more robust information necessary for the implementation of programs and services that impact young children and the adults that care for them, but also in informing policy-making and ensuring more productive and successful public policies. EOEL defers to the DHS as it pertains to this bill, particularly on implementation and funding needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2700

**February 15, 2022**  
**3:10 p.m.**  
**Room 225 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD REGISTRY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2700: 1) requires early childcare workers who staff licensed or registered childcare programs to annually provide the Department of Human Services (DHS) certain data via the early childhood registry; 2) sets reporting requirements for DHS related to the early childcare workforce data collected; and 3) appropriates \$80,000 to DHS in FY 23 for improving the early childhood registry.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



733 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1275  
HONOLULU, HI 96813  
(808) 522-1101  
(808) 522-1103 (FAX)  
EMAIL: [snandmarycastle@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:snandmarycastle@hawaii.rr.com)

ALFRED L. CASTLE  
Executive Director and Treasurer

THE  
SAMUEL N.  
AND  
MARY CASTLE  
FOUNDATION

February 14, 2022

and the  
HENRY & DOROTHY CASTLE  
MEMORIAL FUND

**To: State Legislature**  
**From: Alfred Castle**  
**Re: Support for SB2700/HB2193**

As a major Foundation funder of all aspects of Hawaii's early education and care, I urge consideration and passage of SB2700/ HB2193. It is essential that Hawaii develop a highly educated prepared early childhood workforce. We need to invest, as well, in adequate data to assist the recruitment and retention of such a workforce.

Hawaii must strengthen both the public and private preschools so that we have adequate access to high-quality education. Increasing opportunities for early education is an essential matter of socio-economic and racial justice. We need to restore full funding to Open Doors and create a dedicated funding stream to support all early childhood programs including apprenticeship programs.

Finally, let us ensure that the Early Learning Board can provide adequate representation from each county.

Aloha and thank you,

Alfred L. Castle  
Executive Director



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

To: Senator San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Ihara, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

Re: **SB 2700- Relating to the early childhood registry**  
3:10 PM, February 15, 2022

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in strong support of Senate bill 2700, relating to the early childhood registry. By making the registry required for a greater share of child care providers and requiring information be updated annually, we will be better informed to make improvements for our early care and learning workforce and programs.**

We lack the data necessary to understand our child care workforce, which hinders our ability to create strategic policy to address the critical workforce shortage. The Early Childhood Data Collaborative asks communities if they can answer these questions to understand if they have a data deficit<sup>1</sup>:

- What is the median wage of early educators by role and qualification level?
- What percentage of early educators already hold an associate's degree, bachelor's degree, or higher? Does this vary across settings and geographic regions, or demographics?

Considering we do not collect information from all child care providers, Hawai'i would have a difficult time answering these questions. Attached is the required information collected by our registry for people working in child care centers.<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i's Early Childhood Registry is optional for family child care providers and between January 2016 and November 2021, 27 family child care providers had applied or updated their information in the registry<sup>3</sup>. That is 27 out of over 300 registered family child care providers. Additionally, for the majority there is no requirement to update information in the registry, so what little data we have may be outdated.

Relying on national data can result in misunderstanding what's happening on the ground. Compare the findings using the national data set and the state's registry report in Illinois. The national Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics data set states the median wage of a child worker is \$13.09 in Illinois. The [Illinois' Early Childhood Education Workforce Report](#) shows that the median

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<sup>1</sup> Center for the Study of Child Care Employment and The Early Childhood Data Collaborative, 2019, *A workforce data deficit hinders improved preparation, support, and compensation of early childhood educators*, <https://cscce.berkeley.edu/a-workforce-data-deficit-hinders-improved-preparation-support-and-compensation-of-early-childhood-educators/>

<sup>2</sup> Hawai'i Department of Human Services Early Childhood Registry, <http://16pqt945xhpi2jqbqw34qwyw-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Form-1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Hawai'i Early Childhood Registry data request fulfilled by Department of Human Services in December 2021.

wage for Licensed Center Teacher is \$13.85 but the median wage for the Licensed Center Assistant teacher is \$11.00. The national data does not account for the different categories of early childhood educator and is insufficient to understand the state context.

Additionally, our current registry system is an administrative burden to child care providers. States that have made progress in planning for the future of early care and learning have made the investments in upgrading the registry system, so it is viewed as an asset instead of a barrier.

If we want to serve all children who need care and access to early learning programs, we must correct the data deficit and improve our collection and registry system.

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

Thank you,  
Kathleen Algire  
Director, Early Learning and Health Policy



# Form 1

Required for Employment in  
Center-Based Programs



## Hawaii Department of Human Services Early Childhood Registry

For Office Use Only

Received Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position at ECC: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position at IT: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position at MS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Framework Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Renewal Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Application  
(check one):

- New to Registry
- Renewal/Update
- Replacement/Lost

Participation in the Registry is required by the Department of Human Services (DHS) for employment in state licensed center-based programs. The Registry assists DHS in confirming your education and training experience to determine the position(s) you qualify for under state child care licensing rules. Once your application is processed, you will receive a Registry Certificate and be eligible for employment. If you are updating, you may receive a new Registry Certificate if your qualifications have changed. **ORIGINAL applications only. NO faxed, copied, or emailed applications accepted.**

Please print clearly

SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION			
		<input type="checkbox"/> No updates to this section	<input type="checkbox"/> Update this section
* Legal Name Last	First	MI	Caregiver ID:
* Social Security No:	* Birth Date:		* Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
* Home Address			Unit No:
* City:	* State:	* Zip:	
Mailing Address, if different:			Unit No:
City:	State:	Zip:	
Email Address (optional):	Phone:	Alt. Phone:	
SECTION B: IF APPLICABLE, CURRENT EARLY CHILDHOOD RELATED EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DIRECTOR)			
		<input type="checkbox"/> No updates to this section	<input type="checkbox"/> Update this section <input type="checkbox"/> N/A
Business Name:		Site Name (if business has multiple sites):	
Site Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Applicant's Current Position:	<input type="checkbox"/> Full-time <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time @ _____ hours/week		
Applicant's Date of Hire: (MUST BE EMPLOYED)      /      / (month / day / year)	Facility Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Center based <input type="checkbox"/> Home based <input type="checkbox"/> School aged		
Age worked with: Check all applicable boxes <input type="checkbox"/> Infants-Toddlers (6wks-35 mon) <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool (3-5 yrs) <input type="checkbox"/> ECCH <input type="checkbox"/> School aged (K-13 yrs.)			
Director's Name:	Phone:	Email:	
* Initial all that has been completed. Required in order to process Registry application.			
_____ All employment verification has been completed for this individual (including that listed in Section D of this application). This will be used to determine if the applicant meets the DHS experience requirement.			
_____ Orientation training has been completed for this individual.			
* Director's signature			Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> Center Director		<input type="checkbox"/> School Principal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources Officer		<input type="checkbox"/> Owner	

\* REQUIRED INFORMATION

April 2017

Feb. 12, 2022

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Human Services

From: Dr. Terry Lock, Director,  
Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity Project  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education

Subject: Measure – SB 2700  
RELATING TO THE EARLY CHILDHOOD REGISTRY  
Hearing Date - February 15, 2022  
Time – 3:10 PM  
Location: Room 225 and videoconference

My name is Dr. Terry Lock. I am with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Education and currently serve as the director of the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity Project. The goal of this project is to transform early childhood education lead teacher preparation programs and compensation/ financing systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I strongly support SB 2700. This bill seeks to improve the data collection of the Early Childhood Registry and makes an appropriation so the Department of Human Services (DHS) can update the workforce registry technology.

Early childhood educators play an essential role in our state. Skilled and knowledgeable early childhood educators are one of the most important factors contributing to quality early childhood education. They set the foundation for our children's academic, health, and social development, as well as contribute to Hawai'i's economic success by caring for young children so parents can work. Despite working in an essential occupation, Hawai'i's early childhood educators are often unseen by policymakers.

Hawai'i lacks basic information on who is caring for our keiki. The absence of good data allows our own perspectives and bias to drive policy decisions. Often our state relies on national data but it does not capture our local context. Without quality comprehensive state early childhood workforce data, it's impossible to answer questions, like: Who constitutes the early childhood workforce? How does the early childhood workforce vary by county, island, district, and community? What is their current education and compensation levels? Which educators receive crucial supports, like paid time for planning and reflection to improve their practice in the classroom? And especially critical

during this national pandemic: Which educators lack access to health insurance? To paid sick leave?

Having accurate and ongoing data that answer these key questions, can help policy makers, state departments, higher education, and child-serving agencies better understand the early childhood workforce and develop more effective solutions on how to recruit and retain a qualified early care and learning workforce to serve our children and families. If we hope to improve our early care and learning system, we must have workforce data and information to do so.

Additionally, the current workforce registry is time consuming for providers and is an administrative burden. Other states, like Nevada, have early childhood workforce registries where users create and access accounts.

Through the passage of SB 2700, the early child care workforce in Hawai'i will more easily enter their information into an Early Childhood Educator Workforce Registry, which is an online database to track their licensure and professional development requirements. Data collected within this registry will then provide a better picture of who makes up the early care and education workforce and where they are with regards to training, education, compensation, and experience. SB 2700 seeks to require DHS to then analyze the data and present it to legislators so that the voices of early childhood educators can be heard and answered.

When the correct structures are in place to support our educators, they are better prepared to contribute to a thriving early childhood workforce and improve the quality children receive. If we invest in early childhood educators, we are investing in our children.

Please support this measure.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. Terry Lock

Date: February 14, 2022

To: Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Support for SB2700, Relating to the Early Childhood Registry

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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 strongly supports passage of SB2700**, which would require annual data collection on the child care workforce and make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to invest in updating the technology supporting the Early Childhood Registry.

High-quality child care and early learning programs are fundamental to thriving children, flourishing families, and a robust economy. An effective, well-trained, early childhood workforce is the backbone of these programs. There is no comprehensive data, however, on the early care and learning workforce in Hawaii. Hawaii lacks basic information on who is caring for our keiki, forcing us to rely on national data that does not capture our local context. Additionally, the current system is time consuming and administratively burdensome for providers, further hampering the collection of key data critical to informing policy, administrative, regulatory and funding decisions related to child care and early learning in Hawaii.

Hawaii would need to more than double the estimated 4,000 early childhood workers in the state to support the 14,500 children between birth and age 5 needing child care. Action is needed to address the significant information-gap so we can better understand how to maintain and grow the state's early care and learning workforce and expand access to child care for Hawaii's children and families. Passage of **SB2700** would take an important step towards this effort.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB2700**.

**SB-2700**

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 10:20:46 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/15/2022 3:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carol Wear	Testifying for PATCH	Support	No

Comments:

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

**Please support SB 2700/HB 2193, that would require annual data collection on the child care workforce and make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to invest in updating the Early Childhood Registry. Hawai‘i lacks basic information on who is caring for our keiki. We rely on national data but it does not capture our local context. Additionally, the current system is time consuming for providers and is an administrative burden. If we hope to improve our early care and learning system, we must have the data and information to do so.**

**Please support this measure.**



To: Senate Committee on Human Services  
Hearing Date/Time: February 15, 2022 3:10PM  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225 & Video Conference  
Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2700

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and the Members of Committee,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2700 which would improve the data collection of the Early Childhood Registry.

Hawaii would need over 9,300 early childhood educators and we currently have closer to 4,000. This is only an estimate since we are using national data sources which do not capture Hawaii's local system. We need better data so we can better understand what we need to do to grow the childcare workforce.

Without the childcare capacity, more women in Hawaii will be forced to leave the labor force. Women already shoulder a disproportionate burden of child care responsibilities: about 27% of mothers stay at home (versus 7% fathers), three fourth of the mothers who stay at home do so to care for family (versus one fourth of the fathers) according to a 2018 survey from Pew Research. Being forced to leave the labor force to do unpaid care work limits women's advancement and corresponding pay increases, contributing to the gender pay gap. The gender pay gap also continues into retirement, with the 2019 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey showing a nearly 30% difference in total retirement income between men and women. There are serious and disproportionate financial barriers to seniors aging in place and avoiding institutionalization.

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is an all volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaula'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. UH Hilo, UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community College are also AAUW partners. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.

Please pass this important measure.



with Aloha,  
Younghee Overly

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Y. Overly".

Public Policy Chair, AAUW of Hawaii  
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

**To:** Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator, Les Ihara, Jr. Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee On Human Services

**From:** Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Board

**Subject:** **Measure:** SB 2700, Relating to The Early Childhood Registry  
**Hearing Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
**Time:** 3:10 PM  
**Location:** Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

**Description:** Requires the staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the Department of Human Services' Early Childhood Workforce Registry. Requires a report to the Legislature. Makes an appropriation.

**Early Learning Board Position: Support the Intent**

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony about SB 2700 on behalf of the ELB.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning. The ELB is composed of 17 representatives from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors.

The ELB is engaged in identifying an Institutional Analyst to coordinate the implementation of Act 210, as approved by the Legislature in 2021. Data about the workforce will be critically important to move forward with expansion of access to quality early care and learning in our State and in order to be responsive to individual Island needs and circumstances. Currently we lack the data necessary to understand our child care workforce landscape, which presents a barrier to the ability to create strategic policy to satisfy the obligations of Act 210. Therefore, we are offering testimony supporting the intent of this bill.

The Early Learning Board defers to DHS with regard to the specifics of the bill, particularly with regard to implementation and funding needs

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer testimony on SB 2700 supporting its intent .



**LATE**

**SB-2700**

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 4:17:46 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/15/2022 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ashley Galacgac	Testifying for AF3IRM Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Ihara, and Committee Members,

Please support SB 2700, which would require annual data collection on the child care workforce and make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to invest in updating the Early Childhood Registry. Hawai'i lacks basic information on who is caring for our keiki. We rely on national data but it does not capture our local context.

The current system is time-consuming for providers and is an administrative burden. If we hope to improve our early care and learning system, we must have the data and information to do so.

*The child care workforce is significantly made up of women so this data collection can capture the extent to which women are fulfilling the need. Moreover, investment into our child care system will ultimately help relieve the burden of caregiving that has fallen on the shoulders of women and may be one step closer to affordable quality child care for all families in Hawai'i.*

**Please support this measure.**

Aloha e Chair Buenaventura, Vice-Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Human Services:

I am writing in **strong support of SB 2700**, relating to the early care and education provider registry. This is a much-needed and well thought out proposal.

As a researcher and early childhood advocate, I have received de-identified registry data. I can attest to the fact that our current database is woefully insufficient. Currently, we cannot even document the educational qualifications of staff in licensed and regulated childcare because staff are not required to update the registry on a regular basis.

This bill has many strengths: it requires annual updates, the list of items to be reported is spot-on, and funds needed to carry out this mandate are included.

This information will be invaluable to the state as we work to expand and strengthen the early care and education workforce, provide universal access to high-quality preK, and evaluate the outcomes of policies such as ongoing training requirements and quality improvement incentives.

Please check with DHS to ensure that the proposed funding is sufficient to develop an efficient and user-friendly reporting system.

Thank you for taking this step to ensure that Hawai'i has the data needed to monitor and strengthen our crucial early childhood workforce.

February 14, 2022

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members,

I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony for House Bill **HB 2193/SB 2700, relating to the early childhood registry**. This bill seeks to make annual data collection for the Early Childhood Registry mandatory which would broaden those required to provide information. It also appropriates funding to DHS to update the registry to improve the technology of the registry so the increased requirements do not become a barrier for providers.

Please support SB 2700/HB 2193, that would require annual data collection on the child care workforce and make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to invest in updating the Early Childhood Registry. Hawai'i lacks basic information on who is caring for our keiki. We rely on national data but it does not capture our local context. Additionally, the current system is time consuming for providers and is an administrative burden. If we hope to improve our early care and learning system, we must have the data and information to do so.

Please support this measure.

Respectfully,

Helen Au, Ph.D., M.Ed.

**SB-2700**

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 3:08:57 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/15/2022 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Liza Ryan Gill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2700. It is so crucial that we have accurate information concerning our childcare providers. As a new parent I struggled to find care for my child, calling all over my area to see who was accepting. In the end we were unable to find a place for our baby until she turns 13months old. Parents are struggling with the lack of reliable, affordable AND accessible childcare. I have advised many friends that are expecting children to start calling centers before their baby is born to see if they can find a place. It is urgent that we get a sense of what we are really dealing with. Without information we can't make good policy choices. Mahalo,

Liza Ryan Gill

Round Top Drive

**SB-2700**

Submitted on: 2/14/2022 1:37:03 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/15/2022 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Moevanu Jameson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Co-Chairpersons and Committee Members:

I am in strong support of SB 2700, which would require annual data collection on the child care workforce and make an appropriation to the Department of Human Services to invest in updating the Early Childhood Registry. Hawai‘i lacks basic information on who is caring for our keiki. We rely on national data but it does not capture our local context. Additionally, the current system is time consuming for providers and is an administrative burden. If we hope to improve our early care and learning system, we must have the data and information to do so. This bill would establish the much needed workforce registry and thus improve the visibility and professional development of early childhood educators.

Skilled and knowledgeable early childhood educators are one of the most important factors contributing to quality early childhood education. They set the foundation for our children’s academic, health, and social development, as well as contribute to Hawaii’s economic success by caring for young children so parents can work. Despite working in an essential occupation, Hawaii’s early childhood educators are often unseen by policymakers—they receive extremely low wages, have few benefits, and receive limited training and professional development. The challenges that early childhood educators face impede them from providing the highest quality care.

Improving Early Childhood Educator Workforce Registry is an investment that would allow the early childcare workforce to more easily enter their information into an online database to track their licensure and professional development requirements. Data collected within this registry provides a better picture of who makes up the early care and education workforce and an understanding of where they are with regards to training, education, compensation, and experience. Senate Bill 2700 requires the Department of Human Services to then analyze the data and present it to legislators so that the voices of early childhood educators can be heard and answered.

Early childhood educators play an essential role in our state. When the correct structures are in place to support professionally our educators, they are better prepared to contribute to a thriving early childhood workforce and improve the quality children receive. If we invest in early childhood educators, we are investing in our children.

I hope that this information is helpful for the Committee's consideration. Please support Senate Bill 2700. I would be glad to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Moevanu Jameson

moevanu@hawaii.edu

**SB-2700**

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 2:45:15 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/15/2022 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members,

Support for this bill

**LATE**

**SB-2700**

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 9:28:47 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/15/2022 3:10:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakōlea, O‘ahu. I'm a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I'm writing in full support of SB2700.

This bill requires the State to collect childcare workforce data so that it can address inefficiencies and ensure available and quality childcare

Support SB2700.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo