



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

April 12, 2022

TO: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

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

SUBJECT: **Measure:** SCR 53, SD 1
Hearing Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Room 329 and videoconference

Resolution Description: Designating the month of September 2022 as child care provider appreciation month.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING: Support

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports SCR 53 SD 1, which designates the month of September 2022 as child care provider appreciation month.

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.

High-quality early childhood programs help "build the foundations for stronger family lives that result in larger gains for their children" (Heckman, James, and Ganesh Karapukula, 2019). In addition, these programs enable more individuals, particularly women, to work or go to school and support the economic security of working families. The backbone of these programs are child care providers.

Child care providers play an essential role in supporting children's cognitive and emotional development and deserve the respect befitting that role. Designating September 2022 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Month honors the people who uplift our children, families, and communities. We urge this committee to support the passage of this resolution and thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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

To: Representative Yamane, Chair
Representative Tam, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness

Re: **SCR 53 SD1, Designating the month of September 2022 as child care provider appreciation month**
9:00 AM, April 14, 2022

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Tam, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in strong support of SCR 53 SD1, 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.¹ 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

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

SCR-53-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 3:45:28 PM

Testimony for HHH on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Betty Lou Larson | Catholic Charities Hawaii | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Catholic Charities Hawaii supports this.

Date: April 12, 2022

To: House Committee on Health, Human Services, and Homelessness
Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: **Support for SCR53 SD1, Designating September 2022 Child Care Provider Appreciation Month**

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 SCR53 SD1, 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 this measure.

SCR-53-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 9:12:19 AM

Testimony for HHH on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eva Moravcik | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Child care providers make Hawaii run. They do so for little compensation, have difficult working conditions, and few benefits. We need well-trained, competent child care providers to feel appreciated.

SCR-53-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 9:17:06 AM

Testimony for HHH on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| briana lucas-kawata | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

- Child care providers play a foundational role in a child’s life and deserve the respect befitting that role.
- Child care providers support children’s cognitive and emotional development
- Child care providers are an extension of the family, supporting working families so they can go to school or work, while knowing their child is cared for and safe.


SCR-53-SD-1


Submitted on: 4/12/2022 10:12:33 AM

Testimony for HHH on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sarah K Worth | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

 "I believe that children are our future.

Teach them well and let them lead the way." 

~R.I.P. Whitney Houston

SCR-53-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 11:28:41 AM

Testimony for HHH on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura Hughes | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill.

SCR-53-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 4:11:46 PM

Testimony for HHH on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Shannon Amiot | 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 my best friend and partner is a child care provider and I've experienced firsthand how her vocation can change the world.

If we honor our child care providers appropriately and recognize their service for an entire month, we as a society will begin an intentional conversation about what it means to provide our children with consistent, attentive, wholistic care. From what I've read about attachment styles, the ways in which our caregivers respond depicts how our children react and cements the way they connect with others for the rest of their lives. I believe it is common sense to hope that as many people form healthy attachment styles as possible so we can build resilient communities together in the same way healthy attachment can fortify nuclear families at home.

Child care providers are often an extension of the family, supporting working families so they can go to school or work, while knowing their child is cared for and safe. In this way, child care providers are the foundation of a healthy society. For this reason, we all depend on the caliber, consistent access, and reliability of the education, knowledge, and training our childcare providers receive. It is our responsibility to demand our childcare providers are compensated fairly as a profession.

Please consider just how much of an impact designating September 2022 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Month can have.

Thank you,

Shannon Amiot

SCR-53-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2022 9:53:25 AM

Testimony for HHH on 4/14/2022 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Terry Lock | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My family and I are in strong support of SCR 53 DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2022 AS CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION MONTH. My husband and I depended on quality child care providers when we were raising our children and working. Today our children are now adults, who are parents, raising their own young children (our grandchildren). They rely on quality child care providers so they can work and contribute to our society. Unfortunately, child care providers have not gained the recognition they deserve. Child care providers are invaluable to our children, families, our economy, and all of Hawaii! Please designate the month of September 2022 as Child Care Provider Appreciation Month.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!