

JAN 19 2023

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that preschool and other  
2 early learning programs are critical to the development of young  
3 children in gaining essential skills, being prepared for school,  
4 and charting a course for lifelong success. The legislature  
5 also finds that the preschool open doors program established  
6 within the department of human services' child care assistance  
7 program aims to provide low- and moderate-income families with  
8 the opportunity to send their children to preschool by providing  
9 eligible families with subsidies to help pay preschool tuition.

10           The legislature further finds that accreditation from  
11 national early learning accrediting organizations is one  
12 indicator that a child care program is providing exceptional  
13 level of care that meets the high-quality standards set by these  
14 organizations. The State's preschool open doors program  
15 therefore requires service providers who wish to participate in  
16 the preschool open doors program to obtain accreditation from  
17 national early learning accrediting organizations, and service



1 providers who have not done so by July 1, 2022, must start the  
2 accreditation process no later than July 1, 2024, and be  
3 accredited by July 1, 2029. The department of human services is  
4 required to provide operational and financial support to assist  
5 these service providers to obtain accreditation and may contract  
6 with a private entity for that purpose.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

8 (1) Establish within the department of human services'  
9 child care assistance program, a child care  
10 accreditation program to support licensed or  
11 registered child care providers to obtain  
12 accreditation from a national early learning  
13 accrediting organization;

14 (2) Extend the deadlines by which unaccredited service  
15 providers of the preschool open doors program must  
16 commence the accreditation process and obtain  
17 accreditation;

18 (3) Appropriate funds for the establishment,  
19 implementation, and administration of the child care  
20 accreditation program, including funding for one full  
21 time equivalent (1.00 FTE) position; and



1           (4) Appropriate funds to be deposited into the child care  
2           grant program special fund to be disbursed and  
3           expended to award grants to private child care  
4           providers participating in the child care  
5           accreditation program for certain costs required to  
6           obtain accreditation.

7   PART I

8           SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department  
9           of human services' child care assistance program, a child care  
10          accreditation program to support child care providers in  
11          obtaining accreditation from a national early learning  
12          accrediting organization.

13          (b) The program shall award upfront grant funding to a  
14          child care provider who has committed to obtaining accreditation  
15          from a national early learning accrediting organization, which  
16          shall be used to pay for the expenses necessary for the child  
17          care provider to obtain the accreditation, including:

18               (1) Expenses to retain technical assistance for the  
19               accreditation process; and

20               (2) Incidental expenses to obtain furniture and equipment  
21               and to make minor renovations to the child care



1 provider's facilities required by the national early  
2 learning accrediting organization to issue the  
3 accreditation.

4 (c) The department of human services may contract with a  
5 private entity in accordance with chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised  
6 Statutes, to administer the program.

7 (d) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with  
8 chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out the purpose of  
9 this Act, including rules on the standards, policies, and  
10 procedures for the administration of the child care  
11 accreditation program.

12 (e) The department of human services shall submit a report  
13 regarding the implementation and performance of the child care  
14 accreditation program, including any proposed legislation, to  
15 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
16 of each regular session. The annual report shall include the  
17 status of the program, including:

18 (1) The total number and general location of child care  
19 providers applying for the program;



1           (2) An aggregated summary of the categories of expenses  
2           and amounts of expenses covered for childcare  
3           providers under the program; and

4           (3) The percentage of service providers in the preschool  
5           open doors program who:

6           (A) Have commenced the process of obtaining  
7           accreditation; and

8           (B) Are currently accredited.

9           (f) For the purposes of this Act:

10           "Child care provider" means the same as "provider" as  
11           defined in section 346-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and  
12           includes licensed child care centers, licensed infant and  
13           toddler centers, registered family child care homes, and  
14           licensed group child care centers.

15           "National early learning accrediting organization" means  
16           one of the accrediting organizations identified in section 346-  
17           184(b), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18   PART II

19           SECTION 3. Section 346-184, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20           amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:





1 including funding for one full time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
2 position.

3 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
7 year 2024-2025 to be deposited into the child care grant program  
8 special fund established pursuant to section 346-183, Hawaii  
9 Revised Statutes.

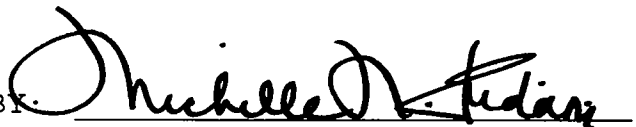
10 The sums appropriated shall be disbursed and expended by  
11 the department of human services to award grants to private  
12 child care providers participating in the child care  
13 accreditation program established pursuant to section 2 of this  
14 Act, for the purposes set forth in section 2 of this Act,  
15 without regard to section 346-183, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

16 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

19

INTRODUCED BY:





# S.B. NO. 239

**Report Title:**

Child Care; Early Childhood Education; Preschool Open Doors Program; Child Care Accreditation Program; Department of Human Resources; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establish within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Assistance Program, a Child Care Accreditation Program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization. Extends the deadline by which unaccredited service providers of the Preschool Open Doors Program must commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation. Appropriate funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

