
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION.

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

1 PART I

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

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



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

8 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 9 (1) Establish within the department of human services'
10 child care subsidy program office, a child care
11 accreditation program to support licensed or
12 registered child care providers to obtain
13 accreditation from a national early learning
14 accrediting organization or an accrediting
15 organization approved by the director of human
16 services;
- 17 (2) Extend the deadlines by which unaccredited service
18 providers of the preschool open doors program must
19 commence the accreditation process and obtain
20 accreditation;



- 1 (3) Appropriate funds for the establishment,
2 implementation, and administration of the child care
3 accreditation program, including funding for one full
4 time equivalent (1.00 FTE) position; and
- 5 (4) Appropriate funds to be deposited into the child care
6 grant program special fund to be disbursed and
7 expended to award grants to private child care
8 providers participating in the child care
9 accreditation program for certain costs required to
10 obtain and maintain accreditation.

11 PART II

12 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
13 of human services' child care subsidy program office a child
14 care accreditation program to support child care providers in
15 obtaining accreditation from a national early learning
16 accrediting organization or an accrediting organization approved
17 by the director of human services.

18 (b) The program shall award grant funding to an eligible
19 child care provider who has committed to obtaining accreditation
20 from a national early learning accrediting organization or an
21 accrediting organization approved by the director of human



1 services, which shall be used to pay for the expenses necessary
2 for the child care provider to obtain the accreditation,
3 including:

4 (1) Expenses to retain technical assistance for the
5 accreditation process; and

6 (2) Incidental expenses to obtain furniture and equipment
7 and to make minor renovations to the child care
8 provider's facilities required by the national early
9 learning accrediting organization or an accrediting
10 organization approved by the director of human
11 services to issue the accreditation.

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

15 (d) The department shall adopt rules in accordance with
16 chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to carry out the purpose of
17 this Act, including rules on the standards, policies, and
18 procedures for the administration of the child care
19 accreditation program.

20 (e) The department of human services shall submit a report
21 regarding the implementation and performance of the child care



1 accreditation program, including any proposed legislation, to
2 the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening
3 of each regular session. The annual report shall include the
4 status of the program, including:

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

7 (2) An aggregated summary of the categories of expenses
8 and amounts of expenses covered for childcare
9 providers under the program; and

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

12 (A) Have commenced the process of obtaining
13 accreditation; and

14 (B) Are currently accredited.

15 (f) For the purposes of this Act:

16 "Child care provider" means the same as "provider" as
17 defined in section 346-151, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and
18 includes licensed child care centers, licensed infant and
19 toddler centers, registered family child care homes, and
20 licensed group child care centers.



1 "Eligible child care provider" means a child care facility
2 that is not part of or owned or operated by a private
3 educational institution; provided that an organization or
4 individual that owns or operates both a private educational
5 institution and a child care facility may be deemed an "eligible
6 child care provider" if the organization or individual can
7 provide evidence that the operations and finances of the private
8 educational institution are completely separate from the
9 operations and finances of the child care facility so that it is
10 clear that a child care grant would not support or benefit the
11 private educational institution in violation of article X,
12 section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

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

16 PART III

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

19 "(a) Each service provider of the preschool open doors
20 program shall be accredited or shall obtain accreditation within
21 seven calendar years of first receiving any funds from the



1 preschool open doors program; provided that any existing service
2 provider unaccredited on July 1, 2022, shall commence the
3 accreditation process no later than July 1, [~~2024~~] 2029, and
4 obtain accreditation by July 1, [~~2029~~] 2034; provided further
5 that the director may grant to any service provider one or more
6 extensions to obtain accreditation on a case-by-case basis."

7 PART IV

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
11 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
12 year 2024-2025 for the establishment, implementation, and
13 administration of the child care accreditation program
14 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act, including paying
15 the cost of annual accreditation fees incurred by eligible child
16 care providers participating in the preschool open doors
17 program.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
19 of human services for the purposes of this Act and may be used
20 for necessary administrative and other costs of implementation,



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 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the child care
11 grant program special fund the sum of \$ or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
14 2024-2025 to be disbursed and expended by the department of
15 human services to award grants to private child care providers
16 participating in the child care accreditation program
17 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act, for the purposes
18 set forth in section 2 of this Act, without regard to section
19 346-183, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
21 of human services for the purposes of section 2 of this Act.



1 PART V

2 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
3 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
5 2050.



Report Title:

Child Care; Early Childhood Education; Preschool Open Doors Program; Child Care Accreditation Program; DHS; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes within the Department of Human Services' Child Care Subsidy Program Office, a Child Care Accreditation Program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization or an accrediting organization approved by the Director of Human Services. Extends the deadline by which unaccredited service providers of the Preschool Open Doors Program must commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation. Appropriates funds. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD2)

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