

JAN 18 2023

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CHILD CARE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawai'i has some of  
2 the nation's highest child care costs, and a lack of access to  
3 affordable child care is a burden to families and contributes  
4 substantially to the State's high cost of living. According to  
5 a report by the national clearinghouse Child Care Aware, Hawai'i  
6 ranks as the eighth least affordable state for center-based  
7 infant child care and the tenth least affordable state for  
8 center-based toddler care. The average annual cost of center-  
9 based infant care in the State is \$13,704, which is more than  
10 the cost of annual in-state tuition for an undergraduate student  
11 at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. The annual cost of  
12 center-based toddler care, at \$11,664, is similarly high. The  
13 coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic exacerbated this problem.  
14 According to a report by the Center for American Progress, more  
15 stringent safety guidelines resulting from the pandemic caused  
16 child care costs for infants to increase by nineteen per cent in



1 the State, while child care costs for toddlers increased twenty-  
2 six per cent.

3 The legislature further finds that there is a great unmet  
4 need for child care in the State. There are an estimated 66,262  
5 children in Hawai'i under the age of six who potentially need  
6 child care. This stands in contrast to the 35,662 child care  
7 slots that are available in the State. Both the high cost and  
8 lack of access to high-quality child care make it difficult for  
9 families in Hawai'i to work and thrive.

10 The legislature also finds that providing child care to  
11 state employees and their families can help address the State's  
12 child care needs. Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to  
13 establish a child care center pilot program for state employees  
14 and their families, with one child care center in or around the  
15 state capitol building and one in Kapolei.

16 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
17 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
18 as follows:

19 **"CHAPTER**

20 **STATE EMPLOYEE CHILD CARE CENTER PILOT PROGRAM**

21 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:



1 "Child care center" means a group child care center as  
2 defined in section 346-151.

3 "Department" means the department of accounting and general  
4 services.

5 "Eligible children" are children who have a parent,  
6 grandparent, aunt, uncle, or legal guardian who is an employee  
7 of the State.

8 "Employee" means any full-time employee of the State,  
9 including any appointed or elected officer, legislator, justice,  
10 or judge.

11 **§ -2 Child care centers for eligible children of state**  
12 **employees; pilot program.** (a) The department, by contract,  
13 shall establish, equip, and operate a state employee child care  
14 center pilot program consisting of two child care centers on the  
15 island of Oahu for eligible children of state employees; one  
16 child care center shall be located in or near the state capitol  
17 building and one child care center shall be located in Kapolei.

18 (b) The child care centers may be located in state-owned  
19 office buildings, educational facilities and institutions,  
20 custodial facilities and institutions, or buildings or spaces  
21 used for legislative activities. The child care centers may



1 also be located in privately owned facilities located in  
2 convenient proximity to the place of employment of the employees  
3 to be served by the centers.

4 (c) An operator of the child care centers under this  
5 section shall be selected in accordance with chapter 103D.

6 (d) The child care centers established under this section  
7 shall provide full-time child care during weekdays on which a  
8 majority of state employees are on duty, beginning at least one-  
9 half hour before the regular work day begins and ending no  
10 earlier than one half hour after that work day ends.

11 (e) The department, by rule, may establish fees to be  
12 charged to employees to offset the cost of providing child care  
13 services; provided that the fees shall be as minimal as is  
14 practicable.

15 (f) The department may accept money, equipment, or other  
16 property donated for use in connection with the provision of  
17 child care services.

18 (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit  
19 the child care centers established under this section from  
20 accepting children of non-state employees if space is available;



1 provided that fees charged for services shall be as minimal as  
2 practicable.

3 (h) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
4 91 as necessary to implement this chapter."

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
7 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
8 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
9 2024-2025 for the purposes of this Act.

10 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
11 of accounting and general services for the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023, and  
13 shall be repealed on June 30, 2028.

14

INTRODUCED BY:



# S.B. NO. 20

**Report Title:**

Child Care Centers for Eligible Children of State Employees;  
Pilot Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish and operate a child care center pilot program on Oahu for eligible children of state employees, one in or near the state capitol and one in Kapolei. Appropriates funds. Repeals on 6/30/2028.

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

