

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

**200**

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2023

**FEB 08**

RE: H.B. No. 261

H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Human Services, to which was referred H.B. No. 261 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a Child Care Accreditation Program to support accreditation of licensed and registered child care providers;
- (2) Delay the deadlines for existing Preschool Open Doors service providers to commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation;
- (3) Appropriate funds for the Child Care Accreditation Program; and
- (4) Appropriate funds for deposit into the Child Care Grant Program Special Fund.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Executive Office on Early Learning, AAUW of Hawaii, Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists, Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Children's Action Network

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Speaks!, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children, and ten individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Human Services and Department of the Attorney General.

Your Committee finds that the State requires service providers wishing to participate in the State's Preschool Open Doors Program to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accreditation organization. Service providers that have not obtained accreditation by July 1, 2022, must begin the process by no later than July 1, 2024, and obtain accreditation no later than July 1, 2029. Your Committee further finds that the Department of Human Services is required to provide operational and financial support to assist these service providers to obtain accreditation. This measure establishes a Child Care Assistance Program within the Department of Human Services, extends accreditation process deadlines for the Preschool Open Doors Program, and appropriates funds to assist with the accreditation process, which will ensure that more service providers are able to offer high-quality, exceptional levels of care for young children in the State.

Your Committee notes the concerns raised by the Department of the Attorney General that the disbursement any of public monies to private entities as a grant must be done in compliance with the requirements of Article VII, Section 4, of the Hawaii State Constitution.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting language establishing standards for the distribution of the funds appropriated in this measure as grants under the Child Care Accreditation Program;
- (2) Clarifying the circumstances in which an individual or organization that owns or operates both a private educational institution and child care facility may apply for a Child Care Accreditation Program grant;
- (3) Amending the Child Care Grant Program Special Fund to allow for the use of the fund to award Child Care Accreditation Program grants;

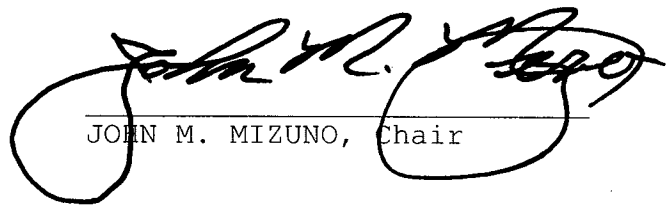


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- (4) Changing the time frame by which an existing Preschool Open Doors service provider must begin and complete the accreditation process to an unspecified date;
- (5) Appropriating an unspecified amount of funds out of the Child Care Grant Program Special Fund for Child Care Accreditation Program grants;
- (6) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (7) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Human Services that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 261, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 261, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Human Services,

  
JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Human Services

Bill/Resolution No.: <i>HB 261</i>	Committee Referral: <i>HUS, FIN</i>	Date: <i>2/2/23</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HUS Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MIZUNO, John M. (C)	/			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)				/
3. BELATTI, Della Au	/			
4. ILAGAN, Greggor	/			
5. KOBAYASHI, Bertrand	/			
6. TAKENOUCI, Jenna	/			
7. NISHIMOTO, Scott Y.	/			
8. GARCIA, Diamond			/	
TOTAL (8)	<i>6</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.				
_____ committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>[Signature]</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				