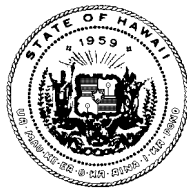


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

January 31, 2023

TO: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 261 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

HEARING: Tuesday, February 2, 2023, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of this bill, provides comments, and suggests amendments. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation in this measure not replace or adversely impact priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: The bill proposes to require the Department of Human Services to establish a child care accreditation program to assist licensed and registered child care providers obtain accreditation. Amends the time period for when existing preschool open doors service providers are required to obtain accreditation. Appropriates funds for the child care accreditation program, including for the establishment of one full-time position for the program. Appropriates funds into the child care grant special fund.

DHS currently supports family choice by offering higher child care subsidy payment rates to families that choose child care providers accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, National Early Childhood Program Accreditation, and National

Association for Family Child Care Accreditation. Higher subsidies are available for the POD and the federally funded Child Care Connection Hawaii (CCCH) programs.

DHS respectfully recommends the following amendments:

- Section 2, (b)(2), lines 14-16, "Provide grant funding for technical assistance to assist an eligible child care provider through the accreditation process; and";
- Renumbering the current Section 2, (e) to (f); and
- Adding the following description as Section 2, (e): An "eligible child care provider" is a child care facility that is not part of or owned or operated by or as a private educational institution. An organization or individual that owns or operates both a private educational institution and a child care facility may apply only if they can provide evidence that the operations and finances of the private educational institution are completely separate from the operations and finances of the child care facility so that it is clear a child care grant would not support or benefit the private educational institution in violation of article X, section 1 of the Hawaii State Constitution."

Regarding Section 3, given the continuing economic impacts of COVID-19 on child care facilities' ability to maintain sufficient staff levels, DHS suggests the Legislature consider amending section 346-184(a), HRS, to change the accreditation requirement to be voluntary until the child care workforce is more stabilized or subsidized.

Alternatively, DHS agrees with the extended time frames in Section 3. Extending the time to become accredited will give new child care workforce initiatives time to increase capacity. The extended time frame also gives eligible facilities ready to access accreditation resources more time to do so in a less pressured time frame.

As the measure progresses through the session, DHS will provide cost estimates to contract an entity to establish, implement, and administer the child care accreditation program, including funding for one full-time equivalent position. In addition, once the Legislature appropriates funds, DHS will need time to develop and implement administrative rules and make system modifications.

The department also recommends that the sums appropriated to award grants to eligible private child care providers participating in the child care accreditation program include the costs for child care providers who have annual accreditation fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



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

January 31, 2023

TO: Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: H.B. No. 261 – RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 2, 2023
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Conference Room 329

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support the Intent

EOEL supports the intent of H.B. No. 261 and defers to the Department of Human Services regarding implementation and suggested amendments.

This bill would establish a child care accreditation program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization and by paying for fees, technical assistance, and incidental costs.

Accreditation is one well-known measure of quality in early childhood education programming. However, obtaining accreditation can be costly and time-consuming for providers, many who are still recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Establishing this program with adequate appropriations would help support more providers in achieving and maintaining accreditation.

We appreciate DHS's recommendation for the legislature to consider amending section 346-184(a), HRS, to change the accreditation requirement to be voluntary until the child care workforce is more stabilized or subsidized. Alternately, extending the time to become accredited and establishing an accreditation program will allow the child care workforce to access accreditation resources with more time to do so. Ensuring families have continued access to the Preschool Open Doors program is critical to alleviate the financial burden many families face when paying for preschool tuition.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature to support affordable, high-quality early learning programs and services in the State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Feb. 1, 2023

To: Representative John Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Subject: **Measure** - HB 261 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING ACCREDITATION
Hearing Date - Feb. 2, 2023
Time - 9:00 AM
Location - Conference Room 329

My name is Dr. Terry Lock. I am with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) College of Education (COE) and serve as the director of the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity (ECE³) Project.

I am in support of HB 261, which will support licensed preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the number of quality preschools and child care programs available for Preschool Open Doors families.

As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start the accreditation process by 2027 and complete it by 2032. This requirement creates a significant burden for both preschools and child care providers who currently serve and want to serve Preschool Open Doors families.

For many years, I assisted licensed preschools through an accreditation process. I found one of the important benefits of accreditation is how teachers and other staff of early learning programs develop a shared understanding and commitment to quality. One of the challenges, especially for those programs who had not been previously accredited, is the expensive, intensive, and time-consuming process. It helps for programs to have support and funding to complete and obtain accreditation.

Therefore, the establishment of an accreditation support program in the Department of Human Services is an important step to providing technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 261, RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: Tuesday, February 2, 2023 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
James W. Walther or Melissa J. Kolonie, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Mizuno and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments regarding this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) establish within the Department of Human Services a child care accreditation program to support licensed or registered child care providers to obtain accreditation from a national early learning accrediting organization, and provide grant funding for technical assistance to assist a child care provider through the accreditation process; (2) extend the deadlines by which unaccredited service providers of the preschool open doors program must commence the accreditation process and obtain accreditation; (3) appropriate funds for the establishment of the child care accreditation program; and (4) appropriate funds to be deposited into the child care grant special fund.

The bill provides an appropriation of public money, on page 4, lines 3-10, for the purpose of providing grants to private child care providers to assist them in obtaining accreditation. Article VII, section 4, of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii provides, "[n]o grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law." This bill does not include standards by which the Department of Human Services is to distribute the funds to program participants. We therefore recommend that this bill be amended to insert sufficient standards for the Department of Human Services to distribute the funds appropriated in this bill as grants to child care providers. Examples of existing statutes that provide standards for agencies to expend

funds are part II of chapter 9, and sections 10-17, 210D-11, and 383-128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which provide standards for the administrative grant of public money. Additionally, we have attached draft standards to this testimony as a sample to work from and we are happy to work with you on developing more specific standards.

The Department also notes that article X, section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution prohibits appropriations of public funds for the support or benefit of any sectarian or nonsectarian private educational institution, which may limit the number of eligible child care facilities under the child care accreditation program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

POSSIBLE STANDARDS FOR THE GRANTS IN THIS BILL

I. DEFINITIONS

Definitions. As used in this Act, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"Department" means the department of human services.

"Grant" means an award of state funds to a specified recipient to support the activities of the recipient and permit the community to benefit from those activities.

"Private educational institution" means a non-public entity that provides: (1) educational services for any grades from kindergarten through grade twelve; (2) post-secondary education; or (3) pre-kindergarten level services that are provided by an entity that holds itself out to the public as a school or educational institution, or that are identified by the entity as educational services rather than solely as child care services.

"Recipient" means a child care provider receiving a grant.

II. APPLICATIONS

Applications for grants. Requests for grants shall be submitted to the department in accordance with the administrative rules adopted by the department to administer the grant program. Each request shall at a minimum state:

- (1) The name of the child care provider requesting grant funds;
- (2) The expenses that are necessary for the childcare provider to obtain the accreditation; and
- (3) The age range of the children that the child care provider serves.

III. STANDARDS

Qualifying standards for grant funds. A child care provider applying for a grant shall meet the following

standards; specifically, the applicant shall provide proof that the applicant:

- (1) Has United States citizenship or permanent United States resident alien status and is a resident of the State of Hawaii at the time of application;
- (2) Is currently licensed or registered as a child care provider, or is an exempt provider approved by the department;
- (3) Provides child care at the time of application;
- (4) Complies with other federal, state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, necessary to conduct the activities or provide the services for which a grant is awarded;
- (5) Complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, or disability;
- (6) Agrees not to use state funds for entertainment or lobbying activities;
- (7) Allows the department, legislative committees and their staff, and the auditor full access to their records, reports, files, and other related documents and information for purposes of monitoring, measuring the effectiveness, and ensuring the proper expenditure of the grant;
- (8) Is not part of or owned or operated by or as a private educational institution;
- (9) Satisfies any other standards that may be required by the source of funding; and
- (10) Meets all other standards prescribed in rules adopted by the department to implement the grants.

Requirement for child care providers receiving grant funds.

Each child care provider who, after meeting the qualifications set out in section [__], receives grant funds from the department, is required to obtain accreditation and continue to provide child care for [] number of years after receiving accreditation.

IV. REVIEW OF APPLICATION

Required review of requests for grant funds. (a) Every request for grant funds shall be reviewed in accordance with this section.

(b) Every request for a grant shall be submitted to the department on an application form provided by the department. Each application shall at a minimum contain the information in section [__].

(c) The department shall review each request to determine whether the applicant is eligible to receive grant funds.

(d) The department shall make a final decision on each request.

(e) The department shall inform each grant applicant of the disposition of the application's request.

(f) The appeal process in the department's rules shall be available for any applicant who is denied a request for grant funds.

V. CONTRACTS

Contracts. The department shall not release the public funds approved for a grant unless a contract is entered into between the department and the recipient of the grant. The department shall develop and determine, in consultation with and subject to the review and approval of the attorney general, the specific contract form to be used.

VI. ALLOTMENT

Allotment. Appropriations for grants to be made under this Act shall be subject to the allotment system generally applicable to all appropriations made by the legislature.

VII. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation. (a) Every department grant contract shall be monitored by the department to ensure compliance with this part.

(b) Every department grant contract shall be evaluated annually to determine whether the grant attained the intended results in the manner contemplated.

VIII. DUTY TO DISCLOSE AND PENALTY

Continued eligibility. Any recipient of a grant who withholds or omits any material fact or deliberately misrepresents facts to the department shall be in violation of this part. In addition to any other penalties provided by law, any recipient found by the department to have violated this part or the terms of its contract shall be prohibited from applying for any department grants for a period of five years from the date of termination.

IX. RULES

Rules. The department shall adopt rules, which may be done without regard to chapter 91, to administer the child care accreditation program.



To: House Committee on Human Services
Hearing Date/Time: February 2, 2023 9AM
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329
Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 261

Dear Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato, and the Members of Committee,

Members of AAUW of Hawaii thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 261 which would establish a program and appropriate funds to support accreditation of licensed and registered early childhood care and education providers.

Accreditations are often seen as a marker of quality which then drives enrollment. Although many providers would like to be accredited, the lengthy process and costs are barriers for them to achieve accreditation, especially for the small child care centers and homes. AAUW of Hawaii supports this measure because it would lower these barriers.

Sincerely,
Younghee Overly
Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawaii
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii is an all volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaula'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. UH Hilo, UH Manoa, UH Maui College, and Windward Community College are also AAUW partners. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, at workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists supports HB261. The intent of this bill is to support regulated preschools and child care providers to achieve accreditation. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. Creating an accreditation program will provide technical and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Door families.

The benefits of high quality early childhood care and education are well-researched by Dr. James Heckman, Nobel-Prize winning economist at the University of Chicago. His research has demonstrated that high-quality, birth-to-five early childhood education yields a 13% return on investment and a higher rate of return than preschool alone. His research has also demonstrated that skills developed in such programs last for a lifetime (www.heckmangequation.org)

Respectfully Submitted:

Alec Marentic, NCSP

HASP President

HB-261

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 12:58:31 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i; Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization supports HB 261.

The Stonewall Caucus requests any amendments necessary to ensure that any child care provider that avails themselves of any tax-payer funds to assist with accreditation not be allowed to discriminate against anyone (i.e. students, parents, faculty, staff, etc.) that belongs to any of the protected classes under Hawaii's public accommodations laws.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation and any amendments that may be needed.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH



To: Representative Mizuno, Chair
Representative Amato, Vice Chair
House Committee on Human Services

Re: HB261, relating to early learning opportunities
9:00 a.m., Feb. 2, 2023

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members:

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, mahalo for the opportunity to **testify in STRONG SUPPORT of House Bill 261, relating to early learning opportunities.**

Early learning programs often use accreditation as one tool to mark quality. Accreditation represents numerous measures that indicate that a program is developmentally appropriate and uses best practices in nurturing and educating our youngest learners. During the accreditation and re-accreditation processes, early learning programs display the ways their curriculum, teacher qualifications, environments and other components meet rigorous standards.

Unfortunately, **accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming** for providers who have not been accredited previously. For example, fees to begin and complete accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) begin at \$1,825 and increase with the size of the preschool. Many preschools and child care providers also seek technical assistance to identify areas needing improvement, complete necessary paperwork, collect documentation and other tasks to ensure the process goes as smoothly as possible. During preparations for accreditation, it is not uncommon for preschools and child care providers to identify upgrades that need to be made to buildings, classrooms, furniture or play equipment. These too cost money. Once a preschool or child care provider successfully achieves accreditation, they then must pay annual fees to maintain it. **All these reasons compound to make it extremely burdensome for many child care providers, especially small centers and family child care homes, to pursue accreditation.**

H.R.S. §346-184 currently requires existing Preschool Open Doors providers to begin the accreditation process by July 1, 2024 and obtain accreditation by July 1, 2029. New providers must have or obtain accreditation within seven calendar years of first receiving funds. **This**



means that unaccredited providers who are already serving Preschool Open Doors families must begin this expensive and intensive process within the next 18 months.

This requirement places a heavy burden on an already taxed early childhood care and education sector in a very short amount of time. **They cannot afford to carry more costs on their own; they need assistance.** Preschools and regulated child care providers typically already operate on razor-thin margins to keep their doors open, pay their staff and serve young children and families. These are the very same providers that have faced numerous challenges over the last three years of the pandemic. Most did not close their doors for essential workers even when everything else did. They continued to serve families at great cost—financial and otherwise—to ensure young keiki could continue to grow and learn with them.

The proposed accreditation program is an important step forward for the state of early childhood care and education, for the Preschool Open Doors program and for providers across Hawai'i.

HB261 will help providers shoulder the cost of achieving accreditation. The bill, as it is currently written, allows the Department of Human Services to support providers with funding that can cover myriad expenses associated with the accreditation process. **It is important that the Department has this flexibility to support providers in the various ways necessary.**

Please support HB261. This program will ensure providers of all sizes meet the quality markers our young children and their families deserve while preserving the current stock of available providers participating in Preschool Open Doors.

Mahalo,

Ke'ōpū Reelitz
Director of Early Learning and Health Policy



Date: February 1, 2023

To: House Committee on Human Services
Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Representative Terez Amato, Vice Chair

From: Early Childhood Action Strategy

Re: Support for HB261, Relating to Early Learning Accreditation

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 strongly supports passage of HB261, which would establish a program to support child care providers in obtaining quality accreditation from a national organization and extend the deadline by which Preschool Open Doors providers must achieve accreditation.

With the passage of Act 46 in 2020, early care and learning programs wishing to serve or continue serving children via the state's Preschool Open Doors subsidy program must initiate the process of national quality accreditation by 2024, and achieve accreditation no later than 2029.

Accreditation is a well-known measure of quality for early care and learning programs, and involves an arduous cycle of self- and external assessment to meet a battery of standards related to curriculum, staff and administration qualifications, training and development, physical environment and more. Accreditation, however, is an expensive, intensive, and time-consuming endeavor for both programs new to the process, as well as those seeking to renew their time-limited accreditation. Basic fees to undergo the process with an accrediting body typically run into the thousands (e.g., \$1,825 for the National Association for the Education of Young Children/NAEYC) and providers must often make significant financial investments to upgrade their facilities, classroom environments, equipment and materials. Additionally, many programs need the support of coaching and technical assistance from content and process experts who can advise on areas needing improvement to meet standards, as well as the documentation and paperwork processes of the accrediting body.

Without a support program for our preschools and child care programs, the accreditation requirement of Act 46 creates a significant barrier and/or burden for these programs in serving Preschool Open Doors families and will significantly impact efforts to expand access to publicly-supported preschool opportunities for children. The creation of the accreditation program proposed by HB583, which would provide technical and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers, is critical to helping programs achieve important markers of quality and to preserving and expanding the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB261**.



TO:

Rep. J. Mizuno, Chair
Rep. T. Amato, Vice Chair
Human Services Committee Members

FROM:

Brenda Watanabe, VP Public Policy, HiAIEYC Board

SUBJECT: Measure: HB261 – RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Hearing Date: February 2, 2023

Time: 9:30am

The mission of the Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HiAIEYC) is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawai'i's young children (birth to age 8) and their families." HiAIEYC is the Hawai'i affiliate of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which is a leading accreditation organization for early learning program quality.

Please support HB261 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. HiAIEYC recognizes program quality as important for the success of child development programs. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality. However, accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously. As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available. The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

HiAIEYC strongly supports this measure and requests this measure be passed. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to share our views and provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Watanabe,
VP of Public Policy,
HiAIEYC Board

HB-261

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:37:18 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Au	Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HB261 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, accreditation can be expensive, intensive and time-consuming for child care providers who have not been accredited previously. Without access to necessary resources, the requirement of accreditation will create a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

The Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children is prepared to provide technical assistance to child care centers seeking NAEYC accreditation AND can work with the Department of Human Services to provide appropriate information and resources regarding NECPA accreditation and any other types of accreditation deemed acceptable by the Director of DHS.

Our Early Childhood Community has used the past two years to become prepared and I know we are ready to improve quality for children, families and early childhood programs should you provide the necessary funding for this to happen.

Please support this measure.

Thank you

Elaine Yamashita
105 Kamehameiki Rd.
Kula, HI 96790-8451
808-281-1216
elainey208@gmail.com

January 31, 2023

Aloha to Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Amato and committee members:

I am in support of HB 261. I'm an advocate for early care and education, longtime Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HiAEYC, an affiliate of NAEYC) member, and professor emerita of UH Maui College.

Programs are wanting to pursue accreditation, and need financial and technical support in order to successful bring the program up to accreditation standards. Your support of this measure is much appreciated.

Mahalo,
Elaine Yamashita

HB-261

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 3:32:49 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raya Esteban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato, and committee members,

Please support HB261, which will help preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and safeguard the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors (POD) families. Accreditation is one of the most recognized measures of quality in early childhood care and education. However, accreditation is **costly, rigorous, and time-consuming** for providers who have not been accredited previously and for those who have to repeat the accreditation process. The bottomline is that many preschools and child care providers are tapped out of money and energy to begin and complete the accreditation that will soon be required to continue serving POD families. Additionally, without the support and guidance of an accreditation program, this requirement stalls efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an essential step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to POD families.

As a young, middle-class woman hoping to start a family soon in Honolulu, it is my sincere hope that affordable, high-quality childcare programs will be available to my future children. Ensuring that programs serving POD families get the support they need to gain accreditation is a huge step in the right direction.

Please support this measure—for the present and future families who seek the quality child care that their keiki deserve.

Sincerely,

Raya Esteban

HB-261

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:04:55 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Allencastre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members,

Please support House Bill 502 which would improve infant and toddler child care for families receiving subsidies by establishing an infant-toddler contracted slots pilot program in the Department of Human Services (DHS). This measure can provide two important impacts for infant and toddler care, which is the most in need with families: 1) increase a consistent supply of infant and toddler care for families receiving subsidies while 2) incentivizing child care providers to continue caring for our youngest keiki.

Establishing a program where DHS contracts directly with infant and toddler childcare providers will allow for stability within that segment of the sector. It will also help to incentivize those contracted providers to continue caring for infants and toddlers. And, it can help families receiving subsidies be able to find care immediately so they can stay employed and improve the lives of themselves and their families.

Please support this measure.

HB-261

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:54:58 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members,
Please support HB261 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously. As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Please support this measure.

Kee Lo

HB-261

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:59:44 AM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Tsuchiya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Malia Tsuchiya

Before the Hawai‘i State Legislature

Committee on Human Services

Feb, 02, 2023

Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Committee of Human Services

9:00 Am

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

HB 261

RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.

Requires the department of human services to establish a child care accreditation program to assist licensed and registered child care providers obtain accreditation. Amends the time period for when existing preschool open doors service providers are required to obtain accreditation. Appropriates funds for the child care accreditation program, including for the establishment of one full-time position for the program. Appropriates funds into the child care grant special fund.

IN FAVOR

Aloha e Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and respected members of the Committee of Human Services,

Thank you for your time and for allowing me to submit testimony **IN FAVOR of HB 261**. My name is Malia Tsuchiya. I am a mother of five children, ranging in ages 17-2. I am also a preschool teacher and family childcare provider by trade and have spent many years helping organizations and individuals to meet state and national requirements for childcare accreditation and licensing. I humbly request for the committee to please vote **IN FAVOR** of HB 261 for the following reasons:

Accreditation is an essential component to determining quality of care.

Accreditation facilitates constant assessment and improvement.

Accreditation is complicated and costly and is better accomplished with professional accreditation assistance.

Accreditation requires individuals and programs to constantly reflect on what they are doing well and what can be done better. In all other educational environments the knowledge or accomplishment is not rendered valid unless it comes from an accredited institution. Early childhood should be no different. Brain development is at its peak from birth to age five. This time of life is foundational for all future learning. Accreditation forces stakeholders to take sa

significant look at the impacts of early childhood education on future learning. Accreditation encourages the workforce and its administrators to always be striving to do better for the benefit of our children. Our children deserve the opportunity to receive quality early childhood education and accreditation help to establish that.

Without financial support the task of accreditation is daunting. Organizations need support so that they can effectively complete the task of becoming accredited. Without it, there is no definitive way to ensure for quality. For these reasons I humbly request that the committee

VOTE IN FAVOR OR HB261.

Thank you for your time. Kūlia I ka nu'u.

Mahalo nui,

Malia Tsuchiya

HB-261

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:04:11 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Elento	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee on Human Services, I am requesting the Committee consider revising Section 346-184, Hawaii Revised Statutes, by adding the **Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)** as an accrediting organization or by exempting providers with ACSI accreditation from this section.

Protect our families' choices and freedom from religious discrimination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-261

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:38:43 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Hallett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members,

Please support HB261 which will support preschools and regulated child care providers achieve accreditation and preserve the amount of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, accreditation is expensive, intensive and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously. As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

As a pediatrician, I know firsthand the importance of quality early childhood education. I see too many children at their checkups who are behind on developmental milestones. A child who is behind on their language at age 2-3 who does not catch up will not be prepared to read well and succeed in school. This can have lasting effects from school performance to employment. Access to affordable quality pre-K education could help level the playing field for them. Research from Professor James Heckman shows that investing in high-quality birth-to-five programs for children can deliver a **13% per year return** on investment. I challenge anyone to find a better investment. The state needs to facilitate high quality early education and this bill is a good start.

HB-261

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:49:26 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato and committee members,

As a pediatrician and parent, I am writing to ask for your support of HB261, which will make it feasible for preschools and regulated child care providers to achieve accreditation and thus help maintain the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, accreditation is **expensive, intensive and time-consuming** for providers who have not been accredited previously. As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and child care providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited. It also hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available, which harms children, families, and the economy.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to provide technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and child care providers in achieving important markers of quality and preserve and expand the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Please support this measure.

Mahalo,

Maya Maxym, MD PhD

HB-261

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:34:39 PM

Testimony for HUS on 2/2/2023 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Yamauchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Amato, and Committee Members,

Please support HB261 which will support preschools and regulated childcare providers to achieve accreditation and preserve the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families. Accreditation is among the most well-known measures of quality in early childhood education. However, accreditation is expensive, intensive, and time-consuming for providers who have not been accredited previously. As the law is currently written, programs wishing to serve or continue serving Preschool Open Doors families must start this expensive and intensive process by 2024 and complete it by 2029. This requirement creates a significant burden for preschools and childcare providers who currently serve Preschool Open Doors families but are unaccredited as well as hinders efforts to increase the number of programs available.

The creation of an accreditation program is an important step to providing technical assistance and financial assistance to regulated preschools and childcare providers in achieving important markers of quality, and preserving and expanding the number of programs available to Preschool Open Doors families.

Please support this measure. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Erica Yamauchi, Kaimukī/Wilhelmina Rise