

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

199

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 502  
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. 502 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CHILD CARE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a two-year Infant and Toddler Child Care Contracted Slots Pilot Program to develop and implement procedures to subsidize child care slots in licensed infant and toddler child care settings; and
- (2) Appropriate funds for the Pilot Program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists, Keiki O Ka 'Āina Family Learning Centers, Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!, Early Childhood Action Strategy, and eleven individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Executive Office on Department of Human Services and Early Learning.

Your Committee finds that in the first quarter of fiscal year 2022-2023, more than fifteen thousand families received Child Care Connection Hawaii subsidies to help them afford care for children

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ages six weeks to thirteen years. Your Committee further finds that when the operating costs for child care providers are funded by tuition fees, these providers can face disruption and possible closure because of the variable nature of enrollment figures. This measure assists Hawaii's families by establishing a pilot program to ensure a stable source of funding for qualified infant and toddler child care providers through a guaranteed two-year contract for a child care slot.

Your Committee notes that the Department of Human Services testified before your Committee that the federal Child Care and Development Fund does not allow the Department of Human Services to provide Child Care Connection Hawaii subsidies when no eligible child is enrolled in the contracted infant and toddler slots. The Department of Human Services therefore requested additional time to implement the pilot program and noted that a general fund appropriation would be necessary to provide payments for unfilled slots or slots filled by families that are not eligible for child care subsidies through the Child Care Connection Hawaii program.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

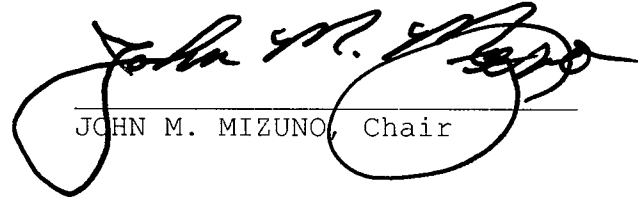
- (1) Specifying that the Infant and Toddler Child Care Contracted Slots Pilot Program shall cease on June 30, 2026; and
- (2) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

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. 502, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 502, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



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

  
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JOHN M. MIZUNO, Chair



