

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

198

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 , 2023

RE: H.B. No. 547
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. 547 entitled:

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

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Department of Human Services to develop a two-year Infant and Toddler Child Care Worker Subsidy Pilot Program to retain the existing early child care workforce in licensed infant and toddler child care center settings; and
- (2) Appropriate funds for the pilot program.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Executive Office on Early Learning, Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, AAUW of Hawaii, Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists, Small World Preschool, Save Medicaid Hawaii, Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Holomua Collective, Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children, Parent Participation Nursery School, Hawai'i Public Health Institute, and fourteen individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the

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Department of the Attorney General and the Department of Human Services.

Your Committee finds that a strong child care and early education workforce is necessary to support the State's children, working families, and communities. Your Committee further finds that compensation for child care workers factors into retention rates. This measure is intended to assist with the retention of qualified child care and early education professionals by establishing a pilot program to subsidize the wages of workers in licensed infant and toddler child care centers.

Your Committee notes the concerns raised by the Department of the Attorney General that the disbursement of any public monies to private entities 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 subsidies under the Infant and Toddler Child Care Worker Subsidy Pilot Program;
- (2) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) 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. 547, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 547, 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



