

JAN 15 2025

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# 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 2023 report by the national clearinghouse Child Care Aware,  
6 Hawai'i is the least affordable state for center-based infant  
7 child care and center-based toddler care. The average annual  
8 cost of center-based infant care in the State is \$22,585, which  
9 is more than the cost of annual in-state tuition for an  
10 undergraduate student at the university of Hawai'i at Manoa. The  
11 annual cost of center-based toddler care, at \$17,925, is  
12 similarly high. The coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic  
13 exacerbated this problem. According to a report by the Center  
14 for American Progress, more stringent safety guidelines  
15 resulting from the pandemic caused child care costs for infants  
16 to increase by nineteen per cent in the State, while child care  
17 costs for toddlers increased twenty-six per cent.





1 "Department" means the department of accounting and general  
2 services.

3 "Eligible children" means children who have a parent,  
4 grandparent, aunt, uncle, or legal guardian who is an employee  
5 of the State.

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

9 § -2 Child care centers for eligible children of state  
10 employees; pilot program. (a) The department, by contract,  
11 shall establish, equip, and operate a state employee child care  
12 center pilot program consisting of two child care centers on the  
13 island of Oahu for eligible children of state employees;  
14 provided that one child care center shall be located in or near  
15 the state capitol building and one child care center shall be  
16 located in Kapolei.

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



1 convenient proximity to the place of employment of the employees  
2 to be served by the centers.

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

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

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

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

17 (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit  
18 the child care centers established under this section from  
19 accepting children of non-state employees if space is available;  
20 provided that fees charged for services shall be as minimal as  
21 practicable.



1 (h) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
2 91 as necessary to implement this chapter."

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2026-2027 for the purposes of this Act.

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

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025, and  
11 shall be repealed on June 30, 2030.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

*Kal Rhoan*



# S.B. NO. 56

**Report Title:**

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

**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 6/30/2030.

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

