
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII EARLY HEAD START TO RAISE ITS ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD
INCOME ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES.

1 WHEREAS, early childhood education helps lay a solid
2 foundation to prepare children for educational achievement and
3 success later in life by fostering social competence and school
4 readiness; and

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6 WHEREAS, the expense of early childhood education is not
7 low and can be cost-prohibitive for many families in Hawaii; and

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9 WHEREAS, Early Head Start is a federally funded initiative
10 that provides early childhood education and related
11 comprehensive services for low-income parents and children as
12 well as children with special needs; and

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14 WHEREAS, Early Head Start provides services at designated
15 centers and in individual homes to prenatal parents and parents
16 with infants and toddlers and is designed to nurture and support
17 parents and children by building on families' strengths; and

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19 WHEREAS, for a variety of reasons, the cost of living in
20 Hawaii is notoriously high; and

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22 WHEREAS, *USA Today* estimated in September 2014 that an
23 annual income of \$122,000 would be needed to live comfortably in
24 Hawaii; and

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26 WHEREAS, according to the 2007-2011 American Community
27 Survey, the median annual household income for Hawaii was
28 estimated at \$67,116; and

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30 WHEREAS, the most recent income eligibility guidelines for
31 Hawaii Early Head Start are as follows:
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Household Size	Maximum Annual Income Level
1	\$13,550
2	\$18,330
3	\$23,110
4	\$27,890
5	\$32,670
6	\$37,450
7	\$42,230
8	\$47,010, and

1
2 for households with more than eight members, \$4,780 for each
3 additional person can be added; and
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5 WHEREAS, many working families in Hawaii fall into the "gap
6 group", in which they earn too much to qualify for federal or
7 state assistance yet do not earn enough to pay for private,
8 market-priced services and programs; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
11 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
12 Session of 2015, that Hawaii Early Head Start is requested to
13 raise its annual household income eligibility guidelines so that
14 more families in the State can gain access to the benefits of
15 early childhood education; and
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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
18 Resolution be transmitted to the United States Secretary of
19 Health and Human Services, Governor, Director of Human Services,
20 and Superintendent of Education.
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OFFERED BY:

Calvin M. King

MAR 13 2015

