
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many families with
2 children in Hawaii are impacted by the continuing health and
3 economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and need an array
4 of services. In response to these consequences, staff from the
5 departments of human services, education, health, labor and
6 industrial relations; governor's coordinator on homelessness;
7 executive office on aging; executive office on early learning;
8 workforce development council; and community providers have
9 worked on various initiatives to address the needs of Hawaii's
10 residents.

11 In August 2020, the National Governors Association for Best
12 Practices and Casey Family Programs launched the child and
13 family well-being learning cohort I and II to coordinate
14 strategic solutions to prevent child abuse and neglect and
15 ensure child and family well-being. Several months into the
16 pandemic, there was a national concern that cases of child abuse
17 and neglect were going unreported as schools, health care



1 systems, and other mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect
2 were providing limited in-person activities. Following the
3 early months of pandemic-related lockdown in 2020, reports of
4 child abuse and neglect declined in some states by twenty to
5 seventy per cent. As part of the cohort, the National Family
6 Support Network presented information and training opportunities
7 about family resource centers, also referred to as family
8 support centers, as a model to assist families and prevent
9 incidents of child abuse and neglect.

10 Family resource centers play a critical role in preventing
11 child abuse and neglect; strengthening children and families;
12 connecting family-impacting agencies and programs; creating
13 opportunities for community-level coordination; creating
14 connections to resources and support systems; and increasing
15 family engagement, which all lead to greater student success in
16 school. Additionally, various studies show that communities
17 with family resource centers show lower rates of child abuse and
18 neglect investigations, lower numbers of children entering
19 foster care, and an increase in parents or custodians gaining
20 employment within one year after participating in services
21 provided through the centers.



1 The legislature further finds that the primary goal of
2 family resource centers is to assist families with supportive
3 services before problems become crises that require intervention
4 by child or other protective services. For school-based family
5 resource centers, an added goal is to support a child's
6 educational needs.

7 Family resource centers serve diverse populations, and are
8 family-focused, culturally sensitive resource hubs that provide
9 families and caregivers targeted services or referrals for
10 services based on the needs and interests of families or
11 caregivers. Family resource centers may provide services that
12 include assistance accessing government programs, job training
13 and placement, educational support, housing assistance, child
14 care, skills training for parents or caregivers on a variety of
15 subjects, counseling, and referrals for case management or
16 treatment services.

17 The purpose of this Act is to establish and fund a five-
18 year family resource centers pilot program within the department
19 of human services and fund one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
20 family resource centers coordinator position to:



- 1 (1) Further develop and implement a statewide network of
- 2 school- and community-based family resource centers;
- 3 (2) Establish definitions, standards, and best practices;
- 4 (3) Identify and align available services, goals, and
- 5 outcomes; and
- 6 (4) Develop referral and data tracking protocols.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established within the department
8 of human services a family resource centers pilot program, which
9 shall:

- 10 (1) Develop and implement a statewide network of school-
- 11 and community-based family resource centers;
- 12 (2) Establish definitions, standards, and best practices;
- 13 (3) Identify and align available services, goals, and
- 14 outcomes; and
- 15 (4) Develop referral and data tracking protocols.

16 (b) There is established within the department of human
17 services one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource
18 centers coordinator position. The director of human services
19 shall appoint the family resource centers coordinator to carry
20 out the functions of the pilot program.



1 (c) The departments of human services, education, and
2 health may coordinate with other public or private entities, as
3 appropriate, to develop and implement family resource centers,
4 including establishing standards of practice, and a strategic
5 plan to identify minimum services, align goals and outcomes, and
6 document referral and data tracking protocols.

7 (d) For purposes of the pilot program:

8 (1) A family resource center shall be designed to meet the
9 needs, cultures, and interests of the communities
10 served by the family resource center;

11 (2) Family services, including family preservation
12 services and the identification of community support
13 systems, may be delivered directly to a family at a
14 family resource center by family resource center staff
15 or by providers who contract with or have provider
16 agreements with the family resource center, or with
17 any of the departments identified in this section; and

18 (3) Each family resource center may have one or more
19 family advocates who screen and assess a family's
20 needs and strengths; provided that if requested by the
21 family, the family advocate may assist the family with



1 setting its own goals and, together with the family,
2 develop a written plan for the family to pursue the
3 family's goals while working toward attaining a
4 greater level of self-reliance or self-sufficiency
5 through the pursuit of education, job training, or
6 employment.

7 (e) As used in this section:

8 "Community support system" means the support system that
9 may be organized through extended family members, friends,
10 neighbors, religious organizations, community programs, cultural
11 and ethnic organizations, or other support groups or
12 organizations.

13 "Family preservation services" means in-home or community-
14 based services that draw on the strengths of the family and its
15 individual members, while addressing family needs, to keep the
16 family together where possible. These services include:

- 17 (1) Respite care of children to provide temporary relief
18 for parents and other caregivers;
19 (2) Services designed to improve parenting skills with
20 respect to matters including child development,



1 household budgeting, stress management, health,
2 safety, and nutrition; and
3 (3) Services designed to promote the well-being of
4 children and families; increase the strength and
5 stability of families; increase parents' confidence
6 and competence in their parenting abilities; promote a
7 safe, stable, and supportive family environment for
8 children; and otherwise enhance children's
9 development.

10 "Family resource center" means a unified single point of
11 entry where families, individuals, children, and youth in
12 communities may obtain information, an assessment of needs, and
13 direct delivery of or referrals for family services, in a manner
14 that is welcoming and strengths-based.

15 SECTION 3. (a) Contracts entered into by the departments
16 of human services, education, and health for the purposes of
17 this Act shall be procured pursuant to chapters 103D and 103F,
18 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

19 (b) The departments of human services, education, and
20 health may accept grants, donations, and contributions from
21 private or public sources for the purposes of this Act, which



1 may be expended by the receiving department in a manner
2 consistent with the donors' wishes.

3 (c) The departments of human services, education, and
4 health shall establish, no later than December 1, 2023, the
5 following:

- 6 (1) Criteria that the departments intend to use to
7 evaluate potential family resource centers;
8 (2) Milestones that the departments expect to meet in
9 establishing one or more family resource centers over
10 the course of the five-year pilot program;
11 (3) Specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and
12 time-based performance measures that the departments
13 expect to meet by the end of each fiscal year;
14 (4) Controls that the departments intend to use to monitor
15 and oversee family resource centers; and
16 (5) Data and referral system tracking needs and protocols
17 that comply with applicable state and federal laws.

18 (d) The family resource centers coordinator shall submit
19 reports to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to
20 the convening of each of the regular sessions of 2023, 2024,
21 2025, 2026, and 2027. Each report shall include a description



1 of the items identified in subsection (c) and of any grants,
2 donations, and contributions received by the departments
3 pursuant to subsection (b) in the prior fiscal year.

4 (e) The pilot program shall cease to exist on June 30,
5 2027.

6 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
9 the establishment of the family resource centers pilot program,
10 one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers
11 coordinator position, and expenses related to the development
12 and implementation of a statewide network of family resource
13 centers.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
15 human services for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2060.



Report Title:

DHS; DOE; DOH; Family Resource Centers; Pilot Program;
Coordinator; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the family resource centers pilot program within the department of human services. Requires the departments of human services, education, and health to coordinate with public and private entities to develop and implement family resource centers. Establishes one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource centers coordinator position. Requires reports to the legislature. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD1)

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