



Proclamation

WHEREAS, early childhood is a critical development period for an individual with the majority of human brain development occurs before a child reaches the age of five, and a significant portion of the development happening before the age of three; and

WHEREAS, high quality early care and education have a variety of positive outcomes for children, including ameliorating the effects of poverty, detecting and remediating developmental delays, identifying signs of and preventing further child neglect, and preparing children for school, all of which contribute to increasing their likelihood of success in life; and

WHEREAS, the majority of children under five years of age in Hawai'i have working parents who cannot care for them during all hours of the day; and

WHEREAS, over thirty thousand children under the age of six are currently receiving licensed child care services in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to their significant role in the development of Hawai'i's children, one in three child care workers in Hawai'i are experiencing food insecurity due to inadequate compensation, the average wage of child care workers in Hawai'i is currently less than \$30,000 a year, and child care service providers are often devalued as professionals due to racist and sexist beliefs that child care services do not deserve appropriate compensation because the work is largely performed by women of color; and

WHEREAS, young children require consistent care and nurturing from early childhood educators who are skilled, educated, competent, and appropriately compensated; and

WHEREAS, child care providers warrant and deserve the gratitude and appreciation of the families and communities they serve for their critical role in the development of the children who are Hawai'i's future;

THEREFORE I, DAVID Y. IGE, Governor, of the **State of Hawai'i**, do hereby proclaim September 2022 as

“CHILD CARE PROVIDER APPRECIATION MONTH”

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the critical importance of child care, especially during early childhood, as well as child care providers and their services.

Done at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-second day of August 2022.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor, State of Hawai'i