



**Hawaii  
Legislative  
Council  
Members**

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair  
Committee on Health and Human Services

Monday, March 18, 2024  
1:00 PM, Room 225

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country  
Market  
Hanalei

RE: **HB1964 HD2** Early Child Care Provider Subsidy - **Support**

Russell Ruderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo/Kona

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino & Committee Members,

Dr. Andrew Johnson  
Niko Niko Family  
Dentistry  
Honolulu

The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents over 100 small businesses across the State that strive for a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity; we know Hawaii can strengthen its economy without hurting workers, consumers, communities or the environment.

Robert H. Pahia  
Hawaii Taro Farm  
Wailuku

This is why we support HB1964 HD2, which requires the Department of Human Services to establish and implement a child care provider subsidy and bonus program to provide subsidies to retain the existing child care workforce in licensed infant and toddler child care center, group child care centers, and group child care homes and bonuses to registered family child care homes.

Maile Meyer  
Na Mea Hawaii  
Honolulu

Too many working families struggle to secure affordable, quality childcare; they are unable to return to the workforce and contribute to a vibrant economy. For some, the costs of childcare surpasses their own take home pay, especially when rush hour commuter traffic results in the need for 10 additional hours a week of childcare beyond the parents' own paid work times.

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
Kihei

When employers look around and say, "Where did our workforce go; why can't we find anyone to work?" One response is that they are staying home to take care of their children, their grandchildren or their younger siblings. If a business cannot find sufficient numbers of workers to generate sufficient revenue to cover all the overhead costs of the business, then the business will have to close. The state will lose revenue from the general excise taxes and income taxes associated with those shuttered businesses.

L. Malu Shizue Miki  
Abundant Life  
Natural Foods  
Hilo

Until the Legislature sufficiently funds the Department of Education so that it can expand its Early Childhood Education programs across the state, for children of all ages, then the legislature must provide alternative solutions to try to fix the childcare shortage and ensure the state's revenue streams are uninterrupted.

Kim Coco Iwamoto  
Enlightened Energy  
Honolulu

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