SNAPSHOT

CHILD CARE IN HAWAI'I

Child Care is Critical for Hawaii’s Workforce

64% of children under 6 have all available parents in the labor force.¹

Child Care is Critical for Reducing Gender and Racial Disparities in Economic Participation

67% of mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in HI.²

82% of Black mothers with children under 6 participate in the labor force in HI.³

COVID-19 Poses a New Threat to the Child Care Sector

Capacity is declining in HI⁴

49% of child care slots could be lost. Pre-pandemic in HI there were 4.4 children for every available slot. With COVID closures that number could go as high as 8.6.

Provider costs are increasing in HI⁵

Center-based providers' costs are estimated to increase by 31%. Family-based providers' costs are estimated to increase by 66%.

The Child Care Sector Was Struggling Prior to COVID-19

Child care workers struggled to make ends meet

12% of child care workers in HI lived in poverty.⁶

Costs of providing care were high in HI⁷

$1,350/month for center-based infant care

$900/month for center-based toddler care

$870/month for family-based care

Child care is hard to afford

A minimum wage worker in HI spends 65% of their earnings on child care, on average.⁹

Child Care is Important to the Economy

Yet only 14% of low-income eligible families in HI receive federal subsidies.¹⁰

For additional state profiles and more on this topic, visit Investing in the Future of Child Care: sffed.us/childcare
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Endnotes

Author Bina Patel Shrimali
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