SNAPSHOT
CHILD CARE IN HAWAII

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 HI°
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
ENOTES


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Acknowledgment Thanks to Brooke Ada Tran for research assistance, Laurel Gourd for editorial guidance, and the SF Fed Creative Team for graphic design.

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