



**Representative
Lauren
Matsumoto
Serving You in District 45**

Aloha Friends and Neighbors!

My office has been receiving calls regarding options for child care and early childhood education in our district, and I wanted to share these helpful contacts with you all. Please pass this along to families you know who are seeking more information on ways they can get help paying for child care. The average cost of child care in Hawaii is nearly \$850 per month depending on the age of the child, location, and type of care desired. Here's what you can do to help with the costs:

Plan ahead: Start thinking about your options and its costs.

Identify financial aid programs: Find out what kind of help is available. Each type of financial aid program has different criteria, like income level or employment status.

Be a smart consumer: Child care is a big expense, so make sure your child is receiving quality care.

Consider all options: Look at your budget. Are there alternatives to paying for full-time child care? Can you change your work schedule? Are there relatives to help?

Below you'll find information on programs that help families:

Child Care Connections Hawaii (CCCH): Assists low income families to pay for child care services for children. Applications are accepted year round; awards based on family size, income, and work activity. Application process takes about 30 days. Contact them at 808-566-2600 or 866-972-7267.

Preschool Open Doors (POD): Assists families of 4 and 5 year old children to pay for preschool services. Oahu phone: 791-2130, Neighbor Islands toll free 1-800-746-5620. For more information, call your local PATCH office.

Pauahi Keiki Scholars Program: Services for children (3-4 yrs. Old) of Native Hawaiian ancestry. Preschool programs must be approved by Kamehameha Schools. Contact: (808) 534-8080.

Military Programs: Military members are eligible to receive a monthly subsidy to help offset child care costs. Eligibility may vary by branch. To determine if you are eligible contact NACCRRRA Military Fee Assistance Dept at msp@usa.childcareaware.org or call the toll free line at 1-800-424-2246.

Head Start and Early Head Start: These are federally funded programs that provide free child care and other services to help meet the health and school readiness needs of eligible children. Most, but not all, families who access Head Start or Early Head

Start must have incomes that meet federal poverty guidelines. Statewide contacts for Head Start programs are listed below.

If you need help finding a preschool, call 808-839-1988 or visit patchhawaii.org for preschools in your area. Many preschools have wait lists - call at least a year or more in advance to learn about the preschool-s application process.

The Department of Human Services (DHS), Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division (BESSD) operates the **Preschool Open Doors (POD) program**, which helps eligible Hawaii families pay for preschool up to one year in the year before the child enters kindergarten. The application period for the program is during the spring of each year. For more information, call 808-791-2130.

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Public Kindergarten Program has a program at **Waiialua Elementary School**. Each class is limited to 20 students. Once eligibility requirements are met, enrollment is based on the order in which schools receive completed applications and all required documents. There may be a few spots left! Learn more by contacting EOEL at 808-784-5350.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about happenings in our community Call my office at (808) 586-9490, email me at RepMatsumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov, or visit RepMatsumoto.com.