HAWAII CHILD CARE CENTERS

Staff-to-child ratios at a glance

Hawaii's ratios and maximum group sizes for licensed child care centers. Print it, pin it up by the door.

Group	Ages	Staff : children	Max group
Two-year-olds	2 years	**1 : 8**	**16**
Three-year-olds	3 years	**1 : 12**	**24**
Four-year-olds	4 years	**1 : 16**	**32**
Five and older	5 years and older	**1 : 20**	**40**

- **Mixed ages:** the youngest child in the group sets the ratio. Where the curriculum requires mixed ages (no more than three hours a day), and at nap time or night care, the ratio is the average of the chart's ratios for the ages present.
- **Group size:** the maximum may be exceeded for special events such as assemblies, performances, meals and snacks, and outdoor play, as long as the youngest child's ratio is kept.
- **Fall birthdays:** a child at least 2 years 8 months old, enrolled between September 1 and December 31, whose birthday falls between those dates may count with the next older age group.
- Group child care centers may not enroll children under 24 months. Infant and toddler centers are licensed under HAR chapter 17-895.1, with its own chart (for babies 6 weeks to 12 months, 1:3 with a group of 6 or 1:4 with a group of 8), and before- and after-school programs under chapter 17-896.1.

Source: HAR §17-892.2-36 (effective June 16, 2024), read on November 24, 2026. This sheet is a summary, not legal advice: always check the current regulation and your licensing consultant.