2016 HAWAII CHILDREN’S POLICY AGENDA

- Education - Health and Wellness - Child Safety and Welfare - Economic Security and Equity
- Strengthening Hawaii’s Families

Convened by Hawaii Children’s Action Network
Hawaii Children’s Policy Agenda

The detrimental effects of the high cost of living, low wages and scarcity of affordable housing in Hawaii are magnified for our low-income families and their children. Fifteen percent of our children live in poverty, more than half of our 3- and 4-year olds are not attending preschool and one-third of our homeless population are children.

Collaboration on a Hawaii Children’s Policy Agenda serves as a starting point to ignite awareness of, bring together support for and amplify the advocacy for pro-child policy changes in our state.

During our Building a Children’s Agenda meeting on October 16, 2015 and the subsequent online input more than 50 organizations and individuals came forward to support or indicate interest for a number of issues affecting children and families in our state. For the purpose of organization, we aggregated related issues and grouped these under the following focus categories:

- **Education**
- **Health and Wellness**
- **Child Safety and Welfare**
- **Economic Security and Equity for Children**
- **Family Strengthening**

The 2016 Hawaii Children’s Policy Agenda supports children by:

- Advocating for Hawaii’s keiki, families, and communities
- Improving the future by focusing on children
- Promoting public policy changes and shared investment that benefits education, health, and economic security for our children
**EDUCATION:** **ALL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION TO REACH THEIR ACADEMIC POTENTIAL**

**Fact:**
- 51% of 3-4 year olds are NOT in preschool
- Hawaii ranks 43rd in the country for 4th graders BELOW proficient in reading

1. **Increase attendance and improve access to pre-school and high quality early learning to improve school readiness.**
   **Supported by:** Center on Disability Studies/University of Hawaii Manoa, Aloha United Way, Center on the Family, Family Support Hawaii, Friends of the Future, Head Start Hawaii

2. **Secure funding for Preschool Open Doors in the Executive budget and improve access and outcomes for children.**
   **Supported by:** PHOCUSED, Aloha United Way, Childcare Business Coalition, Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children, PATCH, Parents and Children Together (PACT), Seagull Schools, Wai’anae Coast Early Childhood Services (WCECS)

3. **Bring alignment and improvement to Preschool Open Doors and Child Care Connections sliding scale subsidies formula.**
   **Supported by:** Childcare Business Coalition, Wai’anae Coast Early Childhood Services (WCECS)

4. **Increase funding and access to funding for professional development of childcare providers.**
   **Supported by:** Aloha United Way, Childcare Business Coalition, Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children, PATCH, Wai’anae Coast Early Childhood Services (WCECS)

5. **Make kindergarten appropriate for young learners.**
   **Supported by:** Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii

6. **Support for Native Hawaii Education, Hawaiian Language, Culture Based Learning.**
   **Supported by:** Kamehameha Schools

7. **Increase hands-on activities/place-based learning in K-12 schools.**
   **Supported by:** Hawaii Youth Services Network

8. **Establish state funding support for Family Child Interactive Learning Programs.**
   **Supported by:** INPEACE

9. **Provide access to afterschool care and summer learning opportunities for all children K-12.**
   **Supported by:** Hawaii After School Alliance, Hawaii Youth Services Network

10. **Support funding for professional development training of afterschool care staff.**
    **Supported by:** Hawaii After School Alliance, Hawaii Youth Services Network
HEALTH AND WELLNESS: ALL CHILDREN ARE BORN HEALTHY, GROW HEALTHY AND HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND HIGH-QUALITY CARE

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<td><strong>11</strong> Establish mandatory physical education and health education in middle school grades.</td>
<td><strong>14</strong> Provide appropriate and consistent support services for children with disabilities transitioning into middle school, high school, post secondary education and employment.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Obesity Prevention Taskforce, Hawaii Youth Services Network</td>
<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Center on Disability Studies/University of Hawaii Manoa, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii</td>
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<td><strong>12</strong> Expand trauma-informed services for youth in DOE and alternative school settings.</td>
<td><strong>15</strong> Create vocational and entrepreneurial tracks for children with disabilities.</td>
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<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition, Child &amp; Family Service, Hawaii Youth Services Network</td>
<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Center on Disability Studies/University of Hawaii Manoa, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii</td>
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<td><strong>13</strong> Ensure there is proper screening between Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) services.</td>
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<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Aloha United Way, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii</td>
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**Fact:**
- Hawaii ranks 29th in the country for low-birth weight babies
- 51% of Hawaii’s children receive free or reduced school lunch

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<td><strong>1</strong> Expand mental health services for youth in schools, drop in services, and access without parental consent.</td>
<td><strong>4</strong> Reinstatement the Department of Health Child Death Data Review.</td>
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<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Hawaii Youth Services Network, Family Support Hawaii</td>
<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Hawaii Maternal &amp; Infant Health Collaborative, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii</td>
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<td><strong>2</strong> Increase services for children and adults, focused on therapeutic services that impact long-term support.</td>
<td><strong>5</strong> Establish a Maternal Mortality Review Panel to review all deaths within 1 year of delivery in hopes of determining causes and initiating steps to reduce recurrence.</td>
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<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Head Start Hawaii</td>
<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawaii Section, Hawaii Maternal &amp; Infant Health Collaborative, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong> Support MedQuest work to ensure services on Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT).</td>
<td><strong>6</strong> Ensure access to school-based oral health services.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Head Start Hawaii, Maternal &amp; Infant Health Collaborative, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii</td>
<td><strong>Supported by:</strong> Hawaii Dental Association, Head Start Hawaii</td>
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7 Establish a full time staff position within the Department of Health to oversee vision and hearing screenings in Department of Education schools and work with existing community stakeholders to execute screenings.

**Supported by:** Project Vision Hawaii

8 Require universal pre-natal screening for drug, alcohol, tobacco use to reduce use among pregnant women, increase prenatal care, and reduce teen pregnancies.

**Supported by:** Aloha United Way, Hawaii Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative, Friends of the Future, Ho’oikaika Partnership

9 Require health warning labels and implement tax or fee on sugar-sweetened beverages.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI)

10 Support access to safe and healthy food for children's meals.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI), Obesity Prevention Taskforce, Hawaii Center for Food Safety

11 Develop a state farm-to-preschool and farm-to-school program within the Department of Agriculture.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui

12 Increase access to programs that decrease obesity in Early Childhood Education programs.

**Supported by:** Head Start Hawaii

13 Provide funding and require pediatricians to provide full health, developmental and autism screenings for all children ages 0-5 and coordinate with community-based partners to provide support.

**Supported by:** Center on Disability Studies/University of Hawaii Manoa, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii, Aloha United Way, Child & Family Service, Childcare Business Coalition, Parents and Children Together (PACT)
14 Maximize Affordable Care Act coverage for keiki and women

**Supported by:** Hawaii Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative

15 Improve Access to Lactation Services (covered by the Affordable Care Act).

**Supported by:** Family Support Hawaii, Hawaii Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative

16 Prohibit smoking in vehicles when a minor is present

**Supported by:** Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI), Family Support Hawaii

17 Establish buffer zones around homes, hospitals and schools to mitigate pesticide exposure.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Center for Food Safety, Same Small Boat Production

18 Require mandatory disclosure and notification of pesticide usage in communities.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Center for Food Safety

19 Increase CAMHD contract rates.

**Supported by:** Child & Family Service, Hawaii Youth Services Network

20 Establish mandatory requirements for a physical exam check-ups for incoming 7th graders.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Public Health Institute (HIPHI), DOH Obesity Task Force

21 Increase HPV vaccination access and utilization.

**Supported by:** Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, Hawaii Youth Services Network

22 Provide sexual health education

**Supported by:** Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, Hawaii Youth Services Network, Family Support Hawaii

23 Establish licensing for school psychologists

**Supported by:** Hawaii Association of School Psychologists

### CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE: ALL CHILDREN ARE SAFE IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES FROM ALL FORMS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE

**Fact:**
- There are 2,180 children under the age of 18 who are in foster care
- Of the reported cases of child abuse, 1,361 have been confirmed.

1 Increase prevention of child abuse and neglect (to address gaps, reduce incidence, rates, implement evidence based approach)

**Supported by:** Blueprint for Change, Family Hui Hawaii, Family Support Hawaii, HPSI, Ho’okaiaka Partnership

2 Improve training for programs serving children of incarcerated parents, improve visitation, develop database and establish one-stop resource center for impacted families.

**Supported by:** Blueprint for Change – Family Reunification Working Group, Family Support Hawaii, Hawaii Youth Services Network

3 Support Child Welfare Services to reduce number of kids in the system: evaluate outcomes from CWS alternative response approach; fully staff and train CWS; and implement trauma-informed approach across the system.

**Supported by:** Family Support Hawaii

4 Create more programs to prevent childhood bullying.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Youth Services Network, Family Support Hawaii, Learning Disabilities Association of Hawaii
5 Create more programs to heal foster children and youth through normalcy and prudent parenting.

**Supported by:** EPIC ‘Ohana, Family Programs Hawaii, Family Support Hawaii, Hawaii Youth Services Network

6 Establish a UH School of Social Work and DHS Masters Program to improve training opportunities for social workers.

**Supported by:** Family Programs Hawaii, Family Support Hawaii

7 Support housing for runaway and homeless youths.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Youth Services Network, Hawaii Foster Youth Coalition, Family Support Hawaii

8 Develop new approaches to prevent the sex trafficking of minors.

**Supported by:** Family Programs Hawaii, Parents and Children Together (PACT)

9 Decriminalize status of youth offenders

**Supported by:** Hawaii Youth Services Network, Family Support Hawaii

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**ECONOMIC SECURITY AND EQUITY: ALL CHILDREN LIVE IN FAMILIES THAT CAN PROVIDE FOR THEIR NEEDS AND INVEST IN THEIR FUTURE**

**Fact:**
- 33% of Hawaii’s children live BELOW 200% of the poverty line
- Hawaii ranks 46th in the country for children living in households with a high housing cost burden

1 Provide affordable and safe housing for families.

**Supported by:** Head Start Association

2 Update the low-income household renters credit.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, PHOCUSED, Family Support Hawaii

3 Prioritize families with children for homeless housing and services

**Supported by:** Aloha United Way

4 Create a 10 percent state refundable earned income tax credit.

**Supported by:** Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice, PHOCUSED, Aloha United Way

5 Reduce child poverty by increasing utilization of WIC, SNAP, free and reduced breakfast/lunch, and summer meals programs.

**Supported by:** Ho‘oikaika Partnership

6 Establish a statewide Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women CEDAW policy.

**Supported by:** Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

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Convened by Hawaii Children’s Action Network
STRENGTHENING HAWAII’S FAMILIES: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DESERVE SUPPORT SO THEY CAN THRIVE

1. Increase support to at-risk families through home visiting and restore programs to unserved and underserved areas statewide.
   Supported by: Parents and Children Together (PACT), Ho’oikaika Partnership, INPEACE, Family Hui Hawaii, Family Support Hawaii, Child & Family Service

2. Increase family strengthening and peer support programs for parents especially in the early years.
   Supported by: Family Hui Hawaii

3. Establish Family Engagement standards and strategies in the state.
   Supported by: INPEACE

4. Increase knowledge about and implementation of protective factors among service providers working with families.
   Supported by: Ho’oikaika Partnership

5. Increase funding for programs that provide afterschool services and programs during school breaks and increase awareness of these services.
   Supported by: Hawaii Youth Services Network

6. Increase domestic violence therapy, awareness, and peer support for impacted children.
   Supported by: Hawaii Youth Services Network

7. Establish a Paid Family Leave.
   Supported by: Commission on the Status of Women, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii, Hawaii Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative

8. Provide funding for fatherhood programs.
   Supported by: Family Support Hawaii

9. Allow resource caregivers (foster parents) the ability to approve activities of their foster children without civil liabilities.
   Supported by: Family Programs Hawaii

*Data source for facts:
*Hawaii rank based on most current year. Data available from Hawaii pages of the Kids Count Data Center: http://datacenter.kidscount.org. For more information on indicator definitions, technical notes, etc., please contact Ann Pobutsky, Hawaii KIDS COUNT Data Analyst, at pobutsky@hawaii.edu.
The Hawaii Children’s Policy Agenda reflects the input of 42 organizations and individuals who are committed to improving the lives of Hawaii’s children by promoting public policy changes that benefit their health, safety, education and economic security. The collaboration on this agenda is the starting point to ignite awareness with policy makers of the changes in policies and investments necessary to make Hawaii a great place to be a child. Given the number of issues identified in this agenda, participants support one or more of the priorities listed.

Participants not pictured below: • Center on Disability Studies/University of Hawaii Manoa • Friends of the Future • Hawaii After School Alliance • Hawaii Association of School Psychologists • Hawaii Maternal & Infant Health Collaborative • Head Start Hawaii • HPSI • Obesity Prevention Taskforce

Hawaii Children’s Action Network (HCAN) is committed to improving lives for Hawaii’s children. Our mission is to build a unified voice educating and advocating for Hawaii’s children. We are honored to be the convener and coordinator of the pro-child organizations and coalitions who participated in this agenda.