



2018

HAWAII CHILDREN'S POLICY AGENDA

Convened by Hawaii Children's Action Network

As children's health, education, and economic security face threats from the federal government, Hawaii's families are turning to state and local policymakers to support evidence-based systems that improve the lives of children and families.

Hawaii Children's Action Network (HCAN) is building a unified voice for Hawaii's children by using strategic communications, public education and advocacy to affect change. Collaboration on the 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 policies.

This Agenda reflects the input of HCAN Community Champion Members 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. Hawaii Children's Action Network respects the diversity, expertise, perspectives and priorities within this community of advocates and is honored to advance the work of our peers in children's advocacy. HCAN supports all of the items within the Children's Policy Agenda.

The Agenda contains bills and resolutions that will be introduced in the 2018 Hawaii State Legislative Session and represent the top priority issues of our Community Champion Members.

Under each initiative listed, there is a lead organization that serves as the primary point of contact for advocacy.

The Agenda is organized into the following categories affecting kids and families:

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

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

48%



Nearly half of Hawaii families with children do not earn enough to cover basic needs.

A single parent working full-time earning minimum wage makes around \$21,000/year.

Initiative: Bill establishing a family leave insurance program in Hawaii to provide 16 weeks of partial wage replacement, based on a sliding scale.

Lead: Working Families Coalition

Initiative: Bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2021.

Lead: Hawaii Appleseed, Working Families Coalition

Initiative(s): Bill to increase low-income renters' credit to catch up for inflation; bill to allow child support payments to pass through custodial parents receiving TANF.

Lead: Hawaii Appleseed

STRENGTHENING HAWAII'S FAMILIES: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DESERVE SUPPORT SO THEY CAN THRIVE

Initiative: Bill and Resolution establishing visitation centers at correctional facilities to improve visitation by children of incarcerated persons.

Lead: Blueprint for Change



HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

ALL CHILDREN ARE BORN HEALTHY, GROW HEALTHY AND HAVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND HIGH-QUALITY CARE



8.3% of babies born in Hawaii have low birth weight.



25,000 Children in Hawaii rely on Children's Health Insurance Program funding for their medical care.

Initiative: Bill(s) increasing funding for early intervention services for children with special needs.

Lead: Early Intervention Network

Initiative: Bill requiring licensure for school psychologists.

Lead: Hawaii Association of School Psychologists

Initiative(s): Bill prohibiting sales of tobacco within 500 to 1000 feet of schools and public playgrounds; bill requiring restaurants to replace sugary drinks with water or milk in kids' meals as the default option.

Lead: Hawaii Public Health Institute

Initiative: Bill prohibiting the use of pesticides containing the active ingredient chlorpyrifos, a dangerous neurotoxin known to cause brain damage, neurological abnormalities, reduced IQ and aggressiveness in children.

Lead: Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action

Initiative: Bill codifying the protections of the Affordable Care Act at the state level.

Lead: Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii

CHILD SAFETY AND WELFARE:

ALL CHILDREN ARE SAFE IN THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES FROM ALL FORMS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, EXPLOITATION AND VIOLENCE



The rate of child abuse and neglect has increased 11.9% since 2011, with 1,506 children that were victims in 2015.



21: number of child and teen deaths per 100,000 in Hawaii.

Initiative(s): Bill requiring health insurance providers to cover psychological case management services as a benefit of their plans; bill establishing the Erin's Law Task Force to make recommendations for a child sexual abuse prevention education program in the state.

Lead: The Sex Abuse Treatment Center

Initiative: Bill establishing a Foster Youth Bill of Rights to help keep kids safe in their foster homes.

Lead: EPIC `Ohana, Inc.

Initiative(s): Bill eliminating status offenses (e.g., truancy, runaway, beyond parental control); bill increasing resources to address youth homelessness; bill to fund the continuation of the Hawaii Youth Services Network transitional living program beyond 2018; bill to make the Hawaii Interagency State Youth Network of Care permanent.

Lead: Hawaii Youth Services Network



Hawaii Children's Action Network COMMUNITY CHAMPION MEMBERS

Organizations

AlohaCare
American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter
Autism Society of Hawaii
Blueprint for Change
Center on the Family - University of Hawaii
Easter Seals Hawaii
EPIC `Ohana, Inc
Family Hui Hawaii
Family Programs Hawaii
Family Support Hawaii
Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action
Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawaii Association of School Psychologists
Hawaii Construction Alliance
Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn
HawaiiKidsCAN
Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network
Hawaii Public Health Institute
Hawaii State Teachers Association
Hawaii Youth Services Network
Imua Family Services
INPEACE
Kamehameha Schools
The Learning Coalition/He'e Coalition
Parents And Children Together (PACT)
Parents for Public Schools Hawaii
PATCH Hawaii
Seagull Schools
PHOCUSED
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii
Project Vision Hawaii
The Sex Abuse Treatment Center
Waianae Coast Early Childhood Services

Individuals

Stephanie Batzer	Quin Ogawa
Elisabeth Chun	David Okumura
JoAnn Farnsworth	Melissa Pavlicek
Jessica Garlock	Jeannine Souki
Troy Jarrell	Karen Worthington
Elizabeth McFarlane	Erica Yamauchi
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Our mission is to build a unified voice, education and advocating for Hawaii's children. We are honored to be the convener and coordinator of the pro-child organizations and coalition who participated in this Agenda.

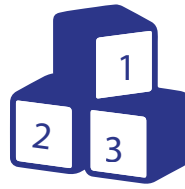
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EDUCATION:

ALL CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE, EARLY LEARNING AND EDUCATION TO REACH THEIR ACADEMIC POTENTIAL



52% of young children in Hawaii are not in school.



71% of Hawaii's fourth graders are not proficient in reading.

Initiative(s): Bills to establish a new dedicated, sustainable funding source to adequately support our public schools above the current funding level; bill to expand funding for public pre-k.

Lead: Hawaii State Teachers Association

Initiative(s): Bill to appropriate funds for charter school facilities; bill to provide funds for transportation and food services for charter schools; bill to provide funds for teacher incentive pay for charter schools.

Lead: Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network

Initiative: Bill codifying the protections of the federal Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act (Title IX) to prohibit discrimination in agencies or institutions receiving state funds.

Lead: Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Initiative: Bill increasing funding for Hawaii State Department of Education Community Engagement Office.

Lead: He'e Coalition

Initiative: Bill to expand the qualifying age for the Preschool Open Doors program to children four years old and younger.

Lead: Hawaii Children's Action Network

Initiative: Bill to prohibit property insurers from refusing to issue, renew, or canceling the homeowner's insurance policy of an FCC child care provider seeking or maintaining liability insurance coverage as required by DHS to operate the child care facility.

Lead: PATCH Hawaii

