

# Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS)

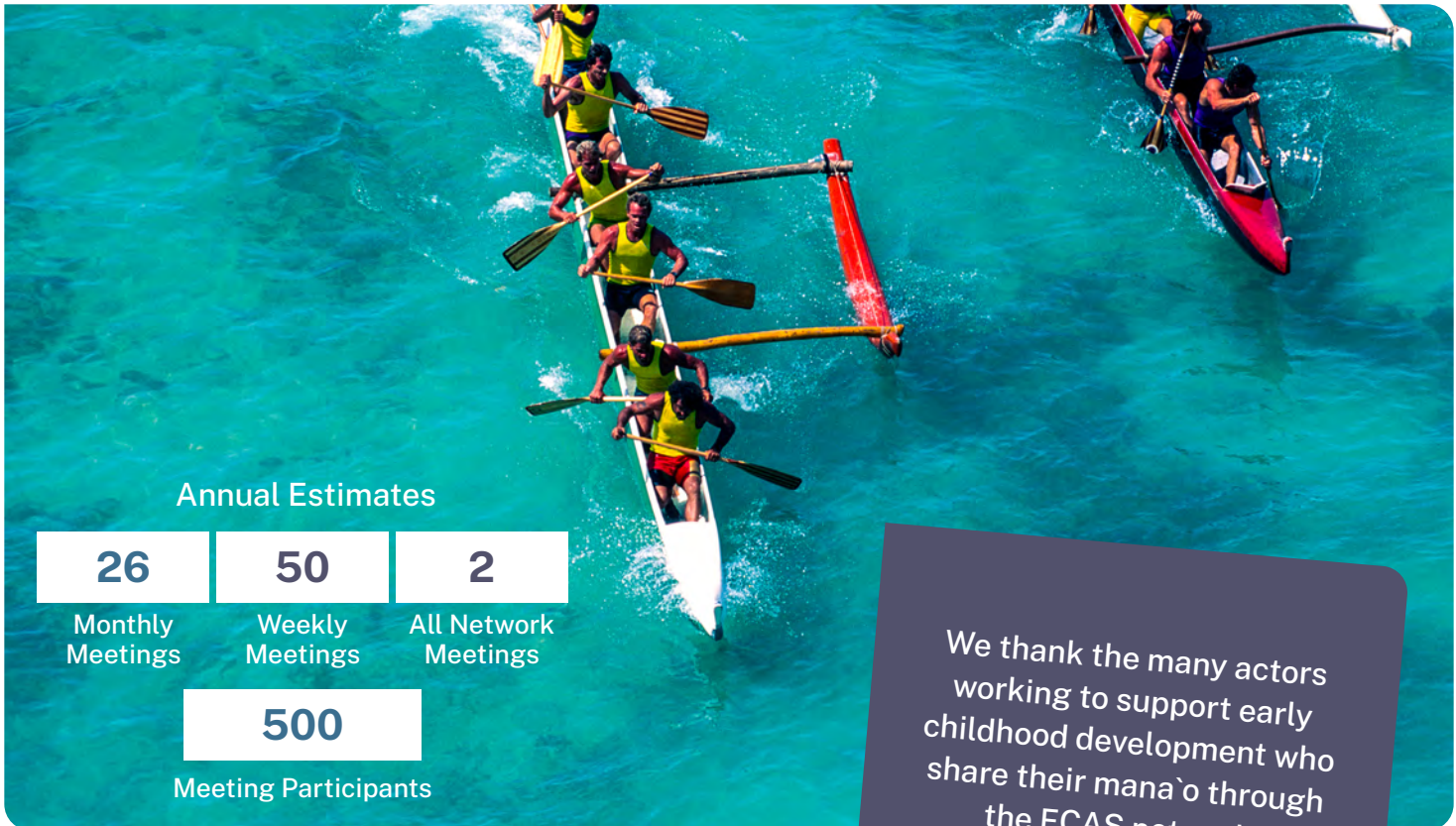


- Children are ready to learn
- Children develop on track
- Children are healthy
- Children are safe

SPRING 2022 UPDATES

The Early Childhood Action Strategy network and partners are working on a broad set of linked initiatives designed to support the four ECAS goals.

Taking Action for Hawai'i's Youngest Keiki



### Annual Estimates

<b>26</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>2</b>
Monthly Meetings	Weekly Meetings	All Network Meetings
<b>500</b>		
Meeting Participants		

We thank the many actors working to support early childhood development who share their mana`o through the ECAS network.

# The ECAS network and partners are working to support maternal & infant health and reduce preterm births.



Healthy & Welcomed Births

## ECAS TEAM 1 UPDATE



HAWAII MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH COLLABORATIVE

MATERNAL HEALTH

INFANT HEALTH

### Support Safe Perinatal Care and Delivery

- ✓ Expanded MI-Home program for bringing perinatal care to the most vulnerable families
- ✓ With partners EPIC 'Ohana, PATH Clinic, and AIMH-HI, and with funding from the H.T. Hayashi Foundation, piloting a peer support program for perinatal substance using women

### Breastfeeding Support

- ✓ Expanding efforts to promote maternal health and reduce preterm birth
- ✓ Expanded the NEST breastfeeding text support system providing access to peer parent educators and clinical specialists through a secure text messaging platform
- ✓ Piloting breastfeeding toolkit and creating outreach materials
- ✓ Together with Breastfeeding Hawai'i, and Project Coordinator Krista Olson, we are gathering input from stakeholders across the state to improve access to breastfeeding support for our diverse communities

### Birth Spacing

- ✓ Coordinated ONE KEY QUESTION® trainings
- ✓ Developing strategies to reduce access barriers to birth control
- ✓ Creating appropriate reimbursement strategies for long acting birth control

PERINATAL CARE

PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USING WOMEN

NICHE PILOT

REDUCTION OF DISPARITIES IN BREASTFEEDING

BIRTH SPACING ONE KEY QUESTION®

REIMBURSEMENT STRATEGIES FOR LONG ACTING BIRTH CONTROL

The ECAS network and partners are working to prevent family violence and provide support for families to improve the quality of interactions that shape family wellbeing.



Safe & Nurturing Families

## ECAS TEAM 2 UPDATE

### Aloha at Home / Nurture Daily Communications Strategy

- ✓ Launched website [NurtureDaily.org](http://NurtureDaily.org)
- ✓ Launched public service announcements on TV and across social media platforms
- ✓ Developing 5-year messaging plan anchored in aloha and Hawaiian values, while promoting the protective factors



### Aloha at Home 'Ohana box

- ✓ Co-designed 'Ohana boxes with families & service providers
- ✓ Prototyped the toolkits
- ✓ Planning to scale to 300-500 participants in 2022-23
- ✓ Based on positive feedback from the prototype, developing plans to scale, replicate, and further refine the effort

### Sustainability

- ✓ Aloha at Home / Nurture Daily business plan completed



## PILOTS TO SCALE

### Prototype Outcomes

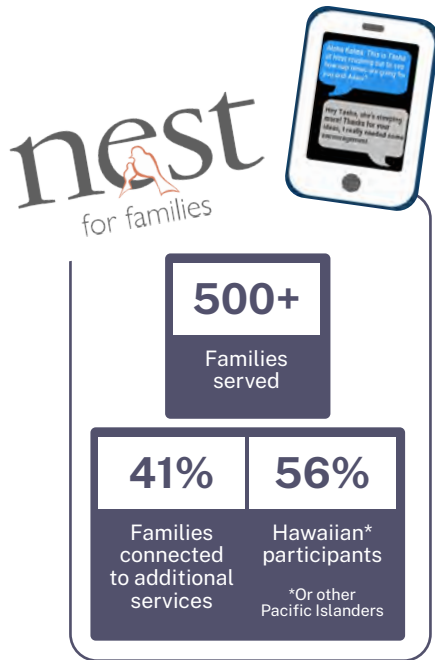
- \* Participants spent more quality time
  - with their children
  - with their partners
- \* Participants feel supported
  - in their parenting roles
  - in their partner roles
- \* Participants report greater self-care
- \* Participants feel better prepared to share thoughts and feelings with their children
- \* Participants report more positive interactions



The ECAS network and partners are working to ensure all children are supported to reach their optimal development.

On-track Health & Development

## ECAS TEAM 3 UPDATE



### Family Support

- ✓ Implemented and scaled LENA START and LENA SP across diverse settings and groups
- ✓ Partnered with Family Hui Hawaii and NEST for Families to expand two-way text messaging support for families

### Health and Wellness

- ✓ Working with the Department of Health on the Nemours Children's Health "Healthy Kids, Healthy Future" project to embed obesity prevention best practices into the early childhood system
- ✓ Designed an action/implementation plan for the ECE Wellness Guidelines focused on outreach and marketing, and Technical Assistance/Professional Development objectives
- ✓ Partnered to provide computers and internet access to 100 families with limited access to technology, supporting their access to medical care, Early Intervention and other needed services to support early childhood development through tele-practice.
- ✓ Supported development of the Infant Early Childhood Behavioral Health Plan



The ECAS network and partners are working to increase access to existing early childhood programs and services and to address program and service gaps.



Equitable Access to Programs & Services

## ECAS TEAM 4 UPDATE

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### Policy Advocacy

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- ✓ Supported the HIDOE Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program in their efforts to connect more birth to five keiki to early childhood programs and settings
- ✓ Engaged in advocacy work around capacity building and access to services including recommendations for CARES relief funding, ARPA stabilization grants, CCDBG ARPA funding, and the CCDF state plan
- ✓ Supported efforts to expand neighbor-island representation in early childhood systems planning via the Early Learning Board

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### Addressing Resource Gaps

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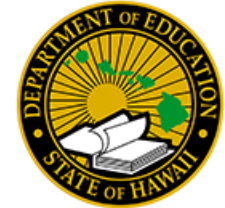
- ✓ Partnering with Under My Umbrella (UMU) and Chef Hui, distributed meals to families at shelters on Oahu as part of a campaign to connect families with resources in their communities
- ✓ Initiated Community Profiles, on early childhood, county-level data collection project

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### Fatherhood

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- ✓ Working to integrate the voices of fathers/male caregivers into the family-strengthening and family violence prevention work of the Aloha at Home initiative



The ECAS network and partners are working to strengthen and sustain an Early Childhood (EC) workforce that provides meaningful outcomes for children with special needs and their families.



High-quality  
Early Learning Programs

ECAS TEAM 5 UPDATE

CHILD CARE  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT



## Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)

- ✓ Created and disseminated surveys to gather information on pre-service, in-service & recruitment/retention, will have results of survey ready in June 2022
- ✓ Defined early childhood professions and their alignment with national standards
- ✓ Refined logic models and identified key metrics for the development of a comprehensive system of personnel development
- ✓ Took website live: [www.hawaiicspd.org](http://www.hawaiicspd.org)
- ✓ Identified all Hawai'i based Early Intervention - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) preparation programs
- ✓ Developed a business plan and seeking funding for a CSPD Coordinator and a Training/Trainer Registry for PATCH

EARLY INTERVENTION /  
EC SPECIAL EDUCATION

LANDSCAPE SCAN



The ECAS network and partners are working with families and communities to strengthen transitions through early childhood and into school.



Successful Early Childhood Transitions

## ECAS TEAM 6 UPDATE

PILOT TO SCALE

# LENA<sup>®</sup>

Building brains through early talk

Reach

162

108

Honolulu

Maui

### Words Matter / LENA

- ✓ Words Matter / LENA pivoted to virtual engagement to deliver early language and literacy development support to families during the pandemic
- ✓ 270 families on O`ahu and Maui have participated in Words Matter / LENA interventions, strengthening early childhood language and literacy practices
- ✓ Partners secured new funding to expand the reach of early language development interventions

### Early Childhood Language and Literacy Collaborative

- ✓ Developed an early literacy collaborative to target strong early language and literacy interventions to communities of greatest need, leading to the development of a pipeline for early reading, kindergarten readiness and early academic achievement
- ✓ Identified potential community, school and complex area partners to build a birth to school success continuum



**CROSS-NETWORK TEAMS**  
**IIECBH UPDATE**

The ECAS network and partners are working to integrate child and family mental health and trauma-informed care into our health and early care and learning systems.



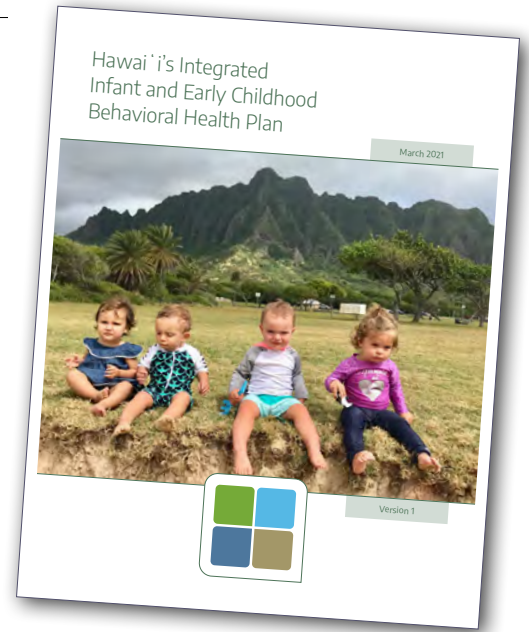
Align & support long term planning efforts

**Early Childhood Behavioral Health**

✓ Contributed to the development and implementation of the Integrated Infant & Early Childhood Behavioral Health (IIECBH) plan

**PASSED** Supported legislation establishing a DOH Trauma-Informed Care Taskforce

- ✓ Created sustainable financing workgroup with Med-QUEST Division to maximize existing resources
- ✓ Focusing on infant and early childhood mental health consultation integration into Early Intervention Services, Home Visiting and Child Care
- ✓ Completed first rounds of training for peer learning communities and mental health professionals



[www.hawaiiactionstrategy.org/efforts-iecgbh](http://www.hawaiiactionstrategy.org/efforts-iecgbh)

Peer Learning Communities	Mental Health Professionals
<b>90</b>	<b>39</b>
Participants	Trainings completed





Navigating an ever-changing landscape

The ECAS network and partners are working to support and sustain Hawai'i's child care industry.

CROSS-NETWORK TEAMS  
CHILD CARE UPDATE

CAPACITY BUILDING

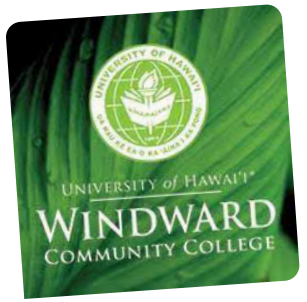
PROVIDER SUPPORT

### Family Child Care FCC Pathways

- ✓ Hired program coordinator
- ✓ Developed FCC Essentials Certificate program
- ✓ Efforts underway to provide elective-based credit hours to the FCC Essentials program and to establish articulation pathway for program participants into a degree program

### Ka 'Upena "Shared Services"

- ✓ Initiated cohort 1 with ongoing recruitment to reach additional providers
- ✓ Integrated pilot into more sustainable home at PATCH
- ✓ Secured Y2 funding
- ✓ Secured comittment from Hawai'i County to getting all interested child care providers up on Shared Services



CROSS-NETWORK TEAMS

POLICY UPDATE

The ECAS network and partners are working to effectuate policy and elevate the wellbeing of young children in Hawai'i's electoral politics.

Shifting Culture / Effectuating Policy

### ECAS Policy Agenda

- ✓ Developed ECAS policy framework to identify legislative priorities for 2022
- ✓ Collaborated with content experts to create data informed issue briefs

### Commit to Keiki Initiative

- ✓ Prioritizing the wellbeing of young children in Hawai'i's electoral politics
- ✓ Conducted statewide and county-specific polls
- ✓ Hosted Zoom-side conversations with mayoral candidates about their priorities for young children
- ✓ Expanded initiative to focus on both the mayoral and gubernatorial campaigns

### Policy Advisory in Support of Early Childhood Development

- ✓ Developed and shared suggestions for ARPA funding proposals
- ✓ Advocated for commitment to Early Learning Act 046



[www.hawaiiactionstrategy.org/ecas-efforts-policy-priorities](http://www.hawaiiactionstrategy.org/ecas-efforts-policy-priorities)

CROSS-NETWORK TEAMS

FUNDERS' HUI UPDATE

The ECAS network and partners are working to shift culture and increase investments.

Increasing Investments



### The Early Childhood Funders' Hui

- ✓ Continuing focus on relief, recovery and sustainability
- ✓ Ongoing exchange to learn about priorities of philanthropic peers and discover opportunities to collaborate and share resources
- ✓ Ongoing review of ECAS and partner funding-ready projects
- ✓ Developing a community of practice to share lessons learned, for example how to transition initiatives that have been incubated via philanthropic dollars to sustainable funding streams

Since 2020, this funders collaborative has committed close to \$2M to sustain related relief and recovery efforts while pursuing positive change in the systems that support young children and their families

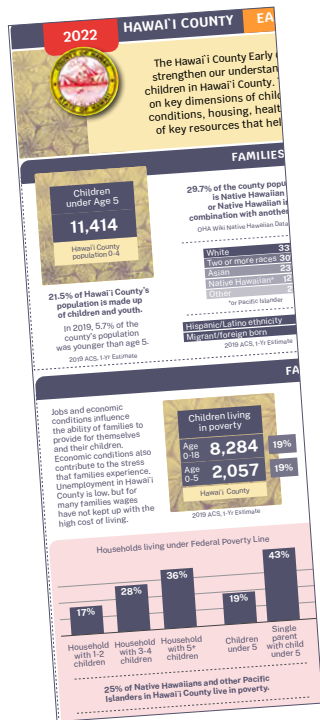


ECAS network and partners are working to respond to data needs that can lead to a shared understanding about communities of greatest need and disparities.



Shared Understanding

## DATA & EVALUATION



### Community Profiles

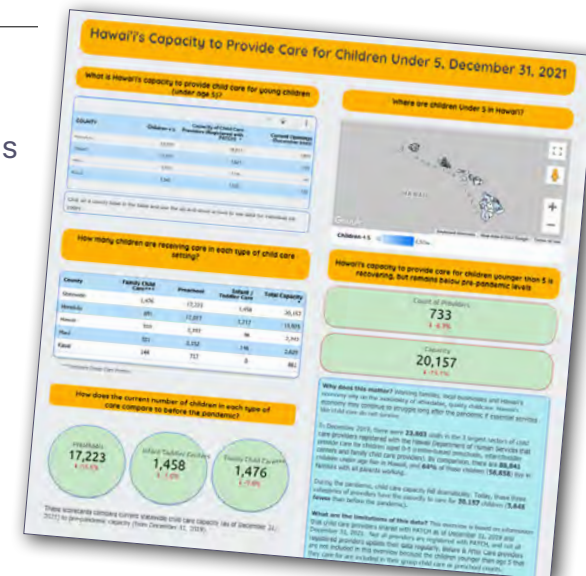
- ✓ Identifying current status of key measures of child wellbeing in Maui and Hawai'i Counties

### Child Care Provider Tracking

- ✓ Developed a quarterly dashboard tracking the capacity of the child care industry in Hawai'i

### Evaluation Efforts

- ✓ Developing tools for evaluating the Aloha at Home/Nurture Daily effort
- ✓ Developing a coherent framework for evaluation with a focus on systems change across multiple dimensions



[www.hawaiiactionstrategy.org/child-care-provider-data](http://www.hawaiiactionstrategy.org/child-care-provider-data)

# Find out more on [www.HawaiiActionStrategy.org](http://www.HawaiiActionStrategy.org)

**earlychildhood ACTION STRATEGY**  
www.HawaiiActionStrategy.org

**Update 2021**      **Priorities**

The Action Strategy network and partners devoted attention in 2021 to the broad set of challenges to early childhood development, health, safety and learning brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. In parallel, ECAS network partners took advantage of opportunities to shore up the foundations of - and improve access to - the systems that support young children.

**Find out more about last year's priorities and accomplishments**

**Infant, Infernal, and Delivery**  
Early Integration Home (MI) Home, bringing perinatal mental health services and home visits to families that would benefit from breastfeeding test support services to peer parent educators through a new platform.

**Get to Reach Families**  
The Child Homelessness Prevention Initiative to deliver meals to homeless youth.

**2. Prevent Family Violence and Protect Early Childhood Mental Health**

- ECAS team 2 and partners launched the Nurturing website providing vital resources to prevent family violence.
- Placed the *Abuse or Home* family toolkit initiative, designed to encourage positive family interaction and share information on available resources.

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## [ECAS Annual Update 2021](#)

Last Updated: 01/2022

**earlychildhood ACTION STRATEGY**  
www.HawaiiActionStrategy.org

**January 2022**

**ECAS Teams**

- 1 Healthy & Welcomed Births**
- 2 Safe & Nurturing Families**
- 3 On-track Health & Development**
- 4 Equitable Access To Programs & Services**
- 5 High Quality Early Learning Programs**
- 6 Successful Early Childhood Transitions**

**Find out more about all the long-term strategies by team**

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## [ECAS Snapshot](#)

Last Updated: 01/2022

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www.HawaiiActionStrategy.org

**Policy Framework**

Purifying Hawaii's progress towards a comprehensive system of care for our kids and ohana.

**ECAS Policy Priorities**

- Healthy and Welcomed Births**: Increased access to high-quality and evidence-based sexual and reproductive health services.
- Safe, Secure, and Nurturing Families**: Increased access to family-strengthening programs that focus on parenting, child development, attachment and early literacy.
- On-track Health and Development**: Support for children's healthy-social-emotional development through early childhood behavioral health services and systems development.
- Accessible and Quality Early Care and Learning**: Expanded and stable supply of quality early care and learning programs that includes a diversity of settings.

**Find out more about the ECAS legislative framework and 2022 policy priorities**

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## [ECAS Policy Framework](#)

Last Updated: 01/2022

## [ECAS 2022 Legislative Priorities](#)

Last Updated: 02/2022

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www.HawaiiActionStrategy.org

**Find out more about our 2022 issue briefs**

An extensive body of research shows that a child's experiences in the first years of life have a measurable impact on brain development and later success in school and life. For more and more children, these early life experiences take place in child care. High-quality child care provides children with the learning environment that is critical for school readiness and leads to improved educational, economic, health and well-being outcomes for children, lasting into adulthood!

**More than 3,000 child care spaces for children 0-5 have been lost during the pandemic in Hawaii!**

**Where licensed child care is available, high quality public care out of reach for many families.**

**Financial assistance is available through federal and state-funded subsidy programs.**

**Tuition rates do not represent the true cost of operating programs at high-quality standards, with fully compensated teaching staff. Most child care programs operate with razor-thin margins which pose significant challenges to providing high-quality care and maintaining the business viability necessary to sustain capacity and services.**

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## [Brief on Family Violence](#)

Last Updated: 01/2022

## [Brief on Pandemic Effects on Child Care](#)

Last Updated: 01/2022

## [Brief on Early Childhood Mental Health](#)

Last Updated: 01/2022