

Public Policy Wins for our Youngest Keiki in Hawai'i



2012-2022

Key State-level Wins include:

- * The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and the Early Learning Board established
- * Kindergarten-entry age modified to align with best practice
- * Home visiting support expanded
- * Expanded protections for breastfeeding in the workplace
- * Preschool Open Doors program established
- * EOEL establishes public preschool program
- * Child Death Review & Maternal Mortality Review re-established
- * EOEL Public Pre-K program expanded across the decade
- * Series of expansions of child abuse protections
- * State Earned Income Tax Credit established
- * Pharmacists allowed to prescribe and dispense FDA approved self-administered contraceptives
- * Protections for child abuse and neglect victims expanded, particularly in child care
- * Expansions of early intervention services
- * Passage of Midwifery Licensure
- * Permanent funding for Zero-to-Three Court program manager
- * Expansion and alignment of of EOEL and Charter School Public PreK
- * SNAP program expanded to offer “double credit” for Hawai'i grown fresh produce
- * Mandated rapid expansion of preschool for all 3 and 4-year-olds
- * Federal CARES, CRRSA and ARP Acts provide COVID-pandemic relief and recovery funding to sustain and support operational needs of child care programs and increase child care subsidies for families
- * \$200 M funding to support expansion of early care and learning facilities
- * Postpartum Medicaid coverage extended to 12 months
- * State funding for residential programs to allow children to remain with their mothers during mental health & substance use treatment
- * Passage of Earned Income Tax Credit and Living Wage bills
- * Expanded support for children and families of Incarcerated Individuals
- * Family Resource Center pilot program established
- * Passage of newborn hearing and vision screening bills
- * Office of Wellness & Resilience established, with appropriations

The ECAS Network salutes the many actors in both government and nongovernment sectors who have come together to expand the reach of policies and programs providing a vital safety net of support for young children and their families.