

earlychildhood  
ACTION STRATEGY
TAKING ACTION FOR HAWAII'S CHILDREN

Shared Vision for Hawai'i



- * Keiki are healthy.
- * Keiki are safe.
- * Keiki develop on track.
- * Keiki are ready for kindergarten.



**GOAL 1**

More babies
are born healthy

**GOAL 2**

More children
develop on-track

**GOAL 3**

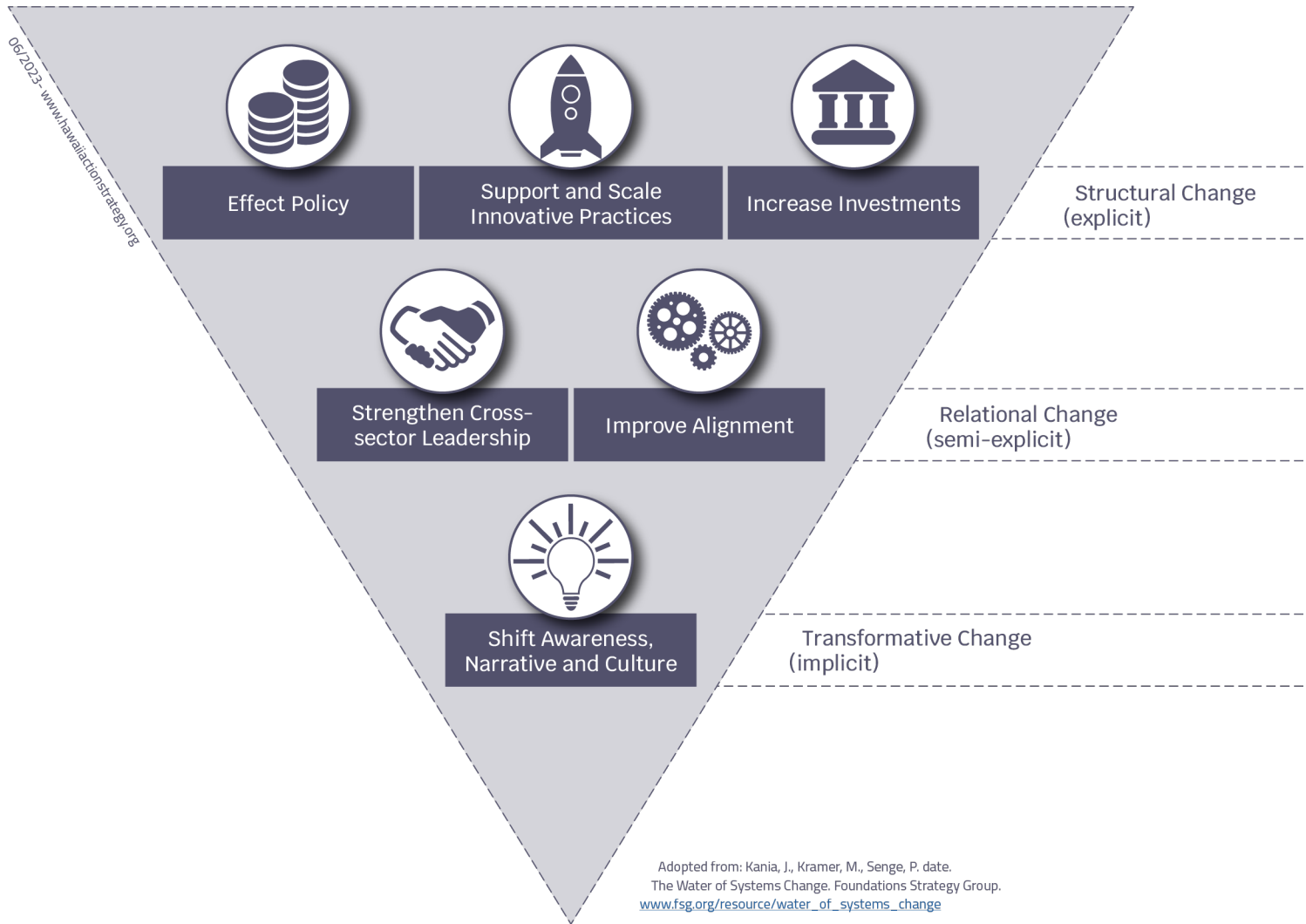
More children
enter kindergarten
school ready

**GOAL 4**

More children are
proficient learners
by 3rd grade

ECAS brings together government and non-governmental organizations to align priorities for children prenatal to age eight, streamline services, maximize resources and improve programs to support our youngest keiki.

Six Conditions of Systems Change



2023-2024

ECAS Network Snapshot

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) takes action for Hawai'i's children by bringing together diverse stakeholders to implement systems-level strategies. All efforts involve multiple government and non-government partners across the network.



Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) works to influence the core conditions that enable or impede Systems Change.

Key Efforts using Systems Change Methodology

Systems Change efforts respond to the shifting social, economic and political landscape in Hawai'i.

In 2023, the ECAS network continued to focus on key needs of young children and families, including infant, early childhood and maternal physical and mental health; family safety and economic security; access to needed programs and services including quality early child care and education; and a strong and stable early childhood workforce.

2023 saw the release of the results of the Department of Education's new statewide Kindergarten Entry Assessment, which affirmed what we have long suspected: too many young children lack key school-readiness skills. Across the state, 29.6% of new kindergartners demonstrated age appropriate levels of readiness, and rates of readiness are lower for children from lower-income families, families with limited English proficiency, and, families in communities with fewer resources. These disparities affirm the shared commitment of the ECAS network to centering equity in all of our efforts to support young children and families.

Effect Policy



Through both the Commit to Keiki effort and the ECAS policy engagement process, the ECAS network continues to play an active role in helping to shape the direction and focus of public policy concerning early childhood in Hawai'i.

Support Innovation and Scale Promising Practices



EPIC 'OHANA'S MAKUA ALLIES

Makua Allies offers pregnant and parenting women suffering with substance use disorder a peer support specialist to help them access needed community supports and services. Providing peer-support increases parents' hope and sense of self efficacy and helps to keep parents and their children together, avoiding separation. The Makua Allies program recently received a three-year commitment of support from the Hawai'i Department of Health to continue and expand their activities.

COMMUNITY-BASED EARLY CHILDHOOD CONTINUUMS

The early childhood continuum effort brings together health care providers, family support services, public, public charter, and independent school education leaders, early childhood educators, and families living in specific Hawai'i communities around the shared goal of strengthening the developmental pathway of all keiki from before birth through school entry. Two community continuums are underway: the Waimānalo Early Education 'Upena and the Pāhoia Promise Partnership.



Increase Investment

EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDERS' HUI

The EC Funders' Hui is comprised of philanthropic funders who support work in early childhood health, safety and learning. It is designed to support funder collaboration, strengthen strategy development across funders and provide one of many pathways for ECAS teams to receive catalytic funding for emerging innovations. In August, the Funders' Hui pivoted to respond to relief and recovery needs surrounding the Maui wildfires.

Strengthen Cross-sector Leadership



SYSTEMS LEARNING EFFORTS

Working with partners at Engaging Inquiry and A'ali'i Alliance, the ECAS network worked throughout 2023 to build a story map that identifies patterns that are working in the system of care for our youngest keiki and patterns that are not.

Key levers identified through the mapping process include:

- Impactful Collaboration
- Data for Action
- Innovations to Scale
- Supported Workforce

The systems learning journey also suggests that, to be effective, strategies must reflect local values, include lived expertise, and emerge through trusting relationships. In 2024, the map will be socialized with groups across Hawai'i. The systems mapping work provides a framework that will help strengthen our strategic efforts and evaluate our progress.

Improve Alignment



MAUI RESPONSE

In September 2023, the ECAS network pivoted to respond to the devastating fires on Maui. ECAS network partners came together to draft a broad vision of relief and recovery for young children and families in Maui County. Additionally, ECAS network partners and Maui County literacy partners worked to develop a strategy to expand early childhood literacy efforts to reach all young children, their families and caregivers.

INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (IECBH)

The IECBH Plan integrates child and family mental health and care into our health learning system. The plan is designed to address trauma-informed prevention and equitable system and socioeconomic money and ultimately succeed in school and life. The plan was developed by multiple government and nongovernment partners and guides early childhood mental health strategies across the state.

Shift Awareness, Narrative, and Culture



EARLY CHILDHOOD COMMUNITY PROFILES

The first two Early Childhood County Level Community Profiles (for Maui & Hawai'i Counties) were released in 2023, and have informed funding, policy and program-level decisions by county and state-level elected officials, nonprofit partners, and service providers. Honolulu and Kauai'i profiles will be completed in 2024.

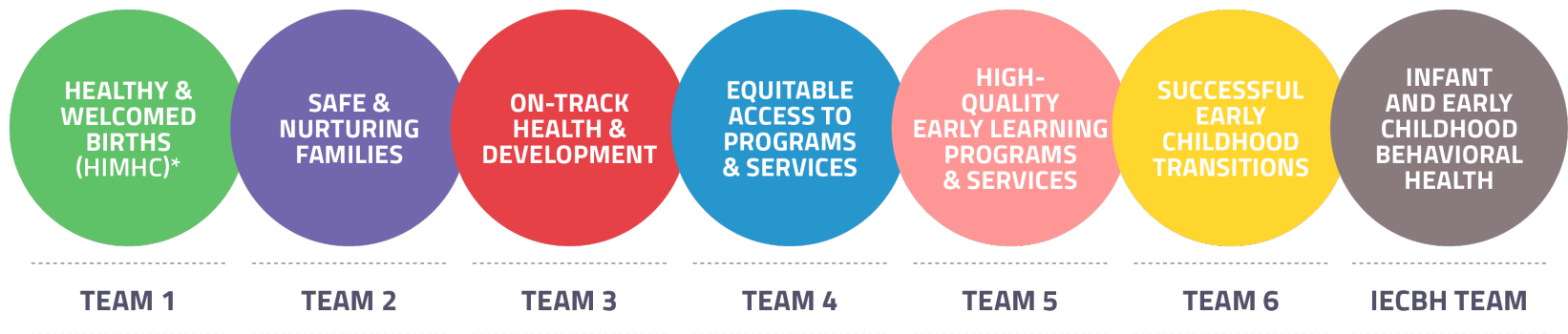
SEE SNAPSHOT FOR MOST RECENT CROSS-NETWORK SUMMARY

Learn more about the 6 conditions of Systems Change ECAS adopted from "The Water of Systems Change" framework.



01/2024

www.HawaiiActionStrategy.org



ECAS is organized into cross-disciplinary **CORE TEAMS**

- ★ Teams bring together subject matter experts and practitioners from the public and private sectors.
 - ★ Teams are co-convened by governmental and non-governmental partners.
 - ★ Each ECAS team identifies goals, objectives, strategies and members around a shared focus area.

Healthy & Welcomed Births



Safe & Nurturing Families



On-track Health & Development



Equitable Access To Programs & Services



High Quality Early Learning Programs



Successful Early Childhood Transitions



Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health (IECBH)

SAVE THE DATE
All Network Meeting
Fall 2024

Save
the Date

Sept 26th