

ECAS Network Snapshot

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is taking 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.

Key Milestones of Systems Change Efforts in 2022

Navigate Landscape



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

In 2022, the network started the transition from pandemic response toward a more concerted focus on equity, while core concerns remain front and center:

- » Sustain and strengthen child care and early learning
- » Prevent family violence and protect early childhood mental health
- » Support safe prenatal care and delivery
- » Reach the hardest to reach families

Shift Awareness and Culture



Permanent change requires a fundamental reordering of societal priorities. We can do tremendous good for our youngest keiki by expanding the scope of commitments and building a shared understanding among stakeholders about needs and trends in Hawai'i.

COMMIT TO KEIKI

- » In preparation for the change in state leadership, Commit to Keiki engaged with gubernatorial candidates to increase the investment of resources in young children and their families, through a Steering Committee from the business community, philanthropy, county leaders and direct service providers. This cross-sector work reaches partners across the islands.

DATA EFFORTS

- » In response to a growing demand for data to inform strategy, ECAS has created a variety of tools like Issue Briefs, Data Trend posters, Community Profiles, web-based Dashboards.

Support Pilots to Scale



Adopting promising practices within our communities allows us to respond to immediate needs and address local conditions. Niche innovations create opportunities for learning and demonstrate that improved outcomes are possible.

Systemic impact happens when innovations are scaled and sustained.

MAKUA ALLIES - PERINATAL SUBSTANCE USE PEER SUPPORT PILOT

- » Initial implementation phase completed, expanding to Hawai'i Island, and pursuing sustainable funding opportunities. EPIC 'Ohana continues to lead *Makua Allies* as the implementing agency.

KA 'UPENA SHARED SERVICES MODEL

- » Moved to PATCH for scaling and sustainability. Strong options for sustainable funding and growth are being pursued.

FAMILY CHILD CARE PATHWAYS

- » Windward Community College is working on efforts to provide elective-based credit hours for participation in the FCC Essentials program and to establish an articulation pathway for program participants into a Human Development and Family Services degree program.

Effect Policy & Increase Investment



All efforts to improve the health, safety and learning of our youngest keiki need to be supported by effective policy and sustained by a coordinated and dependable flow of funding.

POLICY EFFORTS

- » ECAS has expanded advocacy efforts and coordinated a policy process in which priorities emerge from the network. The Hawai'i legislature adopted 12 measures from the [2022 ECAS Legislative Priorities](#) that will improve the health, safety, development, and early learning of Hawai'i's youngest keiki.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDERS' HUI:

- » Philanthropic funding in support of early childhood initiatives continues to grow through the Early Childhood Funders' Hui. The Hui made grants totaling close to \$2M in 2022.

Improve Alignment



Alignment of the key players with shared priorities is critical to create a systems-level vision and respond to the many challenges confronting the system of supports for early childhood.

HAWAI'I'S INTEGRATED INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLAN

- » Milestones in 2022 included the creation of the Office of Wellness and Resilience, the award of three types of national technical assistance; drafting of a bill to create an early childhood mental health system in Hawai'i; and training of 190 people in IECMH knowledge and competencies, and 39 mental health professionals in advanced treatment for IECMH, supporting 12,250 children.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS CONTINUUM

- » Community conversations have started on a community-based Continuum of early childhood and family support in Waimānalo and Pāhoa. Initial funding for the project has been secured from private foundations and from Hawai'i County government.

Strengthen Cross-sector Leadership



10 YEARS OF THE ACTION STRATEGY - LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD

- » At the All Network Meeting in Fall 2022 the network review and celebration of the ECAS' first decade of action set the stage for an ongoing discussion, led by Engaging Inquiry, of how the lessons learned suggest a strategic direction forward for the network.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- » Ongoing efforts include [Strengthsfinder](#) workshops to learn about leveraging individual and group strengths and [SMALLIFY](#) to strengthen our innovation leadership skills.

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2012-2022

ACTIONS FOR

KEIKI

earlychildhood
ACTION STRATEGY
TAKING ACTION FOR HAWAII'S CHILDREN

2023 Priorities of ECAS Content Teams

Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) is organized into six cross-disciplinary [Content Teams](#), working collaboratively to determine and implement strategies to improve the system of care for Hawai'i's youngest keiki.

Shared Vision for Hawai'i



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

Healthy & Welcomed Births

1



Hawai'i Maternal and Infant Health Collaborative (HMIHC)

HMIHC is working to improve maternal and infant health outcomes, while advancing health equity and reproductive justice.

- * Improve systems of care and support for perinatal people with substance use disorder and their infants
- * Increase access to contraception and promote reproductive life planning
- * Promote and support breastfeeding
- * Improve quality of care and community resources and supports for perinatal people

Safe & Nurturing Families

2



Team 2 is working to support safe and nurturing families and improve the community-wide response to family violence.

- * Implement and promote the [Aloha at Home](#) framework through a messaging campaign and partnerships with a network of service providers
- * Expand implementation of family-strengthening toolkits
- * Develop family-strengthening competencies and training for EC practitioners and service providers
- * Create a parenting support system that connects families to support programs and services

On-track Health & Development

3



Team 3 is working to ensure all children are supported to reach their optimal development by working with early childhood and healthcare providers and families.

- * Support child development screening and referral efforts
- * Promote family engagement in child development
- * Promote the social and emotional health of infants and toddlers
- * Embed physical activity and nutrition best practices into the early childhood system

Equitable Access To Programs & Services

4



Team 4 is working to increase access to early childhood programs and services throughout the state and to resolve program and service gaps.

- * Build capacity in child care and early learning and increase access to ECE services for infants and toddlers and children in unstable housing
- * Increase opportunities for family engagement and access to family support services
- * Create a comprehensive, virtual early childhood resource and referral service
- * Strengthen and integrate county and island-level early childhood systems and networks

High Quality Early Learning Programs

5



Team 5 is working to improve the quality of early childhood programs across all settings.

- * Develop and implement a comprehensive personnel development ([CSPD](#)) system to strengthen and sustain an Early Childhood workforce that provides meaningful outcomes for children (0-5) with special needs

Successful Early Childhood Transitions

6



Team 6 is working with families and communities to strengthen and streamline transitions through early childhood into school.

- * Target strong early language and literacy development efforts to communities of greatest need, leading to the development of a pipeline for early reading, kindergarten readiness and early academic achievement