



# Policy Wins for our Youngest Keiki in Hawai'i

The 2023 Legislature committed more than \$1 Billion to priorities that make a critical difference in the lives of keiki and families.



The Early Childhood Action Strategy Network salutes the many organizations and individuals who have worked tirelessly to craft legislation, advocate, and move bills through to passage on behalf of young children and their families; and we applaud the Hawai'i Legislature and Governor Green's Administration for addressing vital needs of Hawai'i's keiki and `ohana.

## Stable Housing

- \* Dedicated almost \$700M to address homelessness and expand affordable housing

## Access to Preschool

- \* Committed \$235M to ensure statewide access to preschool for all keiki (ages 3-4) by 2032
  - Tripled the Preschool Open Doors subsidy program
  - Funded creation of more than 100 new preschool classrooms and positions in the next 2 years
    - Charter Schools (30 classrooms and 60 positions)
    - DOE/EOEL (75 classrooms and 151 positions)

## Strong Early Education Workforce

- \* Funded \$170M for teacher housing program for public preschool teachers
- \* Funded \$660K for Early Childhood Educator Stipend program
- \* Added \$2.1M and staff position to support Child Care programs seeking accreditation

## Health Care Access

- \* Appropriated more than \$146M to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates
- \* Passed bill to ensure access to reproductive health services
- \* Created a Child Wellness Incentive Pilot Program to encourage parents to prioritize well-child visits

## Access to Family Support Resources

- \* Provided additional funding for
  - Family Resource Centers (\$1.2M)
  - Foster System support (\$1M)
  - Child Protective Services (\$6.7M)

## Trauma-Informed Care

- \* Added \$1.8M in funding and 6 positions for the Governor's Office of Wellness and Resilience (\$1.8M)

## Reduced Economic Burdens for Families

- \* Increased tax credits by \$120M
  - Doubled the State Earned Income Tax Credit
  - Doubled Food Tax Credit
  - Increased Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit four-fold