

Hawai'i Early  
Learning Council's

System  
Requirements:

# Framework for a Comprehensive Early Childhood System

Build and Support  
Partnerships

Fund and Invest

Develop Policy

Build Public Engagement

Share Accountability

Generate Education and  
Leadership Opportunities



# GOAL: All children are valued, safe, healthy, and ready to succeed

## S T R A T E G I E S

### Early Education & Care

High quality early learning programs are available, affordable, and accessible for all children, birth to kindergarten entry, and address children's diverse abilities and needs.

- Evaluate and reward high quality programs through Quality, Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) development and tiered reimbursement system
- Identify and adopt common tools to measure growth, development and Kindergarten readiness; provide training
- Develop on-site supports (coaches, mentors, itinerant special education personnel) to address children's diverse abilities and needs
- Make funding available for facility renovation and infrastructure upgrades
- Promote awareness of importance of early learning and types of program options available
- Develop school transition teams (including parents) to annually review effectiveness of policies and practices
- Monitor children's progress through ongoing assessment
- Utilize Hawaii's Early Learning & Development Standards as a tool to enhance program quality

### Health

Access to a comprehensive array of health services is available, including prenatal, vision, hearing, nutrition, oral health, behavioral, and medical services.

- Engage in consumer health insurance education and enrollment campaign
- Increase parent and practitioner awareness of early identification and referral
- Promote Medicaid reimbursement for children's behavioral health services
- Link families to community health centers and low-cost clinics
- Build a network of child care health consultants and early interventionists for on-site support to early learning programs
- Enhance health and safety standards in child care licensing regulations
- Expand screening activities statewide
- Incorporate health and safety standards into daily routines

### Parent Education & Family Support

Parenting and child development information, and economic and social services and supports are available and utilized to ensure positive adult/child relationships and family strengthening.

- Provide families with information and tools to strengthen family involvement in children's growth and development
- Increase and strengthen parent networks
- Provide opportunities for parent leadership in early learning settings, communities, and advocacy
- Increase awareness of factors impacting children's health, safety and well-being
- Develop capacity within the early learning system to engage in family support
- Advise employers in developing family-friendly policies
- Strengthen and support family leadership through effective training models

### Workforce & Professional Development

A comprehensive workforce development system is in place, including professional development supports, that ensures Hawaii's children are cared for by highly effective practitioners who are fairly compensated.

- Increase availability of, and access to, higher education courses and community-based training in all communities
- Establish guidelines for a career lattice and framework for compensation
- Promote staff professional development plans in all settings
- Create information clearinghouse and website
- Establish a dedicated funding source for professional development incentives and compensation
- Enhance application of professional development content through on-site consultation and training supports
- Develop a credentialing system for all early learning practitioners

# GOAL: All children are valued, safe, healthy, and ready to succeed

## O U T C O M E S

### Early Education & Care

High quality early learning programs are available, affordable, and accessible for all children, birth to kindergarten entry, and address children's diverse abilities and needs.

- Increase in programs accredited or engaged in quality improvement, as defined by a standards-based quality system

- Increase in children participating in quality early learning programs, including under-represented and special populations

- Increase in parent choice promoted through a variety of program settings (center-base, home-base, family/child interaction learning, and family child care) in all communities

- Increase in availability of subsidies for families who cannot afford tuition costs

- Increase in children who are ready for school

- Increase in early learning settings and schools (public and private) implementing effective transition policies

### Health

Access to a comprehensive array of health services is available, including prenatal, vision, hearing, nutrition, oral health, behavioral, and medical services.

- Increase in children who have consistent medical/dental insurance coverage and utilize services as needed

- Increase in children with medical homes receiving recommended primary and preventive care

- Increase in children who are fully immunized

- Increase in children screened for developmental, behavioral, vision and hearing prior to kindergarten entry

- Increase in children receiving appropriate and coordinated behavioral health services (for social-emotional concerns)

- Increase in children with dental homes

- Increase in women receiving prenatal care

- Increase in parents who recognize potential health and/or developmental issues and connect to appropriate resources

- Increase in early learning settings that promote health, safety and well-being

### Parent Education & Family Support

Parenting and child development information, and economic and social services and supports are available and utilized to ensure positive adult/child relationships and family strengthening.

- Increase in families provided information on healthy child development and supportive services

- Increase in families able to support children's healthy development and/or know where to go for needed information and services

- Increase in children living in safe, stable and supportive families (decrease in child abuse and neglect)

- Increase in families whose basic needs are met in a timely and coordinated manner

- Decrease in children who are living in poverty and/or homelessness

- Increased parent engagement and leadership is evident at the program, community and policy levels

- Policies in the workplace support families

### Workforce & Professional Development

A comprehensive workforce development system is in place, including professional development supports, that ensures Hawaii's children are cared for by highly effective practitioners who are fairly compensated.

- Increase in qualified and effective professionals in early learning programs and settings in all communities

- Increase in early childhood practitioners whose compensation is commensurate with other jobs, roles and positions that require similar education, experiences, and responsibilities

- Increase in retention rates for practitioners

- Increase in professional development supports (i.e., outreach efforts, career advising, diverse delivery methods, and financial assistance) in all communities

- Increase in assistance to employers to support professional development activities of staff

## **Hawaii's Early Learning Council Provides a Framework That:**

- Recognizes the needs of the whole child, the family, and the practitioner.
- Represents a collective vision for a comprehensive early childhood system.
- Focuses on specific measurable outcomes.
- Guides, organizes, and focuses the actions and accountability of the Early Learning Council and public/private stakeholders.

## **The Work is Guided by the Following Assumptions:**

- Framework focuses on children prenatal to age 5.
- Quality early learning occurs in a variety of settings.
- Caring interactions between adults and children are essential to optimal learning.
- Strategies seek to assure increased access, quality, and equity for all children and their families.
- Participation in the early childhood system is voluntary.
- Diversity in cultures, languages, and abilities requires recognition and response.
- Data is utilized for decision-making and assuring accountability.
- Collaborative partnerships are used to leverage resources.
- Early care, health and school readiness are acknowledged as major contributors of economic growth.
- System building is incremental and requires long-term commitment.



HAWAI'I  
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INPEACE AND  
GOOD BEGINNINGS ALLIANCE