

Early Childhood • K-12 Education • Human Services • Postsecondary • Workforce

Supporting Hawai'i's Families Through COVID-19  
from Early Childhood into the Workforce

2020

2020  
Data Summit Webinar Series

Early Childhood Session  
August 26, 2020  
10:00am - 11:00am

## Attendee Questions to Presenters

- Considering the impacts of unemployment and poverty on early childhood development and learning, how are HCAN [Hawai'i Children's Action Network], Focus on the Family, and HI P-20 working with our State government on extending the eviction moratorium in Hawai'i that expires Aug. 31? How are these orgs working with Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i in any eviction reform or support during the pandemic?

HCAN has partnered with LASH and the Medical Legal Partnership to support eviction moratorium. Our state eviction moratorium has been extended through September and just this week, the CDC proposed a national eviction moratorium through the end of the year.
- Is it frowned on for neighborhoods to come together to teach children between families? We want to encourage families to find solutions that work for them. Be mindful if pursuing this option of the state's definition of child care and if the definition applies to you, know the steps to take to ensure compliance with all necessary county and state requirements.

<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/child-care-program/>
- As we are in a "stay in place" order, where does that put charities to give food boxes? Providing food has not stopped during the "stay in place" order and if you need assistance, check out <https://hawaiifoodbank.org/help/>
- Have parent focus groups been engaged for their perspectives - and if yes - what are they saying?

Answered in session.

HCAN and the Hawaii Afterschool Alliance partnered on two surveys for parents since March. Both surveys indicated that parents were worried about the safety and well-being of their children and for school aged children, parents indicated they'd prefer either in-person or hybrid delivery for education.
- Regarding the data shared earlier, were there any areas that were underrepresented? What populations are we missing, if any?

Answered in session.

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- Will a roll up of this presentation be made available or sent out to participants?  
Answered in session.
- You said that the 3 neighbor island counties are now accessing the CARES money to support some child focused services. What is Oahu doing?  
Answered in session.  
Oahu has started to roll out some programs. The Honolulu Hardship Relief Fund is available to help with rent and child care payments. <https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-dcs-menu/site-dcs-sitearticles/38479-household-hardship-relief-fund-program.html>
- Where is the policy? Where can we get access to a copy? Who is eligible? Which entity is in charge of issuing the paid sick and family leave?  
Answered in session.  
If you visit [hawaii-can.org](http://hawaii-can.org) and go to Covid-19 Resources, we have details there.
- You made a really good point about the state learning how important our child care and early learning programs are to keeping families employed (and getting our keiki ready to learn) - how do we capitalize on this new understanding to benefit our most vulnerable populations?  
Answered in session.
- Just two years ago, HIDOE [Hawai'i State Department of Education] was able to support public pre-K classrooms at specific campuses through WSF [Weighted Student Formula]. If deemed a priority for the school and community, a principal could use funds to leverage a classroom. However, Act 276 (2019) has changed this and this is no longer an option for HIDOE school-specific funds to be used towards public pre-K. Would you advocate for a change to this in order to leverage school-specific HIDOE funds, EOEL [Executive Office on Early Learning] support and resourcing, and maximize private/philanthropic leveraged dollars? It appears that the only alternative is to return to the legislature each year to request funds and this will not assist in reaching our ambition, and much needed goal, to provide quality early learning options to all 3 and 4 year olds by 2032.  
Answered in session.

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- Has there been any discussion on supporting parents who are doing grab and go meals but have children at different school and are unable to pick up at multiple locations?  
The USDA just extended the waiver that allows flexibility to schools for meal pick up. Please contact your school for updates.
- What data/information is needed to understand whether there will be learning impacts on our youngest learners because of COVID - that will help guide state policy on child care and learning?  
Answered in session.

### Comments from Attendees

- Don't forget that business and foundation philanthropy including \$3,000,000 from the Bank of Hawaii and \$3,000,000 from the Castle family have given critical and flexible relief and recovery capabilities to human services and ECE [Early Childhood Education] communities.
- A clarification on the Coronavirus Relief Fund that needs to be expended by 12/30; the funds that are not spent will lapse to the State on 12/28 and will likely be deposited into the UIB [Unemployment Insurance Benefits] trust fund or other known allowable expense. See budget bill section 20 of Act 9 (2020)/SB126. PUC [Public Utilities Commission] extended utilities moratorium to December 31, 2020.

If anyone is working on leg proposals that involve DHS, please contact me at [MTaum-Deenik@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:MTaum-Deenik@dhs.hawaii.gov). Thanks! Malia

- Integrating the arts into early learning is important for social-emotional wellbeing of young children. The Hawaii Arts Alliance would like to work with organizations who are interested in collaborating on arts integration in early childhood groups/programs/centers/schools. Would HCAN be interested in joining us in a zoom meeting? Please email [teri@hawaiiartsalliance.org](mailto:teri@hawaiiartsalliance.org) if interested.