2017 KAUAI EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION REPORT

MAY, 2017

A project of Keiki to Career Kaua`i

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." *– Nelson Mandela*

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Ready to Learn, Ready for Life

Acknowledgements

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Finally, a sincere acknowledgment is extended to our Keiki to Career community partners and supporters for their vision and commitment to creating an island community where all young people are healthy, competent, confident and caring. Without each and every one of you, this work would not be possible.

On the Cover: Tamatoa and Ivory planting a healthy future. Photo Credit: Sealight Studios and Farm to Keiki

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PLAY IS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT
AS IF IT WERE
A RELIEF FROM SERIOUS LEARNING.
BUT FOR CHILDREN PLAY IS SERIOUS
LEARNING.
PLAY IS REALLY
THE WORK
OF CHILDHOOD.
-FRED ROGERS

PROJECT BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE MAPPING PROJECT

The Kaua'i Early Childhood Care and Education Mapping Project 2017 is a snapshot taken in March, 2017 of early childhood care and education (ECCE) options on Kaua'i for children ages 2 years 8 months up to 5 years. Our belief at Keiki to Career Kaua`i is that the foundation of a child's success begins in the home with a loving and supportive family. High quality ECCE provides our keiki with additional social-emotional development, physical skills and wholesome early education that helps get them ready for kindergarten and beyond. This document is intended to offer guidance to Keiki to Career community partners and other service providers and policymakers looking to increase the number of children on Kaua'i who are ready to succeed in kindergarten, and life.

PROCESS

Keiki to Career uses a collective impact model to achieve its vision of "an island community where Kauai's young people from birth to career are healthy, competent, confident and caring." The idea for this report originated within the Birth to Grade 3 Focus Area. This dedicated group of stakeholders represents a variety of professionals caring for children from birth to kindergarten and beyond. After the 2014 Kaua'i Youth Report was published, members suggested a further investigation into problems and solutions concerning the number of children on Kaua'i who are not prepared for kindergarten. The Keiki to Career, Birth to Grade 3 Program Director, Tiana Kamen, developed this report under their guidance.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

WHAT IS ECCE?

Early childhood care and education (ECCE) is more than a preparatory stage assisting the child's transition to formal schooling. It places emphasis on developing the whole child - attending to his or her social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs - to establish a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing.- UNESCO

ECCE consists of activities and/or experiences that are intended to effect developmental changes in children prior to their entry into elementary school. The early years are a time of remarkable brain development, and lay the foundation for subsequent learning and success in life. This report focuses on "Ready for Kindergarten", and uses birth-age 5 for our general discussion of ECCE, and ages 2 years, 8 months to 5 years for mapping data.

ECCE programs include various types of educational programs that serve children in the years before kindergarten such as:

- Preschool
- DOE Pre-kindergarten (Pre-K)
- DOE Special Education (SPED) preschool
- Family and Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) i.e. Tutu and Me
- Group Homes
- Family Childcare Homes

TABLE REFERENCES [1,2]

DATA

The majority of data from this report was collected from the following sources: 2014 Kaua'i Youth Report, PATCH-Hawaii, US Census, Childcare and Parenting Support Needs Survey by the Hawaii Early Childhood Action Strategy and the Early Childhood Indicator Report by the University of Hawai'i and Kamehameha Schools. A full listing of resources is provided on page 16. It is important to note that Kaua'i data is usually sourced from a small population and therefore has a greater margin of error in the Census and other reports. For our data, the population of children ages 2 years and 8 months up to 5 years was used because this represents the average ages of children who attend preschool. The number was calculated by equally dividing each age category (0-5) using the US Census Data for 2011-2015 average for those years.

ECCE PROGRAMS ON KAUA'I

WHAT DOES ECCE LOOK LIKE ON KAUA'I?

We used the census data boundaries to determine the capacity of ECCE on Kaua'i by geographic area. We only mapped the locations of formal ECCE programs including: preschools, DOE Pre-K, DOE Special Education Preschool (SPED), group homes and Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL). The table shows seats available and deficits for each area of the island. This table provides a snapshot of capacity in March, 2017, and this data changes frequently.

Total Formal ECCE Programs and Seats on Kaua'i by Census Area[3,4,16]

Census Area	Center-Based Preschool	Seats	DOE PK	Seats	DOE SPED	Seats	Group Homes	Seats	FCIL	Seats	Total Sites	Total Seats (capacity)	Total # Keiki	Total # Keiki Shortfall in Capacity	Total % Shortfall in Capacity **
Lihu'e	4	132			1	13					5	145	311	166	53%
Puhi/ Hanama'ulu	3	102			1	9					4	111	224	113	50%
Wailua/ Anahola	1	40							1	50	2	90	278	188	68%
Kapa'a	5	236			3	24	2	23	1	50	11	333	249	0	0%
Hanalei	4	108			1	5					5	113	277	164	59%
Ele'ele/ Kalaheo	3	81	1	20	1	12			1	50	6	163	328	165	50%
Kaumakani/ Hanapepe	1	80									1	80	102	22	22%
Kekaha/ Waimea	4	80	1	20	1	15			1	50	7	165	139	0	0%
Koloa/Po'ipu	2	60			1	17					3	77	209	132	63%
All Kaua'i	27	919	2	40	9	95	2	23	4	200	44	1277	2117	840	40%

** Doesn't include total number of keiki in Family Childcare Homes = 215 keiki

*Highest deficits in seats/population.

MAP OF FORMAL ECCE PROGRAMS ON KAUA`I

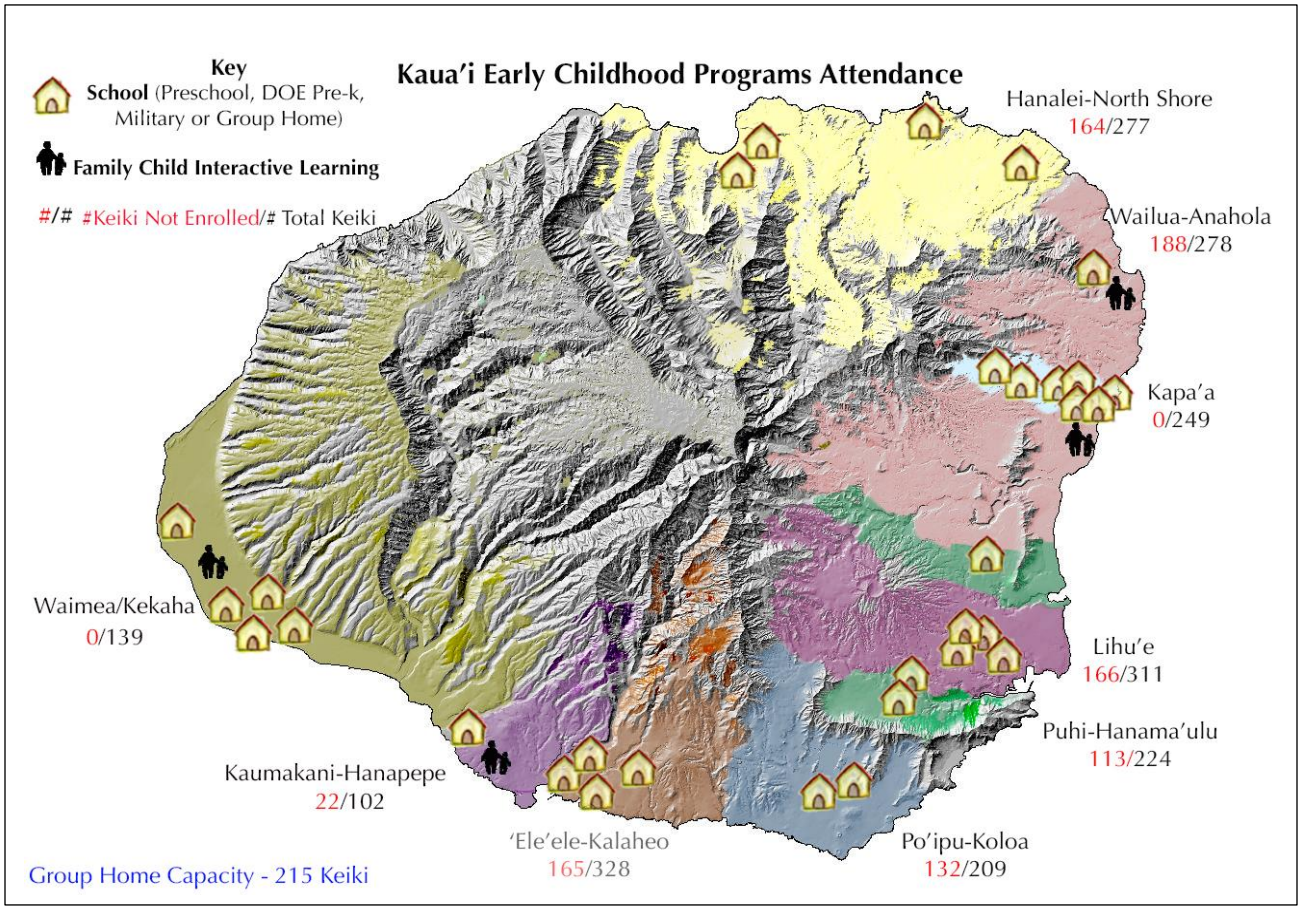


Table References: 3,4,5,6,16 Map is a snapshot taken in March, 2017. Programs change often.

There is a shortfall in capacity in nearly every census area. The shortfall is the highest in: Wailua/Anahola (68%), Koloa/Poipu (63%), Hanalei/North Shore (59%), Puhi/Hanama'ulu (50%) and Lihue (53%). Only Kapaa and Kekaha/Waimea have enough local capacity.

KEIKI NOT READY TO SUCCEED IN KINDERGARTEN

PROBLEM: ~¼ OF KAUA'I KEIKI ARE NOT KINDERGARTEN READY

Research confirms the relationship between high-quality ECCE and long-term academic outcomes. Early learning experiences set the stage for success in school, work and life by developing critical cognitive, social and emotional skills.

Five indicators were identified to measure "Kindergarten Readiness" as reported in the 2014 Kauai Youth Report. Data for each of the five indicators was collected through the Hawai'i State School Readiness Assessment (HSSRA), which captures a classroom-level snapshot of entering kindergarteners[9]. **The data indicates that many Kaua'i keiki are not kindergarten ready. Developing these skills before age 5 is crucial to success in life.**

A) **Language Readiness (3.6/5)**- The proportion of entering kindergarteners who demonstrate literacy skills and concepts. Between half and ¾ of children are language ready.[8]

Biggest Deficit

B) **Cognitive Readiness (3.9/5)**- The proportion of entering kindergarteners who "possess the attitudes and habits that facilitate learning[8.]"

2nd Biggest Deficit

C) **Physical Readiness (4.3/5)** - The proportion of entering kindergarteners who "display good muscle control, personal hygiene and alertness[8.]"

D) **Social-Emotional Readiness (4.2/5)** - The proportion of entering kindergarteners who "are independent, with skills to successfully participate in school routines[8.]"

Lilia and Elinore planting seeds for the future. Photo credit: Sealight Studios and Farm to Keiki

To grow healthy children, we must malama (care for) each and every seed.

ECCE ON KAUA'I: FINDINGS

Research shows that children who participate in good quality preschool enter kindergarten with a greater range of vocabulary and language proficiency than children who do not attend preschool. Preschool participants are also more likely to exhibit proficiency in later grades, as well as higher retention and graduation rates. In many ways, the benefits of preschool attendance are plentiful and can be monitored as a predictor of future readiness and success[8]. Parents also benefit from preschool, including learning different methods to extend their children's learning at home and practicing their role in their keiki's school success.

ATTENDANCE:

~ 30% of children on Kaua'i are not attending any type of ECCE before kindergarten [3,4]**.** The Childcare and Parenting Support Needs Survey by Hawai'i Action Strategy found that family members were childcare providers for the large majority of these children, with 75% of those being grandparents[11]. Some of these caregivers may not know how to fully prepare these children for kindergarten. In addition, many of these households may not speak English regularly. English language readiness is strongly correlated to living in an English-speaking household. Native languages spoken at home are culturally important and a wonderful opportunity to learn a second language. However, the child may need more English exposure to be prepared for kindergarten classrooms taught in English.

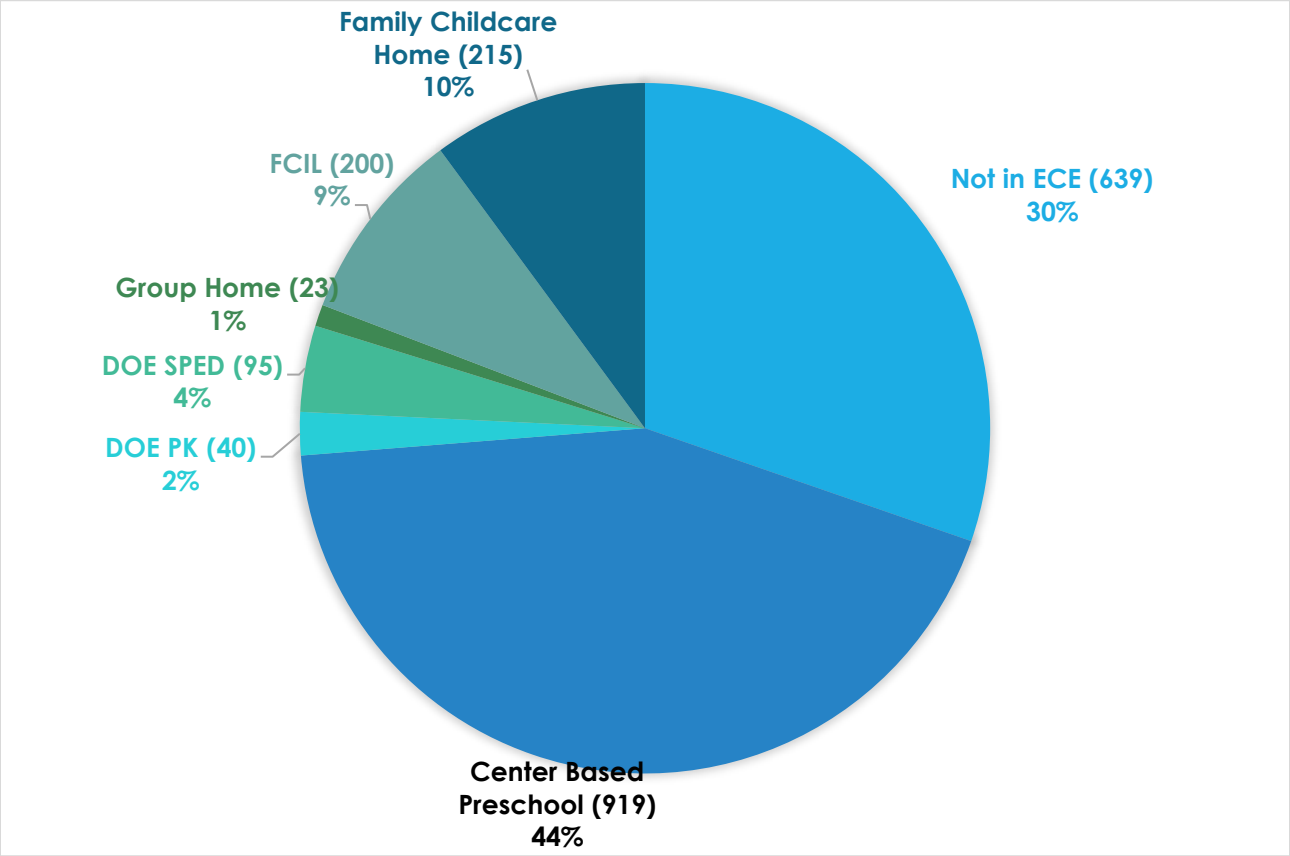
~70% of Kaua'i keiki attend some type of ECCE facility or provider before kindergarten[3,4]**.** This includes licensed preschools, Department of Education Pre-K, Department of Education SPED preschools, military care centers, FCIL's, family childcare homes, and group homes. All of these programs vary greatly in type and quality of education, emphasis on kindergarten preparation and childcare provider education requirements. Even though these programs are led by trained childcare providers, **some programs may not focus on preparing children for kindergarten.**

Decades of research provide unequivocal evidence that public investment in early childhood care and education can produce economic returns equal to roughly 10 times its costs. – Economics of Education Review[10]

ECCE ON KAUA'I: FINDINGS (CONT.)

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF KEIKI ATTENDING ANY ECCE PROGRAMS ON KAUA'I

(Average 2011-2015 for keiki ages 2 years and 8 months to under 5 years)[3,4]



OBSERVATIONS[3,4,11]

- The lack of formal early education opportunities could be a large contributing factor to those children who enter kindergarten unprepared.
- There is a need to increase the number of children enrolling in good quality ECCE programs.
- There is a need to increase the number of ECCE capacity in communities with capacity shortfalls.
- Some of our ECCE programs and providers are not adequately preparing children for kindergarten.
- Efforts must support all caregivers (family and ECCE providers) to prepare children for kindergarten, regardless of ECCE attendance.
- Kaua`i Community College offers excellent programs to train early childhood teachers, but not enough students are enrolling.

BARRIERS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY REASONS FOR KEIKI NOT ATTENDING ECCE

So why are 30% of our keiki not attending ECCE? The following are the top reasons identified by our Birth-Grade 3 Subcommittee as well as results from the Access to Early Childhood Survey by the Hawaii Action Strategy (HAS). HAS research found that reasons varied depending on family income. Here are the top 5 (not by rank) and their associated problems and recommendations.

Inconvenient Location

Too Expensive

No Available Seats

Limited Options

Varying Quality of Education

LOCATION

Barrier	Recommendation
Location of ECCE is Not Convenient	**Support New ECCE in Highest Gap Areas**
• 62.5% (2/3) prefer closer proximity of childcare to home[11]. • Areas with largest gap of keiki not attending ECCE have the fewest number of ECCE in their town[3,4].	• Encourage more ECCE's in towns with highest number of children not enrolled in ECCE[3,4], such as: Wailua/Anahola (68%) Koloa/Poipu (63%) Hanalei/North Shore (59%) Puhi/Hanama'ulu (54%) Lihue (53%)

$ COST

Prohibitive Costs to Many Families	Need More Creative Financing
• Cost is a major barrier for many families. • Average monthly cost for ages 3-4: $640 (group home) & $936 (center)[3] and ranges from $6,612-$10,200/year[12]. • 20.1% of keiki received some type of subsidies for childcare[12.] • There are free/low-cost programs on island, but the quality of some of these programs equated to lower parent satisfaction[11].	• Provide financial incentives for ECCE programs so they can lower costs. • Promote available subsidies such as Preschool Open Doors and Pauahi Scholarships. Increase total number of subsidies. • To make more families eligible for subsidies, raise the maximum allowable income level. • To help reduce center costs, update food safety regulations regarding cooking school meals and snacks. Few schools meet the regulations and must purchase costly and unhealthy prepared food[7].

Students at Kaua`i Independent Daycare Service in Kapaa

SEATS AVAILABLE (CAPACITY)

Not Enough Open Seats for Keiki	Expand Current and Add New ECCE
• There is gap in capacity for 639 keiki[3,4]. • There are only spaces for 1478 of 2117 keiki ages 2.8-5 years [3,4]. • Many ECCE's on Kaua'i have long and continuous waiting lists[3]. • 35% of parents' report "no openings" as the highest issue when looking for ECCE[3].	• Provide support for ECCEs to expand their services, at existing sites or new locations. • Support FCIL's and pop-up preschools that are easier to expand. • Advocate for State support to expand free DOE Pre-Kindergarten for all.

LIMITED OPTIONS

Not Enough ECCE Providers On Island	Encourage New Programs. Train Family Providers
• Current ECCE options on Kaua'i: preschools (29), FCIL (4), family homes (37) and group homes (2)[3,4]. • A continuing barrier to ECCE is the shortage of state-qualified preschool aides, teachers and directors, which causes preschools to close and inhibits expansion to meet the demand. • Some public schools do not have the physical space to house preschool options. • Families who care for children at home may need help to better prepare their children for kindergarten.	• Recommend a follow-up report identifying the biggest barriers to opening new ECCE's on island. • Recommend further research into why there is a shortage of state-qualified aides, teachers and directors and explore what changes are needed to address this critical issue. • Promote Early Childhood Education program at Kaua`i Community College to train more teachers. • Open state-funded Pre-K for all keiki. • Promote PATCH in-person and on-line programs to train providers and families to better prepare kids for kindergarten.

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Varying Quality Education and Care	Teacher Incentives and Professional Development
• Quality is one of the top reasons for families deciding on a preschool.[11]. • Only 65% of parents were "very satisfied" with their child's preschool. Lower income parents were less satisfied with the quality of their child's preschool.[11] • Mismatch of teacher expectations and pay. Low ECCE educator pay (Hawai'i average $35,820), coupled with Kaua`i's high cost of living, results in high teacher turnover and difficulty recruiting new staff[14,15]. • Teachers impact ECCE quality. Low pay is associated with provider depression and can result in classroom behavior problems and lower learning capacity[13,14].	• Provide incentives to childcare owners and staff to grow and maintain quality programs, especially in low-income areas. • Pay childcare providers higher wages and create incentives for childcare owners. • Support professional development opportunities with incentives. • Promote current ECCE education and training at Kaua`i Community College and PATCH.

CONCLUSION

Research establishes that prenatal and the first few years of a child's life are the most important for healthy development and success in life. 70% of Kauai's keiki have the opportunity to get a jump start in socio-emotional development, physical skills, and in building a foundation for early education by attending an ECCE program. This is a good starting point, but we must not forget that 30% of Kauai's children are getting left behind in this opportunity, in their most formative years. There is currently not enough capacity on island for all of our keiki to benefit from this important foundation. Other barriers for families to send their children to ECCE programs include the high cost, inconvenient location, and quality of the program.

Currently, the biggest challenge to expanding ECCE programs is the lack of state-qualified preschool directors, teachers and aids. Kaua`i Community College offers a Certificate and an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. However, the current low enrollment data suggests that students are choosing similar careers that provide a higher salary, such as education positions in K-12.

To insure that all keiki on Kaua'i are ready for success in kindergarten, the following goals and recommendations are provided.

Goals for ECCE on Kaua`i

- All keiki have the opportunity to attend a high quality ECCE program that is affordable, and in a location that is convenient to the family.
- All ECCE programs meet the Hawai`i Early Learning and Development Standards or Hawai`i Preschool Content Standards, which help develop keiki as healthy, confident, caring, capable individuals and prepare them for kindergarten.
- All ECCE programs are led by highly skilled individuals who are adequately paid for their important role in society and receive health support services.
- ECCE providers have the opportunity to attend more professional development opportunities as needed, such as classes at the Kaua`i Community College and PATCH.

CONCLUSION (CONT.)

Recommendations

- Encourage families to send children to good quality ECCE programs.
- Attract more ECCE teachers and aides and support their wellbeing through appropriate pay scales.
- Support the growth of quality and affordable ECCE options in all locations, especially those with the greatest need of unserved children.
- Increase the current income limit on Child Care Connection preschool subsidies so more families will qualify.
- Provide incentives and opportunities for ECCE providers to increase their ability to properly prepare children for kindergarten.
- Conduct further research into why there is a shortage of state-qualified preschool aides, teachers and directors and how we can address this important issue.
- Promote current education options, such as those at Kaua`i Community College and PATCH, to help ECCE providers improve program quality, and help families better prepare their children for kindergarten.
- Expand state supported free DOE Pre-K for all keiki. This would remove the cost barrier for families and insure our keiki have the opportunity to develop social, physical and cognitive skills that will benefit them in kindergarten and the early school years.

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