



Hawai'i Children's Action Network
and HCAN Speaks!

Gratitude Report 2021



Hawai'i
Children's
Action
Network



Hawai'i
Children's
Action
Network
Speaks!

We're building a unified voice educating and advocating for Hawai'i's children. Mahalo to our superhero supporters for joining the fight to ensure all keiki are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.



We've designed this year's Gratitude Report with some coloring pages that you can share with your children or grandchildren. Enjoy!

We're building a movement to create a better Hawai'i for our children and families, where all keiki can learn, grow, and thrive. The continuing pandemic has only exacerbated our community's inequities and disparities—and highlighted the importance of this mission. By analyzing data, training community advocates and leaders, distributing vital information about resources, and building unique community collaborations, we're working to create a brighter future for our keiki. We couldn't do this without superhero supporters like you. **Mahalo!**

HCAN Stories



Parent leader takes action for community

Maui resident Brandee Carvalho said that HCAN's Parent Leadership Training Institute made her a confident parent leader who's excited to share what she's learned with her community.

Over 20 weeks, participants in the Parent Leadership Training Institute become stronger leaders, develop their advocacy skills, and learn how to engage with the political system to get their voices heard. Each participant also completes a community project, which puts into practice what they're learning. Brandee's project, #Passion4Prevention, helps educate parents about teen suicide prevention.

"I feel that being a part of PLTI is so important," Brandee said. "It's a huge commitment, but so worth it. It's rewarding as not only a mother, as a parent, but as a community member. I feel that every class is already a step closer to making a difference."

"With my experience, being a part of PLTI, we've learned so much," Brandee said. "Whether it's really carving out that time to write a letter to the editor, or get your legislators involved by reaching out to them, or finding out ways that you're able to voice your concern, we can truly show the importance of getting priorities passed."



High school students win grant for HCAN

Two high school students, Aree Ellis from Farrington High School and Grace Fujii from Iolani School, signed up for a summer class about grant writing, taught by Levani Lipton. Aree, pictured here, and Grace chose to support

HCAN — and specifically our Parent Leadership Training Institute.

"PLTI allows parental figures to be the best role models that they can be for our keiki," Aree said,

"which will definitely create the biggest positive impact on the keiki's long-lasting character and well-being."

After presenting their final grant proposal, Aree and Grace ended up securing \$2,000 from the Zilber Family Foundation.

Aree told us that our PLTI program reminded her of her favorite quote: "We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." She was inspired to support our work because "this program's guidance, assistance, and resources give parents an opportunity to provide our younger generations with a chance at a better world, in all aspects."



Hawai'i
**Children's
Action
Network**

Mission: Build a unified voice educating and advocating for Hawai'i's children.
Vision: All of Hawai'i's children are healthy, safe and ready to learn.

HCAN achieves its mission through three main areas: data analysis and research, collaborative advocacy, and public engagement.

Focus areas



Health: Children should have affordable, comprehensive, quality healthcare from birth throughout childhood.



Safety: Children should be free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. Economic security is also vital.



Learning: Children and their families should have access to affordable, high-quality early education and child care.

Data and Research

As of January 2021, HCAN is the Hawai'i state partner for KIDS COUNT, a nationwide network organized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation. By deeply understanding the issues, we can explore how children and families are faring, uncover disparities, and develop evidence-based public policy solutions. Our projects this year included the Hawai'i Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Report, interactive COVID-19 Data Dashboard, and fact sheets on child care and early learning in Hawai'i.

View the full report online at hawaii-can.org/2021report.

Public Engagement

754k+

Hawai'i residents viewed pandemic-related educational materials

6.5k+

advocates reachable via email, mail, phone

7.2k+

followers on social media

34

media appearances

Pandemic response

HCAN's public education efforts continued to help families find COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, along with housing and financial resources. HCAN also created materials to explain the American Rescue Plan Act, help families access the expanded federal Child Tax Credit, and prevent evictions.

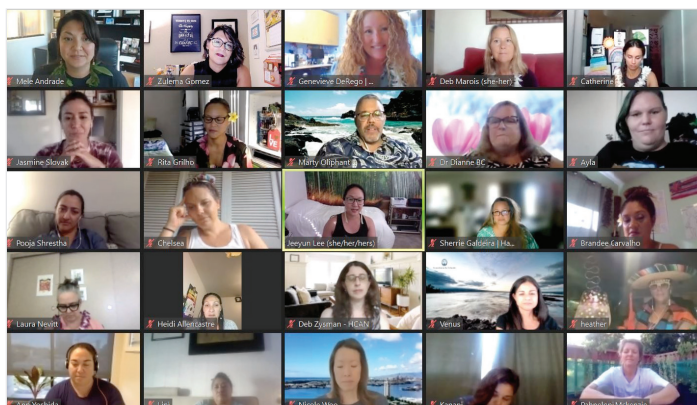
HCAN worked with the Department of Human Services and helped increase the number of applications to the Child Care Connections Hawai'i subsidy by 131%. HCAN also pushed DHS to extend child care subsidy waivers until September 2021. HCAN also partnered with Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice and DHS to connect families with food assistance programs.



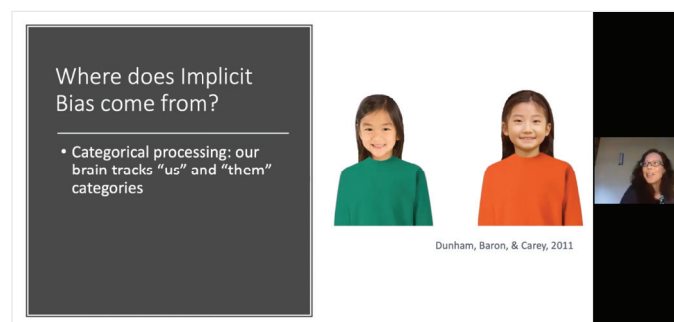
Advocacy trainings



Our 20-week Parent Leadership Training Program graduated **21 new community leaders** this year. PLTI now has 83 alumni actively engaging and changing their communities throughout Hawai'i.



HCAN also helped organize the annual Hawai'i Policy and Advocacy Training Series, which brought together **more than 470 attendees from all 6 major islands and 10 states**



Community events

HCAN organized two Keiki Talks, "Ending Racism, Starting With Kids" and "The Pandemic and Young Minds." Other events included a virtual story time, screening of the documentary No Small Matter, and trainings on trauma-informed care and resilience.

Collaborative advocacy

HCAN organizes or co-organizes several community coalitions that collectively work to impact key social challenges.



The **Hawai'i Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance** helped pass HB 1362, which created an early educator stipend program and an Act 46 Coordinator position, who will oversee the implementation of the preschool expansion bill from 2020. HCAN and HECAA also created a first-of-its-kind opportunity for community members to provide input on the state Child Care Development Block Grant plan.



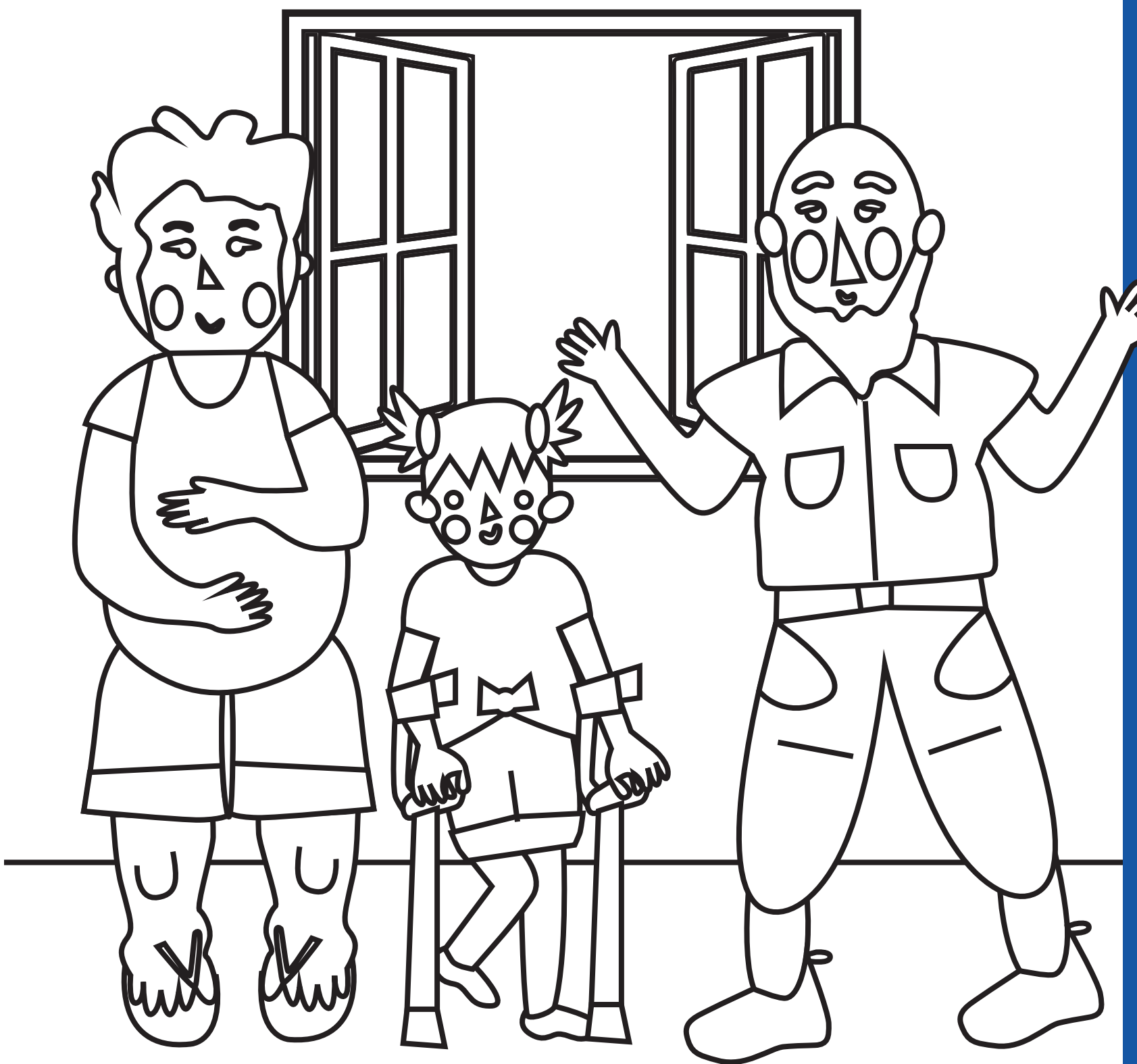
The **Hawai'i Working Families Coalition** pushed the state to steer millions in federal pandemic relief funds directly to families through child care, rental assistance, and other basic needs. These efforts included reports, social media campaigns, calls, letters, and other collective action.



The **Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition** works to increase access and equity in oral health care through collaborative partnerships, advocacy, and education.



The **Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund** works to ensure that Hawai'i's children develop into healthy, productive, and caring individuals by advancing community family strengthening programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.





Hawai'i
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Speaks!

Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! (HCAN Speaks!) is a nonpartisan 501(c)4 nonprofit building a powerful movement of families and working to ensure Hawai'i's keiki have a bright future.

HCAN Speaks! gives Hawai'i residents the tools they need to make informed voting decisions, hold leaders accountable, and change systems and policies.

2021 Children's Policy Agenda

44

Community Champion members contributed to the agenda

79

calls and emails sent to legislators from grassroots advocates

12

priorities for the 2021 legislative session

6

bills passed

Policy wins this year included:

- Taking concrete steps toward our new state goal of ensuring all 3- and 4-year-olds have access to preschool by 2032
- Urging the Board of Education and Department of Education to support and implement the "community schools" strategy
- Raising revenue for critical public programs through tax fairness
- Keeping up the momentum toward a statewide paid family leave program
- Funding the Family Planning Program

Endorsements

During the 2020 election, the Board of Directors of HCAN Speaks! chose to endorse **nine state house and senate candidates**. They decided on this select group after a thorough vetting process to identify the candidates who would be the strongest champions for keiki. Seven candidates were ultimately elected in November 2020: **Sen. Stanley Chang, Rep. Jeanné Kapela, Rep. Adrian Tam, Rep. Sonny Ganaden, Rep. Lauren Matsumoto, Rep. Amy Perruso, and Rep. Lisa Kitagawa.**

Community events

During the 2021 legislative session, HCAN Speaks! held two virtual training sessions to teach community members how to **successfully advocate and submit testimony**. We also organized a legislative session recap with **Rep. Jeanné Kapela, Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Rep. Amy Perruso, and Rep. Adrian Tam** about the wins and missed opportunities for children and families.



View the full report online at hawaii-can.org/2021report.

Superhero supporters

We couldn't do this work without the dedicated partnership of our donors and funders, who are committed to creating a Hawai'i where all keiki can thrive. **Mahalo!**

276

individual donors to HCAN and HCAN Speaks!

64%

more individual donors than any previous year

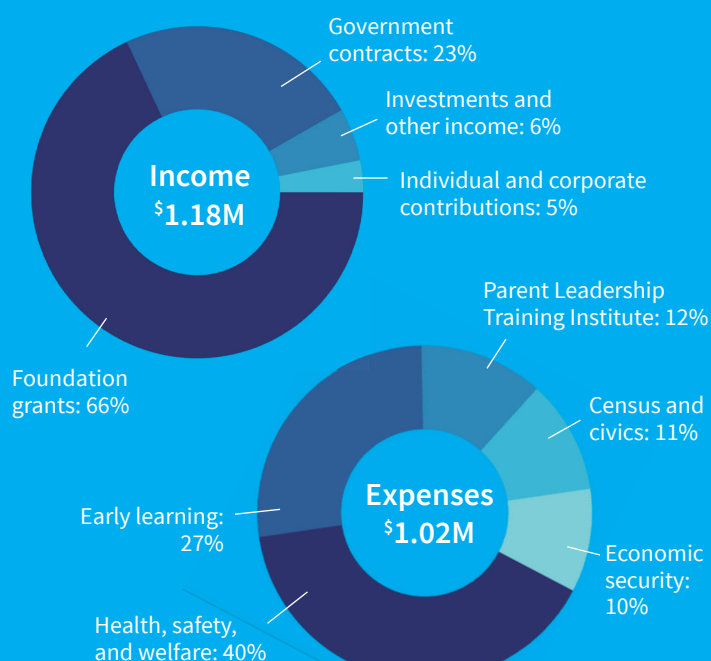
Champions for Children

This year, HCAN's Champions for Children fundraiser was held virtually, with **over 170 attendees from across the state.**

The awards honored 17 community members who went above and beyond to support Hawai'i's keiki during the COVID-19 crisis.

The festivities included a live-streamed program on April 7, 2021, meals from Chef Chai, a virtual photo booth, prize giveaways, and a keynote speech from Lt. Gov. Josh Green.

HCAN financial overview



Board and staff FY2021

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