

2026 Policy Priorities: Be a Superhero for Keiki



Caring for keiki is a shared privilege and responsibility.

 **Pre-K Charter School Bill. (HB2399) (SB3189)** This bill expands access to high-quality early learning by allowing charter schools to offer Pre-K, helping families find affordable, accessible options. By using existing school infrastructure, it supports working families, boosts school readiness, and helps close achievement gaps early.
Lead: *HCAN Speaks!*

 **Early Childhood Apprenticeship Grants. (HB1872) (SB2666)** Early childhood professionals strengthen families and communities. Investing in the early childhood workforce will ensure high-quality early learning for every child, give families the support they need, and build a stronger foundation for Hawai'i's future.
Lead: *Hawai'i Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance (HECAA)*

 **Free School Meals for Charter Students. (HB1561) (SB2677)** No keiki should go hungry at school. Let's extend free school meals to charter school students under 300% of the federal poverty level, closing a gap that currently leaves out many rural and Native Hawaiian communities.
Lead: *Hawai'i Appleseed*



All keiki deserve to grow up happy, healthy, and safe.

 **Mental Health Digital Platform. (HB1562) (SB2679)** Youth mental health matters. Connecting young people to mental health resources through platforms they know and rely on can offer new ways that they access help, when they need it, and build stronger, healthier communities.
Lead: *Representative Gregg Takayama*

 **E-Bike Regulations for Keiki. (HB1564) (SB2680)** Keeping keiki safe on our roads and sidewalks is a shared responsibility. As e-bikes and other micro-mobility devices become more common, families and communities are navigating new safety risks, especially for keiki.
Lead: *Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics*

 **Restore County Authority to Regulate Tobacco. (HB1563) (SB2681)** In Hawai'i, tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable death, taking an average of 1,400 lives each year and disproportionately harming Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.
Lead: *Hawai'i Public Health Institute*

 **Legal Counsel for Foster Care Youth. (HB1565) (SB2678)** Every foster youth deserves a voice in decisions about their life. Foster youth should be heard and supported in the court proceedings that shape their future, family connections, and well-being.
Lead: *HI H.O.P.E.S. Initiative*



Let's put 'ohana first and help working parents care for their families.

 **Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML). (HB2360)** Put 'ohana first and pass paid family and medical leave for all. Everyone deserves the knowledge that they can care for their families, and have job security while doing so. Join the Paid Leave Hawai'i Coalition's 'Ohana First Campaign to pass paid family and medical leave.
Lead: *Paid Leave Hawai'i*

 **Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. (HB2007) (SB2683)** With preschool in Hawai'i costing over \$13,000 a year, families need more help with child care. While lawmakers increased the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit in 2023, a low percentage cap limits its impact. This bill would raise that cap so working families can access more meaningful relief.
Lead: *HCAN Speaks!*



Learn more at: speaks.hawaii-can.org

Follow us on Instagram: [@hcanspeaks](https://www.instagram.com/hcanspeaks)