

country's lowest-paid workers, seldom receive benefits such as pensions, and unable to make ends meet.

Key findings presented in the report include:

- Nationally, the median hourly wage for childcare workers is \$10.31, 39.3% below the \$17.00 median hourly wage of workers in other occupations.
- Typical earnings of childcare workers (excluding preschool workers) in Honolulu only cover 39% of the basic budget for one person to achieve a modest, yet adequate standard of living in her community.
- Many preschool and childcare workers cannot afford childcare for their own children. According to the report, the median wage for childcare workers in Hawai'i (excluding preschool workers) is \$18,230, while infant care costs \$11,996 and preschool care for 4-year-olds is \$9,003 (65.8% and 49.4% of wages, respectfully).

Childcare is crucial service for families. Access to quality childcare promotes healthy child development and positive life-long outcomes for children. When working parents have such care for their children, they are better able to concentrate at work and earn a living that allows them to support their families and contribute to the state economy through the purchase of goods and services. While childcare is a vital service that drives our economy, it is a costly one that is particularly out of reach for many of the providers. All families with young children deserve access to and the benefits gained from affordable, quality child care, including the professionals that provide this much needed service.

Read the report, in full, at <http://www.epi.org/publication/child-care-workers-arent-paid-enough-to-make-ends-meet/>.

NO HOLIDAY FOR HUNGER

The Holiday Season reminds us that hunger knows no holiday. Food insecurity is a year round issue for more than 47,000 children and youth in Hawai'i.¹

The USDA defines food insecurity as a state in which families are "struggling to avoid hunger," "hungry, or at risk of hunger," and "hungry, or faced by the threat of hunger."²

According to KIDS COUNT data, in 2013, more than 15.5 million children United States (about 21%) were living in households that were food insecure at some point during the year.³ Hawai'i had a similar share, 21%, or about 66,000 keiki in such households.⁴

According to *Hunger in America 2014 - Hawai'i Foodbank Report*, the Hawai'i Foodbank provides food assistance to 287,000 Islanders—or one in five island residents. This includes almost 48,000 keiki.⁵ The State's food insecurity is compounded by the fact that approximately 85 – 90% of its food supply is imported.⁶

In July a bill was signed into law that will help Hawai'i address its food insecurity issues. The passage of SB 376, a Bill for an Act, will allow for the creation of a farm to school program. This is an important piece of legislation because it can:

- improve the health of children through the support of school gardens, health and nutrition education,



agriculture, and the procurement of locally grown foods for school meals and snacks;

- increase students' physical activity, school meal participation, and preference for fresh fruits and vegetables and improve academic achievement and student behavior; and
- establish healthy behaviors at an early age, which can help prevent the onset of chronic disease and other health conditions later in life through the consumption of more fruits and vegetables at school and at home.

¹Hunger in America 2014 - Hawaii Foodbank Report. N.p., n.d. Web. <http://www.hawaiifoodbank.org/HungerFacts.aspx>.

²What Is Food Insecurity? N.p., n.d. Web. <http://www.feedingtexas.org/learn/food-insecurity/>.

³Children Living in Households That Were Food Insecure at Some Point during the Year | KIDS COUNT Data Center. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015. <http://bit.ly/1QCua8Q>.

⁴KIDS COUNT Data Center." Children Living in Households That Were Food Insecure at Some Point during the Year. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015. <http://bit.ly/1kd3r4b>

⁵Hunger in America 2014 - Hawaii Foodbank Report. N.p., n.d. Web <http://www.hawaiifoodbank.org/HungerFacts.aspx>.

⁶Maryluk. "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy." (n.d.): n. pag. Web. http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/spb/INCREASED_FOOD_SECURITY_AND_FOOD_SELF_SUFFICIENCY_STRATEGY.pdf.

INTRODUCING CELIA CHANG TAKAHASHI, HAWAI'I KIDS COUNT COORDINATOR

The Center on the Family is pleased to introduce Celia Chang Takahashi as the new Hawai'i KIDS COUNT Coordinator. Celia comes to the project with a diverse and extensive background in education. In addition to having experience as a classroom teacher, Celia has assisted in the writing, editing and dissemination of curriculum including substance abuse and violence prevention with a Hawaiian Cultural focus; family engagement; and early learning. For 12 years Celia worked at Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA), a local public policy and advocacy non-profit. During her tenure there she gained experience in communications, social media outreach, program management, and supporting non-traditional students through professional development career counseling. For her final four years at GBA, she was the O'ahu Coordinator. During that time she worked with communities, providing them with motivational leadership and technical assistance to create early learning transition plans for young children and their families. We hope you will join us in welcoming Celia to the Center on the Family and Hawai'i KIDS COUNT.



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conclusions presented in the E-Bulletin are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation.

CENTER ON THE FAMILY

2515 Campus Road, Miller Hall 103, Honolulu, HI 96822

Phone: (808) 956-4132 | Fax: (808) 956-4147 | Email: cof@ctahr.hawaii.edu

Facebook Page URL: www.facebook.com/HawaiiKidsCount

Twitter Page URL: www.twitter.com/hikidscount

