



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

E-Bulletin

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Center on the Family | University of Hawai'i at Mānoa-CTAHR

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APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Did you know?

According to Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i,

- child abuse and neglect affects over 1 million children every year.
- each year nearly 4,000 suspected cases of child abuse are reported in Hawai'i.
- child abuse does not discriminate. Child abuse crosses the boundaries of every economic level, ethnic and religious group. It is happening throughout our state and it can happen to any family on every island.



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time in which families and communities come together to promote childhood wellbeing and to promote ways of preventing child abuse and neglect. During the month, communities are encouraged to share stories of child abuse and neglect prevention strategies to further stimulate awareness of the issues while strategizing ways to alleviate child abuse and neglect across the country.

For more information, visit Prevent Child Abuse Hawai'i's website at <http://www.preventchildabusehawaii.org>

If you need help, call: 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)

The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453) is dedicated to the prevention of child abuse. Serving the United States, its territories, and Canada, the hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with professional crisis counselors who, through interpreters, can provide assistance in over 170 languages. The hotline offers crisis intervention, information, literature, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All calls are confidential.

QUALITY COUNTS

In January, the Education Week Research Center released its Quality Counts 2017: Building on ESSA's K-12 Foundation. Quality Counts is an annual report card that looks at public education in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Each edition of Quality Counts examines a topic of interest for educational policymakers and practitioners. This year's report focused on the steps that the states and D.C. are taking to put the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into effect.

In addition, the 2017 report includes summative grades on three key education indicators: (1) Chance-for-Success (the importance of education throughout a person's lifetime); (2) School Finance (examination of educational expenditure patterns and the distribution of funds within states); and (3) the K-12 Achievement Index (assessment of the performance of a state's public schools). For the third year in a row, the nation received an overall grade of C on its 2017 report card with a score of 74.2 out of 100 points based on grades received for each of the education indicators:

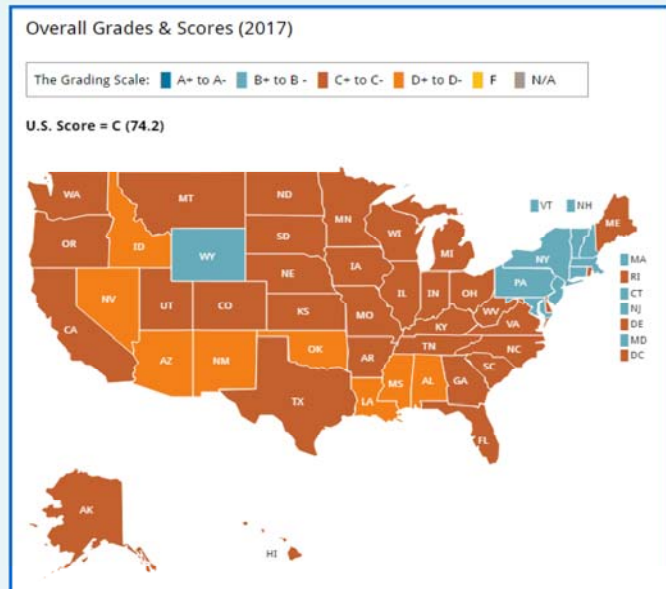
- Chance for Success: C+
- School Finance: C
- K-12 Achievement: C-

Massachusetts was the top ranking state—its third year in a row—with an overall score of 86.5%, earning a grade of B. Five other states also earned grades of B this year: New Jersey (85.6), Vermont (83.8), New Hampshire (83.4), Maryland (82.8) and Connecticut (82.7). Hawai'i received an overall letter grade of C with a score of 73.8 out of 100 points based on grades received for each of the education indicators:

- Chance for Success: 78.6% (C+)
- School Finance: N/A¹
- K-12 Achievement: 69.0% (D +)

State Highlights Reports for the 50 states and the District of Columbia may be found at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2017/01/04/index.html> (registration is required) while an interactive map and report card may be viewed at <http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2017/2017-state-education-grades-map.html>.

¹Hawai'i is a single-district jurisdiction. As a result, it is not possible to calculate measures of financial equity, which capture the distribution of funding across districts within a state. Hawai'i did not receive a grade for school finance and is not included in the rankings.

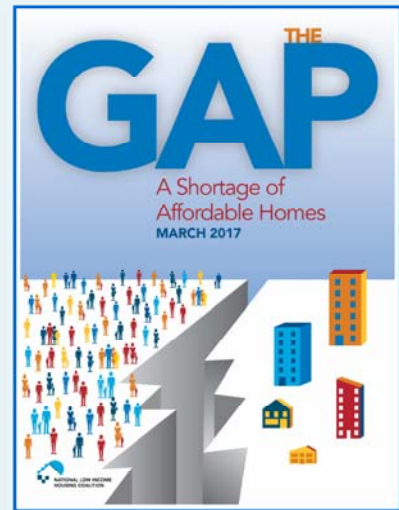


THE GAP: A SHORTAGE OF AFFORDABLE HOMES

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) released *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes*, which highlights the struggle that millions of people experience in finding affordable homes. The report provides information on the affordable housing supply and housing cost burdens at the national, state, and metropolitan levels. As in previous years, extremely low income (ELI) households—defined as households whose income is at or below either the poverty guideline or 30% of their area median income, whichever is higher—have more severe housing costs burdens when compared to other income groups. ELI households also face the largest shortage of affordable and available rental housing. Key findings of the report are as follows:

- Most ELI renter households are severely cost-burdened in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, spending more than half of their income on rent and utilities. Seventy-five percent of ELI households in Hawai'i are severely cost-burdened. Other states with high percentages include Nevada (83%), Florida (79%), California (77%), Oregon (76%), Colorado (75%), and Virginia (75%).
- Every state has a housing shortage for extremely low income renters. ELI renters in Nevada face the greatest challenge in finding affordable and available homes where there are only 15 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 ELI renter households. In Hawai'i, there are 35 affordable and available rental homes for every 100 ELI renter households, the same as the national average.

The entire report can be downloaded at: http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Gap-Report_2017.pdf



STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET: THE NEED FOR A WORKING FAMILY CREDIT

The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice recently released *Struggling to Make Ends Meet: The Need for a Working Family Credit*, a report that emphasizes the need for a Working Family Credit. The report summarizes findings from a poll of 500 Hawai'i residents, which reveals an alarming level of financial struggles among Hawai'i's families. For example, nearly half of Hawai'i's families are living paycheck to paycheck and the number approaches 60% on neighbor islands. In addition:

- one in five households struggle to put food on the table, a number that rises for native Hawaiians, those without a college degree and those under 35;
- one in four respondents reported having trouble making their rent or mortgage, a number that rises to one in three on the neighbor islands; and
- one in five report having difficulty with back to school expenses.



The report's findings also demonstrate that approximately 81% of voters and business leaders support tax credits for the working family. The tax credits, namely the Working Family Credit, would help low and

moderate income working families make ends meet and avoid evictions by letting them keep more of what they earn.

Currently, the HI Tax Fairness Bill 209 is still alive in the legislature and is heading to conference tomorrow, April 21.

Visit <http://hitaxfairness.org/working-family-credit/> to learn more about the Working Family Credit and to access the report.

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