



Hawai'i KIDS COUNT E-Bulletin

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

IN THIS ISSUE

HI Tax Fairness Initiative

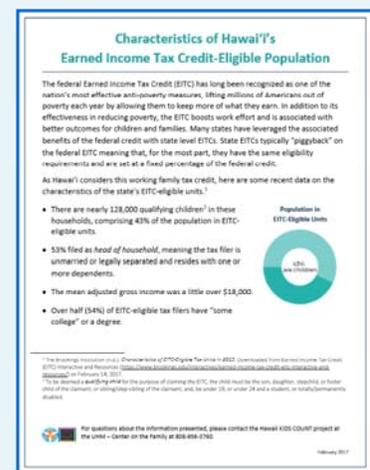
Child Maltreatment 2015

Paid Family Leave: Benefitting Hawai'i's Businesses and the Economy

HI TAX FAIRNESS INITIATIVE

After adjusting for cost of living, which is the highest in the nation, Hawai'i has the lowest wages when compared to the rest of the country. In addition, Hawai'i places the 2nd highest tax burden on low-income households, which causes nearly half of Hawai'i's residents to live paycheck-to-paycheck. The Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition, which includes a wide range of service providers and organizations, aims to restore tax fairness in Hawai'i. The coalition's four-part plan includes the:

- Working Family Credit to help working families make ends meet by letting them keep more of what they earn;
- Renters' Credit to address high housing costs by adjusting the existing renters' credit for 30+ years of inflation;
- Food Credit to restore money taken from low-income people's pockets by the general excise tax by preventing the reduction of this credit; and
- Restoring Revenue to reinstate tax rates on Hawai'i's highest earners, which were discontinued in 2015 to help restore the balance to our tax system.



To provide data on the characteristics of Hawai'i's earned income tax credit-eligible population, the Hawai'i KIDS COUNT project at the University of Hawai'i Center on the Family prepared a fact sheet which can be found at the Center on the Family's website:

http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/publications/brochures/3d87c_CharacteristicsofEITCUnits.pdf and at the HI Tax Fairness' website: <http://hitaxfairness.org/working-family-credit/>

Thus far, the HI Tax Fairness Bills (HB 209 and SB 648) have made it past the halfway point in the legislative calendar and crossed over from their originating to their opposite chambers. HB 209 was scheduled for a hearing by the Senate Ways and Means committee on Wed. March 22 at 9:30 AM.

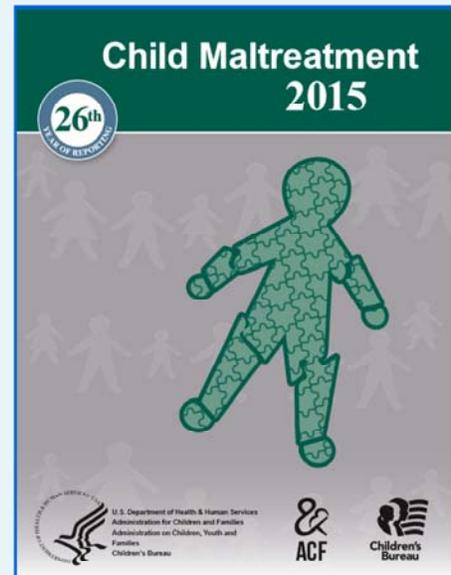
Visit the hitaxfairness.org and [HI Tax Fairness Facebook page](#) to learn more about the four-part plan and related legislation.

CHILD MALTREATMENT 2015

The 26th annual Child Maltreatment report was recently released by the Administration for Children and Families. The report presents national and state-level data on child abuse and neglect known to child protective services (CPS) agencies in each state and the District of Columbia. According to the report, there were approximately 683,000 victims of child abuse and neglect across the country during the 2015 federal fiscal year (the most current year for which data are available), a 3.8% increase from five years earlier. The report also includes data on: referrals and reports of child maltreatment; characteristics of victims and non-victims; fatalities that occurred as a result of maltreatment; perpetrators of maltreatment; services to prevent maltreatment and to assist children and families' and additional research related to child maltreatment. The following are key findings for the state of Hawai'i:

- In 2015, there were 1,506 victims of child abuse and neglect, an increase of 12% since 2011.
- Children younger than 1 year had the highest rate of victimization at 13.7 per 1,000, but lower than the national rate of 24.2.
- First time victims rate was 3.8 per 1,000, lower than the national rate of 6.9.
- The average number of days to initiate services after receipt of a report was 21 days, compared to the national average of 47 days.

The entire report can be downloaded from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/cm2015.pdf>



PAID FAMILY LEAVE: BENEFITTING HAWAII'S BUSINESSES AND THE ECONOMY

The latest Hawai'i KIDS COUNT issue brief highlights the importance of paid family leave for Hawai'i's businesses and the economy. Since current family leave policies only guarantee *unpaid* leave for a limited pool of eligible workers, many in Hawai'i's workforce are forced to choose between caring for their family and making ends meet. Based on studies from states and countries around the world with existing paid leave laws, the issue brief provides information on how paid family leave supports businesses and strengthens the economy. Paid family leave benefits businesses by:

- improving employee retention and reducing turnover, which save businesses money;
- boosting employee morale and promoting productivity; and
- evening the playing field for small businesses.

Paid family leave increases labor force participation, and boosts employees' saving and spending. Such a leave program can also save the state money as employees with access are less likely to rely on public assistance. In the long run, paid family leave can positively impact Hawai'i's economic productivity and growth.

Check out [Paid Family Leave: Benefitting Hawai'i's Businesses and the Economy](#) to learn more. This brief is a part of an effort by the partnership between the Hawai'i KIDS COUNT project, the Hawai'i Children's Action



Network, and the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women which provides data, issue briefs, fact sheets, advocacy tools and other resources aimed at raising awareness on this important policy. To learn more and get involved in supporting family leave policy, visit our respective websites at the links below.

Hawai'i KIDS COUNT: <http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/projects/kidscount/home.aspx>.

Hawai'i Children's Action Network: http://www.hawaii-can.org/paid_family_leave.

Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/hscsw/>.

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