



May 2017 Issue

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

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UNEQUAL PLAYING FIELD?

Last month, the Urban Institute released its report, *Unequal Playing Field? State Differences in Spending on Children in 2013*. The report highlights disparities in public spending on children throughout the nation. Not only is there a wide variation in state spending on children, there is a strong geographic pattern to these variations as well. For example, Vermont spent nearly three times as much on children as Utah did in 2013—\$13,430 vs.

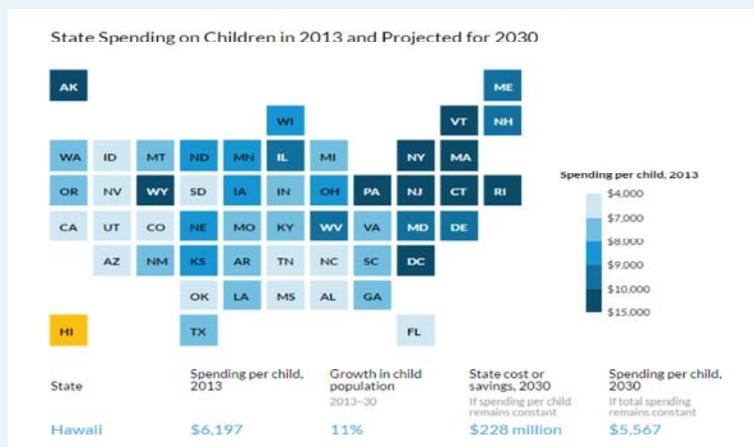
\$4,594 per child. States that spend \$10,000 or more per child are generally concentrated in the Northeast, whereas many states that spend \$7,000 or less are located in the South and West.

State and local governments fund public schools, health systems, and social services intended to provide resources that support children's healthy development. While child outcomes are impacted by various factors, children in states that make greater investments in their well-being tend to have better health and education outcomes. The report examines each state's spending on children and what these differences in spending may look like in the future based on population growth. Here is where Hawai'i stands:

- Compared to Vermont, the highest spending state at \$13,430 per child, and Utah, the lowest spending state at \$4,594 per child, Hawai'i spent \$6,197 per child in 2013.
- The report uses KIDS COUNT annual data book rankings to compare child well-being outcomes. In 2015, Vermont was ranked 4th on education outcomes, Utah was 29th, and Hawai'i was 31st.
- Hawai'i's child population is expected to grow 11% between 2013 and 2030.
- If spending per child remains constant with the population growth, it will cost Hawai'i \$228 million.
- If the total spending remains constant, \$5,567 will be spent per child in 2030.

To see how Hawai'i compares to other states, visit the interactive graphic at: <http://www.urban.org/urban-wire/do-state-spending-differences-create-unequal-playing-field-children#15>

To read the full report, visit: http://www.urban.org/research/publication/unequal-playing-field/view/full_report



NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Did you know May is National Foster Care Month?

Nationally, approximately 428,000 children and youth were in the foster care system in 2015.¹ Thirty percent of children and youth were placed in relative care, 45% percent in nonrelative care, and 13% in group homes or institutions. By

comparison, Hawai'i has a higher share (45%) of its foster care population in relative care, and a smaller share (5%) in group homes.

More foster child and youth data can be found on the KIDS COUNT Data Center:

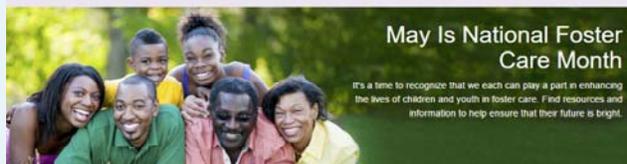
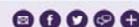
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#HI/2/35/38>

To find information and resources for parents, youth, foster parents and caregivers, communities, and professionals please visit: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/>

¹The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.

National Foster Care Month 2017

Empowering Caregivers, Strengthening Families



WORKING TAX CREDIT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2017 Legislature approved an important measure that supports Hawai'i's low-income families. The passage of House Bill 209 (Relating to Taxation), which creates the state's first Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), is a historic event for Hawai'i.

Hawai'i's tax credit is based on the federal EITC, which is one of the nation's most effective anti-poverty measures, lifting millions of families out of poverty. Growing up in poverty and economic hardship can have long-lasting consequences for children. A growing body of research documents important links between the tax credit (both at the federal and state-levels) and family and child well-being, such as improved maternal and infant health, greater educational achievement and attainments, and better employment and economic outcomes when children reach adulthood.

Unlike the federal tax credit, Hawai'i's credit is non-refundable, meaning the credit can only be used to offset income taxes owed. A refundable credit would have allowed eligible filers to keep more of what they earn. The measure nevertheless represents breakthrough legislation that supports Hawai'i's low-income families and children, and is now pending the Governor's signature.



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