



# Hawai'i KIDS COUNT

## E-Bulletin

### March 2014 Issue

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

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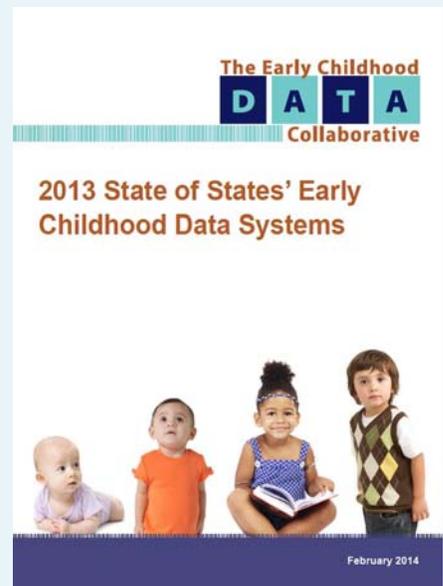
#### THE EARLY CHILDHOOD DATA COLLABORATIVE

Although federal and state agencies fund an array of early care and education (ECE) services and collect data documenting those services, a recent report found that most states could do much more to link this data to guide decision-making for programs serving young children.

*The 2013 State of States' Early Childhood Data Systems*, released by the Early Childhood Data Collaborative, is based on a survey of 50 states and the District of Columbia, assessing the coordination of their early childhood data systems. The survey was completed by state education, health, and social services program staff and focused on states' capacity to securely link child-level ECE data, collect state-level child screening and assessment data, and use of coordinated ECE data.

Data on program participation, program quality, workforce characteristics, and developmental outcomes are often collected by different state agencies and housed in different databases. This makes it difficult for most states to get an unduplicated count of children served or information about how program quality relates to workforce characteristics and child outcomes.

Linking early childhood data is important because it allows policymakers to understand the experiences of children and helps them with their educational development across ECE programs. Hawai'i-specific data from the survey include the following:



- Hawai'i is one out of 17 states that plans to link across ECE program databases at the state level.
- Hawai'i is one out of 29 states that links some child-level data between ECE program databases and the state's K - 12 Data system (federally funded Head Start and subsidized child care).
- Hawai'i is one of 26 states that collects state-level ECE screening/assessment data to examine children's developmental status and service needs.

To read more about the 2013 State of State's Early Childhood Data Systems and the ways Hawai'i is linking data click here: <http://www.ecedata.org/files/2013%20State%20of%20States'%20Early%20Childhood%20Data%20Systems.pdf>

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## UPDATED KIDS COUNT DATA FROM THE 2013 NATION'S REPORT CARD IN MATHEMATICS

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) produces *The Nation's Report Card* to disseminate findings from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a continuing and nationally representative measure of achievement in various subjects over time. The NAEP mathematics assessment at grades four and eight measures students' ability to solve problems in five mathematics content strands: 1) number properties and operations, 2) measurement, 3) geometry, 4) data analysis, statistics and probability, and 5) algebra.

For the first time, the report findings are available in a new online format that makes it easier to find and sort the data. The interactive website also allows visitors to visualize side-by-side presentations of mathematics and reading achievement data and watch videos that guide them on how to explore the results. Report findings indicate that while the U.S. average has shown very little change in the past 5 years, Hawai'i's public school fourth- and eighth-graders' math scores have steadily improved between 2000 and 2013. For example, between 2000 and 2013, the share of Hawai'i's 4th graders at or above basic math proficiency increased from 14% to 46%. The following key indicators have been updated with 2013 data from the NCES and can be accessed on the KIDS COUNT Data Center:



<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data#USA/2/8/10,11,12,13,14,15>

- Forty six percent (46%) of Hawai'i's 4th graders scored at or above proficiency in math, compared to 41% in the U.S%.
- Thirty-two percent (32%) of Hawai'i's 8th graders scored at or above proficiency in math, compared to 34% in the U.S.
- The share of 8th graders in Hawai'i scoring at or above proficiency increased from 16% in 2000 to 32% in 2013. The scores of 8th graders across the U.S. increased from 25% to 34% during this period.

Note: The basic and proficiency levels in mathematics are as measured and defined by the NAEP. For more information, visit <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Each October, the Keiki Caucus\* sponsors the Children and Youth Summit where key child- and youth-related issues are identified and prioritized for legislative action. Hawai'i KIDS COUNT tracks key Keiki Caucus bills that were introduced during the current legislative session as well as other legislation related to the well-being of children and families. The following highlights selected legislation in the areas of economic well-being, safety, K-12 education, foster youth, and juvenile justice. These bills have passed the first crossover (i.e., going from their originating body to the other).

- SB2205 SD1 HD1 and HB 1807, *Earned Income Tax Credit*, aims to establish a refundable state earned income tax credit. The EITC is an important tax credit that helps low-income working families keep more of their income.
- SB2211 SD2 HD2 and HB 1790, *Office of Youth Services; Safe Places for Youth Pilot program*, requires the Department of Human Services to coordinate a pilot program and establish a network of “safe places” where youth can have access to a safe environment, advice and guidance, and to needed programs and services.
- SB2441 SD2 HD1 and HB 1756, *Youth; After-school Programs; Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and Health Program*, establishes an infrastructure to deliver an after-school program in public middle and intermediate schools statewide.
- HB1576 HD1 SD1, *Increase in Monthly Board Rate for Foster Care Services*, increases the monthly payment the Department of Human Services distributes to foster parents for foster care services
- HB2489 HD2 SD1 and SB3032, *Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility; Juvenile Justice; Recidivism*, appropriates funds to the Family Court Division of the Judiciary and the Office of Youth Services to reduce juvenile delinquency recidivism through evidence-based practices and mental health and substance abuse treatment programs.
- HB2490 HD2 SD1, *Juvenile Justice; Juvenile Probation; Juvenile Justice Oversight Advisory Council*, aims to improve and enhance the juvenile justice system by concentrating secure bed space on serious juvenile offenders and strengthening disposition, adjustment, diversion, and services available for juvenile offenders. The measure also aims to ensure that family court judges, court staff, departmental staff, and service providers have the tools they need to safely and effectively keep youth in their communities.

\* The Keiki Caucus is a group of bicameral, bipartisan legislators who, along with state agencies and service providers, focus on child and youth legislative priorities.

View more details about these bills, sign up to receive notices, and track other legislation online at: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>. Click on “Hearing Notification” and create an account. Then select the committees and measures you want to track.

Once a measure has been scheduled for public hearing and notice is given, the public is invited to submit testimony. Letters can be submitted to the chair or committee clerk expressing support of or opposition to the bill. Testimony can also be submitted through the Hawai'i State Legislature's website (link provided above). The website allows users to create an account to receive hearing notices by email, create personalized measure tracking lists, and submit testimony electronically.

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**CENTER ON THE FAMILY**

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