

Early Childhood Care and Education in Hawai'i: Changes in Access 2019-2022

In this data brief, we compare access to early care and education (ECE) programs in Hawai'i from 2019 to 2022. This time span gives a snapshot of the ECE landscape just prior to and after the COVID pandemic.

The ECE indexes reported here measure the average access within a five-mile drive of each home in the state or county. Indexes are demand-adjusted in that they are based on both the number of ECE seats close to each home and the number of young children living near each home in potential competition for these seats. Brief definitions are given below.

Seat Density: ECE seats per child under age 6 within a 5 mile drive.

Cost Burden: Average cost of an ECE seat within 5 miles as a percentage of median family income.

Quality: Likelihood that an ECE seat within 5 miles is in a public pre-K classroom or program with a national ECE accreditation.

Summary of ECE Access 2019-2022

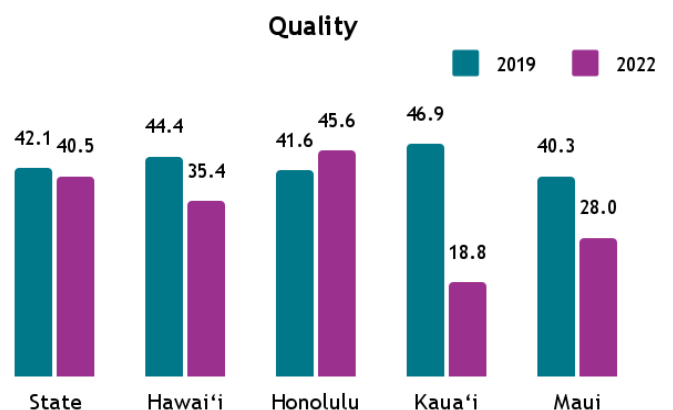
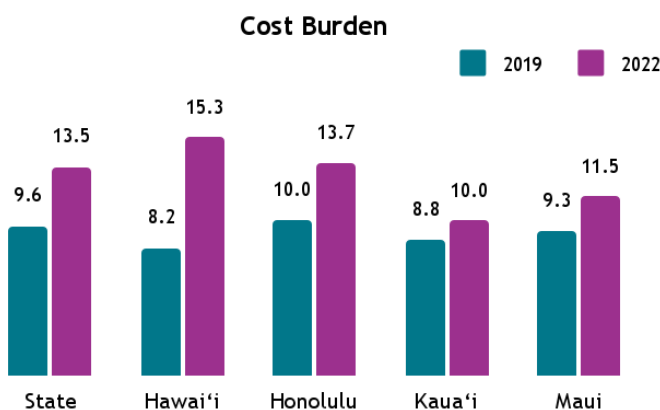
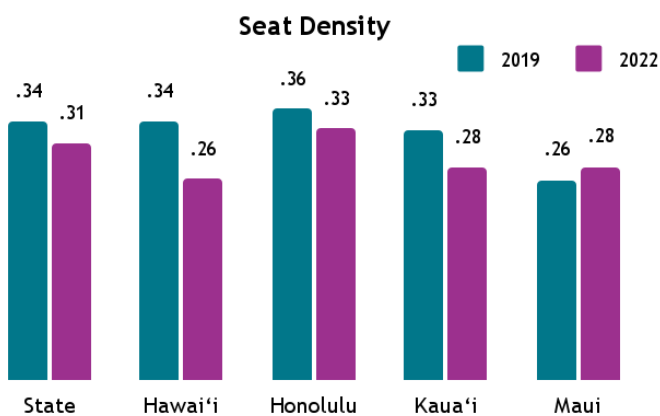
Statewide Change

Over the three-year period, the state saw small declines for both seat density and quality. In 2022, the state had .31 ECE seats per child and just over 40% of seats were in a high-quality program. There was a marked increase in cost burden, with a typical seat in 2022 costing 13.5% of median family income, compared to 9.6% in 2019.

County-Level Change

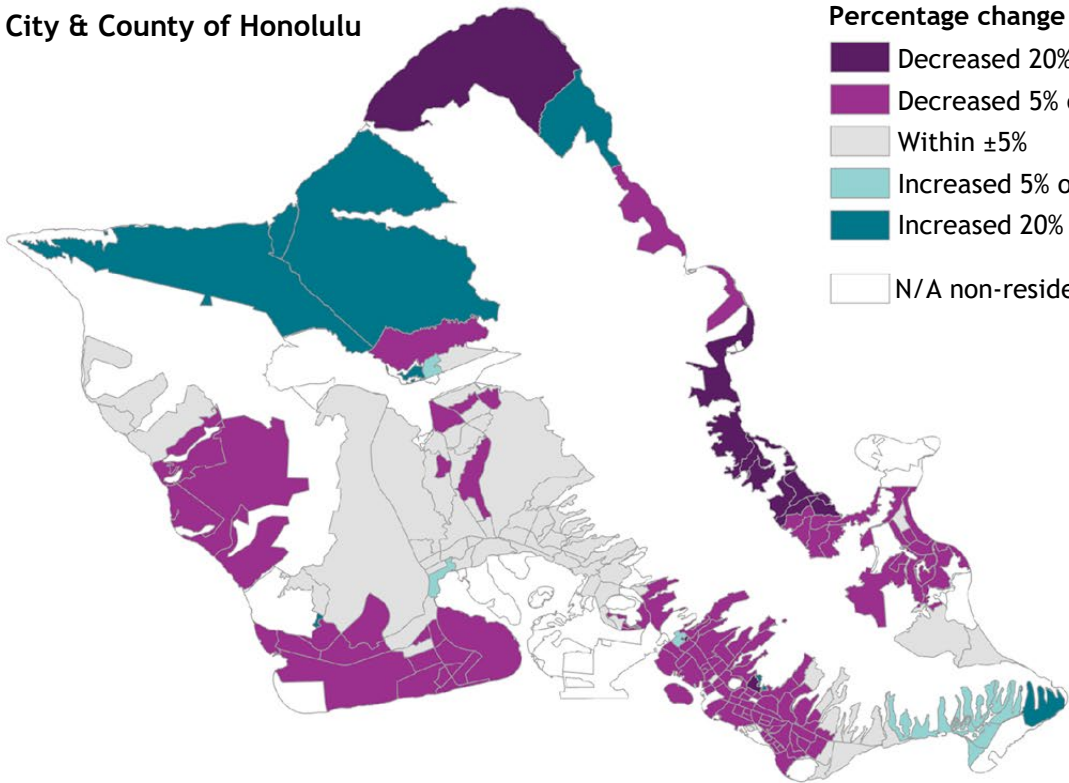
- **Hawai'i County** showed negative changes on all three indexes. Of all the counties, Hawai'i had the largest decrease in seat density and highest increase in cost burden.
- **Honolulu County** also experienced declining seat density and increasing cost burden, but was the only county to show improved quality.
- **Kaua'i County** showed declines on all three indexes, with an especially large change in quality access.
- **Maui County**, while showing a slight increase in seat density, also faced rising ECE costs and a decrease in quality access.

Our ECE access project used updated index definitions for 2022; there have also been considerable change in the number and boundaries of census tracts. To ensure comparability across the two time points in this brief, we recalculated the 2022 indexes using our 2019 definitions, and adjusted them to match the 2019 census tract boundaries. As a result, the 2022 indexes reported here might vary slightly from those currently shown on our [ECE access map website](#).



Changes in Seat Density by Census Tract

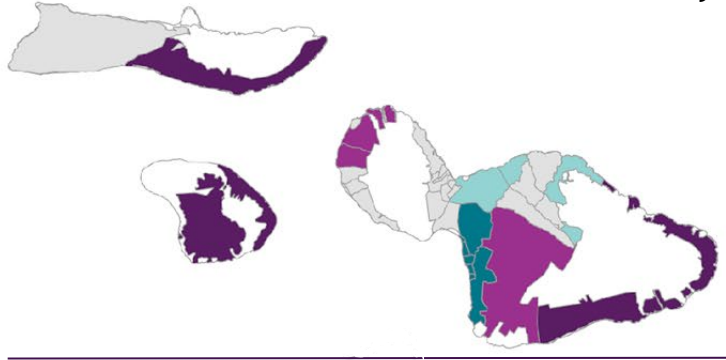
City & County of Honolulu



Percentage change

- Decreased 20% or more
- Decreased 5% or more & less than 20%
- Within ±5%
- Increased 5% or more & less than 20%
- Increased 20% or more
- N/A non-residential

Maui County



Hawai'i County

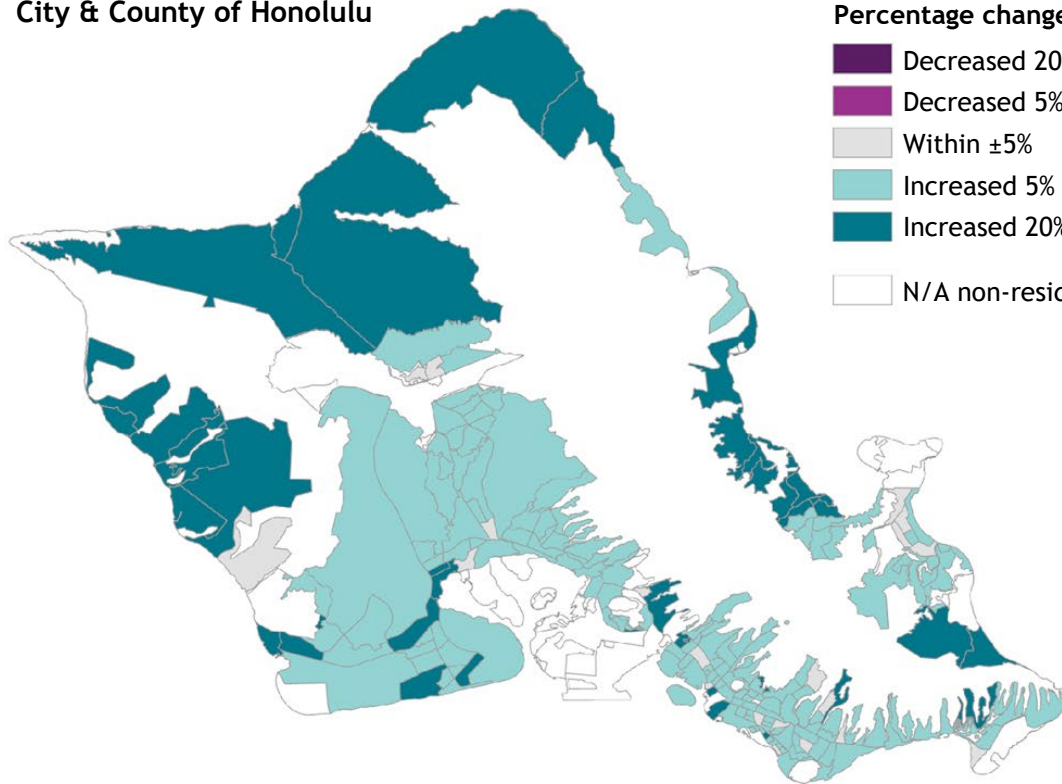


Kaua'i County

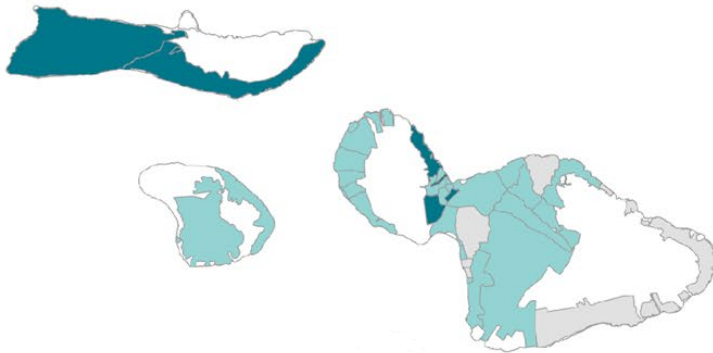


Changes in Cost Burden by Census Tract

City & County of Honolulu



Maui County



Hawai'i County



Kaua'i County

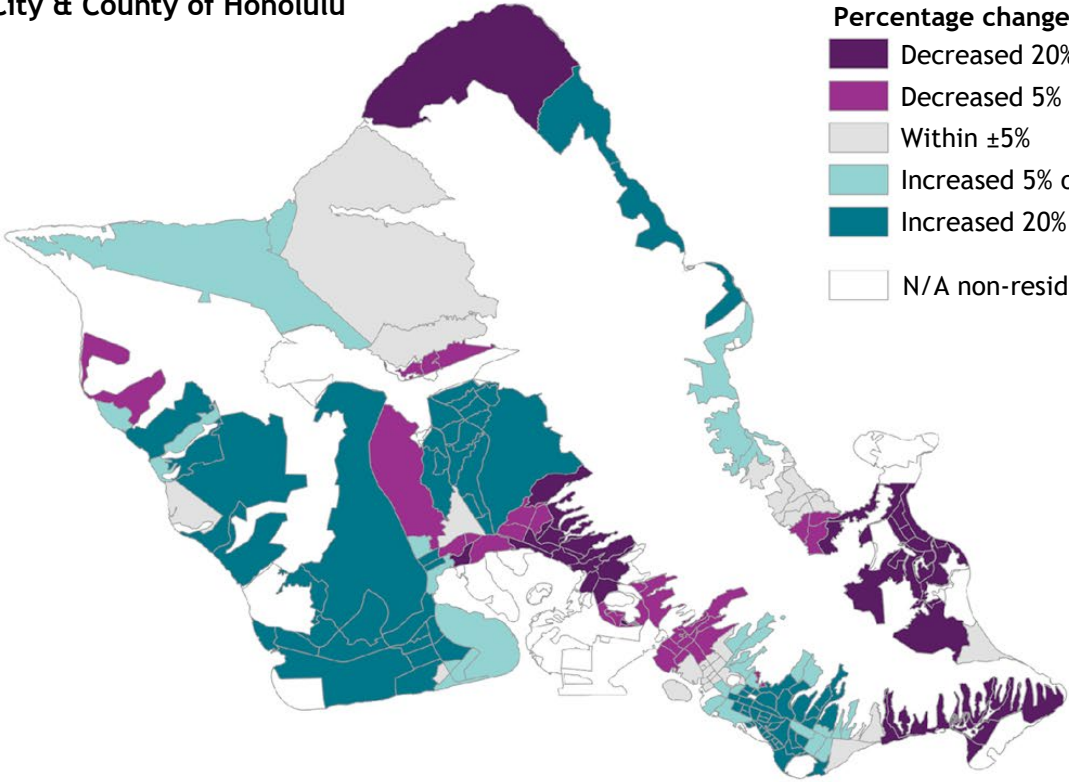


Changes in Quality by Census Tract

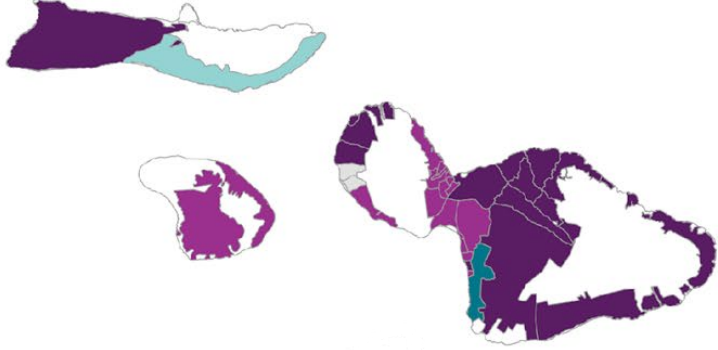
City & County of Honolulu

Percentage change

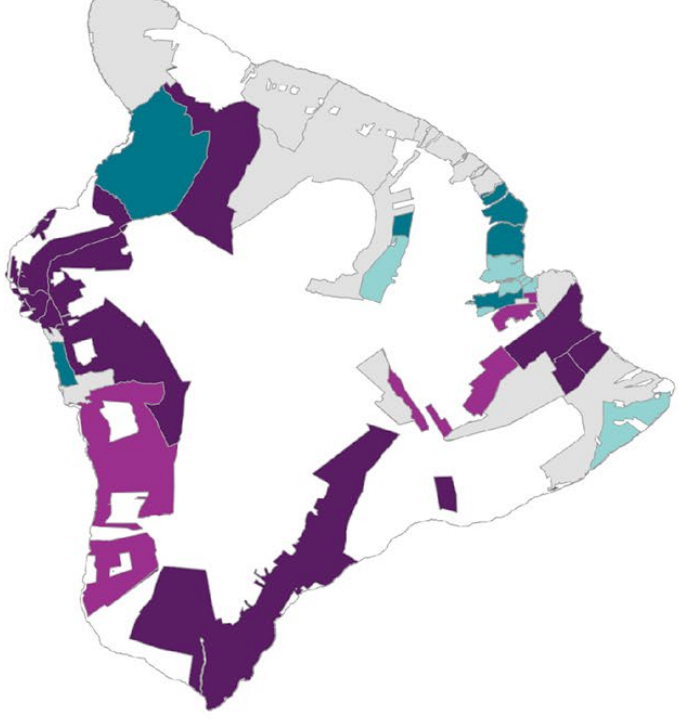
- Decreased 20% or more
- Decreased 5% or more & less than 20%
- Within $\pm 5\%$
- Increased 5% or more & less than 20%
- Increased 20% or more
- N/A non-residential



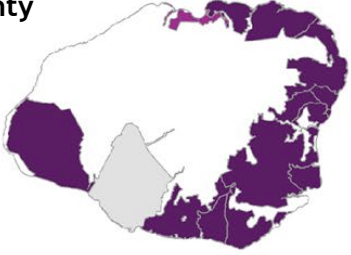
Maui County



Hawai'i County



Kaua'i County



Suggested citation: Azuma, J., DeBaryshe, B. D., & Stern, I. R. (2024). *Early Childhood Care and Education in Hawai'i: 2019-2022 Changes in Access*. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Center on the Family.

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