



Sustaining 'Ohana Based Learning in Hawai'i

Ensuring Family Child Interactive Learning (FCIL) Access for Every Keiki (Child), 'Ohana (Family), and Community

"I ulu nō ka lālā i ke kumu."



E Ho Mai

Composed by: Edith Kanaka'ole



E Ho Mai

E hō mai ka 'ike mai luna mai ē,
O nā mea huna no'eau o nā mele ē,
E hō mai, e hō mai, e hō mai ē.

ECFC Sustaining Family Child Interaction Learning Programs in Hawai'i

Ewelina

Introductions



Papamanawa (Agenda)



- 1 What are Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) Programs
- 2 Reach and Impact: Data at a Glance
- 3 Cultural Foundation
- 4 Funding Cliff & Urgency
- 5 Systemic Impact
- 6 Call to Action: Public Investment
- 7 Current Actions
- 8 Closing: 'A'ohe Hana nui ke alu 'ia

Family Child Interaction Learning



Family Child Interaction Learning

Free, community-based early learning programs grounded in Hawaiian culture values and language.

Intergenerational programs that meet 'ohana (families) where they are.

Caregiver-centered learning that strengthens confidence and keiki readiness.

A vital part of Hawai'i's early learning mixed-delivery system, including workforce development and on-the-job training.



Family Child Interaction Learning Programs

Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE)

Keiki Steps

Keiki O Ka 'Āina (KOKA)

Parent Participation Program

Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF)

Tūtū & Me

Ka Pa'alana-Homeless Family Education Program

ECFC Convening on Family Child Interaction Learning Mo'olelo and Impact

Cultural Foundation

Hawaiian values, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian Language), and place-based learning create strong foundations for identity, belonging, and early brain development.



**Grounded in
Hawaiian Values**



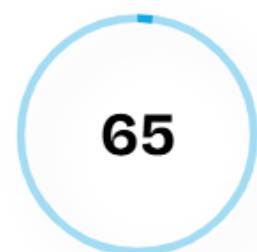
**'Ōlelo Hawai'i
(Hawaiian Language)**



**Place-Based &
Hands-on Education**

Statewide Reach of Our Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) Partners

A statewide network serving over 3,000 makua and 2,000 keiki – strengthening learning through Hawaiian culture-based education and 'ohana.



FCILs Statewide
65



Number of Keiki
(Children) Served
2,036



Number of
Caregivers
Served
3,197



Number of Early
Learning Staff
Employed
192



The Funding Gap: From 65 to 3

Without sustained investment, Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) programs face closures that will reduce early learning access for keiki across rural and high-need communities.

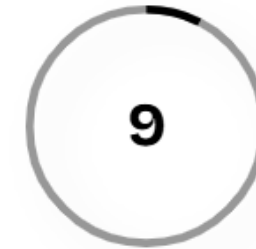


23 'Ōkākōpa 2025 FCIL Partner Convening Ecosystem Review



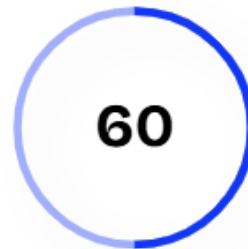
Number of FCILs Statewide

3



Number of Early Learning Staff Employed

9



Number of Keiki (Children) Served

60



Number of Caregivers Served

120

Explanation of Funding Loss

Loss of NHEP (Federal Funding)

1 Areas of Vulnerability

- Rural communities with socio-economic issues that FCIL programs support.
- Communities with limited access to resources.
- Loss of sites will widen access disparities and reduce readiness for kindergarten.

2 What's at stake for ‘Ohana (Families)

- Decreased access to early learning opportunities.
- Loss of parent choice
- Hawai'i's mixed-delivery early learning system becomes more fragile without FCIL participation.



'Ohana (Family) and Cultural Impact

Bridging Gaps in Access, Readiness, and Equity

1 Intergenerational Transmission Weakens

FCIL provides structured spaces for families to learn alongside their keiki (children). If FCILs disappear, we lose intentional settings that nurture intergenerational practice, language, and 'ike (knowledge).

2 Cultural Continuity Gaps Widen Across Generations

When culturally grounded early learning disappears, families with fewer cultural resources experience deeper loss, amplifying inequities in identity, belonging, and cultural fluency over time.



Systemic Impact

Bridging Gaps in Access, Readiness, and Equity

1 Workforce Vulnerability

- Loss of ECE workforce pipeline
- Loss of development of Hawaiian Culture Based Teachers

2 Cultural Knowledge Becomes Program-Dependent Instead of System-Embedded

- Without FCIL, ‘ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) and ‘ohana (family)-based practice rely on individual programs or champions rather than being normalized across the early learning system.



Call To Action: Investment

Investing in Hawai'i's Future: Sustaining FCILs Together



1

Call to Action

- Recognize FCILs as essential contributors to public Pre-K and Kindergarten Readiness.
- Generate collaborative funding solutions so FCILs are sustainable in Hawai'i.
- Invest in FCIL workforce pathways that strengthen Hawai'i's future early learning ecosystem.

Current Actions

Sustaining Momentum for Hawai‘i’s Youngest Learners

1 Advocacy

- Elevate ‘ohana (Family) stories and impact data
- Unified FCIL message and outreach materials
- Engage community champions and allies

2 Legislative Outreach

- Briefings with Lieutenant Governor, Executive Office on Early Learning, and legislators
- Promote sustained funding and workforce supports
- Organize ‘ohana (family) presence at the Capital

3 Partner Alignment

- Quarterly convenings for shared strategy
- Share and finalize FCIL one-pager (policy brief)
- Strengthen data sharing and collaboration

4 Policy Positioning

- Define FCILs within Hawai‘i’s mixed-delivery system
- Demonstrate equity impact through statewide data
- Develop awareness of workforce development pathways



A photograph of two young boys, one in a blue shirt and one in a red shirt, sitting at a table and playing with colorful toys. The boy in the blue shirt is holding a red toy, and the boy in the red shirt is holding a blue toy. They are both looking down at their toys with concentration. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or play area with shelves and other toys.

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

"No challenge is too great when we work together."

Together, we can ensure that every keiki (child) in Hawai‘i continues to learn, grow, and thrive through ‘ohana (family)-centered, culture-rich early learning experiences.

ECFC Convening on Family Child Interaction Learning Mo'olelo and Impact

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Learn more about our FCIL Program speakers



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