

Aloha Commit to Keiki Team,

Mahalo for reaching out and for your interest in an accurate update on the progress of these initiatives.

For the co-location of affordable housing and childcare in West O'ahu, there are currently two sites owned by the City for the development of affordable housing projects with childcare facilities:

- 1) Parkway Village in Kapolei broke ground last year and includes space for six early learning classrooms. In January of this year, the Charter School commission issued the first-ever pre-k only charter school to PACT, who will operate four of these six classrooms. The other classrooms will include one trauma-informed preschool classroom and one family child interaction learning program.
- 2) In Kunia at the old Box Car lot, five childcare classrooms are included in the early design plans and, currently, alternative concepts/layouts for the project are being envisioned to deliver the most affordable housing units in the most economical fashion.

In addition, the Early Childhood Resource Coordinator has been meeting with early learning stakeholders regarding implementation of the early learning programs at the Kapolei location and assessing scalability. She will also be attending the monthly Affordable Housing Working Group meetings to identify community needs as it relates to households with families and young keiki.

Here are a few cost estimates as it relates to the early learning projects funded through various partnerships:

- The Park Village at Kapolei total project cost is \$199 million
- Estimates to construct the early learning classrooms: roughly \$3 million
- Annual costs to operate the six early learning classrooms: roughly \$1.8 million

Regarding housing for domestic violence survivors and their keiki, the City provides just over \$193,000 annually for housing vouchers for survivors of domestic violence and was also recently awarded \$3 million dollars for the acquisition of property for the purpose of housing domestic violence survivors.

For GIAs, the GIA Advisory Commission recommended a total of \$9.9 million in grants, of which \$2.2 million is to be awarded to programs focusing on children, such as the Keiki o Ka 'Āina Preschool, PACT, Read to Me International, Family Hui, HUGS etc. The Council approved these recommendations on June 5, 2024. The full report can be viewed [here](#).

The Mayor is committed to building an action-oriented team to work in the childcare field. The team will engage community stakeholders, and leverage all activities in and across governments and communities to better serve the needs of our youngest keiki and their families in accessing more accessible and affordable childcare. With the addition of a new Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, the administration has worked to build its capacity and will be adding a new Office Assistant immediately to the Coordinator's team. This Early Childhood Resource function resides in the Department of Community Services, giving her access to all the human services activities the city has to offer, and the Coordinator is included in all Cabinet meetings, which provides opportunities to collaborate with key leaders across the City.

The City's total personnel funds solely dedicated to early childhood now total \$160k.

With increased capacity, the Coordinator is focused on ensuring federal and state policies are implemented in ways that address the unique needs of O'ahu's communities and exploring creative financing mechanisms to infuse more fiscal support to the field. In her first 3 months, the Coordinator has spearheaded the application for two substantial grants that would potentially secure an additional \$1.2 million to bolster family engagement and access to early learning opportunities and expand the first-ever ECE apprenticeship program in the State.

The City's Coordinator is also leading the charge in engaging childcare professionals through a series of stakeholder sessions. So far, council members in each district have committed to attending these sessions, further demonstrating the City's collaborative support for these efforts. These stakeholder sessions will be instrumental in shaping the City's 3-year Early Childhood Action Plan. Though still in the preliminary stages, this plan is being crafted with the Urban Institute's Upward Mobility Framework as the foundation, which was designed to help communities create conditions that enhance economic mobility and reduce racial inequities. We selected this framework as it is reflective of the City's ultimate goal to foster comprehensive upward mobility, and we recognize that advancements in early childhood will significantly influence economic success, community engagement, and health outcomes, thus contributing to the holistic development and prosperity of our communities.

Collectively, these efforts mark a significant leap forward in our Administration's commitment to nurture the future of O'ahu's keiki and we are excited to continue laying the groundwork to build a strong foundation for their lifelong success and well-being.