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STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
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TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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December 31, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

Enclosed is the following report submitted in accordance with the provisions of Act 129, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, Relating to the Family Resource Centers Pilot Program.

Per section 93-16, HRS, this report will be available for electronic review on the Department's website at <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/reports/legislative-reports/>. For questions regarding this report, contact Katherine Korenaga, Family Resource Center Coordinator, at kkorenaga@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R I Yamane".

Ryan I. Yamane
Director

Enclosure

c: Governor's Office
Lieutenant Governor's Office
Department of Budget and Finance
Legislative Auditor
Legislative Reference Bureau Library (1 hard copy)
Hawaii State Public Library, System State Publications Distribution Center (2 hard copies, one electronic copy)
Hamilton Library, Serials Department, University of Hawaii (1 hard copy)

REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD HAWAI'I STATE LEGISLATURE
2026

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ACT
129, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAI'I 2022,
RELATING TO FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DECEMBER 2025

Overview

Governor David Y. Ige signed Act 129, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, into law on June 27, 2022. In Act 129, the Legislature "finds that many families with children in Hawai'i are impacted by the continuing health and economic consequences of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and need an array of services."

Act 129 authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish a five-year family resource center (FRC) pilot program and fund one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) family resource center coordinator. DHS is authorized to lead, develop, and implement a statewide network of school- and community-based family resource centers (FRCs), establish definitions, standards, and best practices for FRCs, and develop data and referral system tracking needs and protocols that comply with applicable state and federal laws.

Act 129 requires DHS to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2023, 2024, 2025, **2026**, and 2027, providing an update on the pilot program's progress. This is the **fourth** report of the FRC pilot program.

Introduction

The trend across the nation is on what is described as "America's best-kept secret" – Family Resource Centers, according to Andrew Russo, Co-Founder and Director of the National Family Support Network (NFSN).¹ Family Resource Centers (FRCs) play a critical role in preventing child abuse and neglect; strengthening children and families; connecting families to agencies and programs; fostering community-level coordination; connecting families to resources and support systems; and increasing family engagement, all of which lead to greater student success in school. Additionally, various studies show that communities with family resource centers show lower rates of child abuse and neglect reports, lower numbers of children entering foster care, and an increase in parents or custodians gaining employment within one year after participating in services provided through the centers.



<https://www.nationalfamilysupportnetwork.org/>



Another initiative is the 2Gen movement,² which aims to deliver services helping young children and their families become economically stable. Ideally, programs are whole-family-focused, not solely child or parent-focused. 'Ohana Nui is Hawai'i's adaptation, reflecting our multigenerational households, addressing the social determinants of health, housing, food and nutrition, education and economic supports,

¹ Family Resource Centers and Family Support and Strengthening Networks

² <https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/>

well-being, and social capital or social connections. ‘Ohana Nui, the multigenerational approach to end address and end poverty is incorporated in statute at section 26-14, HRS.

‘Ohana Nui Pillars



Key Elements

1.

Co-creation of programs & solutions

2.

Meeting families where they dream

3.

Leveraging of existing resources & seek new resources

4.

Investment in IT modernization

5.

Building generative & empowered partnerships.

Background of Family Resource Centers

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawai‘i applied for and took part in the National Governors Association (NGA) Child and Family Well-Being Learning Cohort 1 (2020-2021) and 2 (2021-2022). Cohort 1 members wanted to create a one-stop shop or No Wrong Door to help children and families navigate public assistance and other resources during the pandemic. NGA connected Cohort 1 with the National Family Support Network (NFSN). Cohort 2 members continued exploring family resource centers (FRCs) and drafted legislation, proposing a 5-year pilot project with \$300,000 for one (1) FTE, training, and strategic planning. Members reviewed Hawai‘i examples of earlier pilot projects, and analyzed FRC legislation of other states.

Issues discussed were:

- Standardization of FRCs. Community-based FRCs have existed in Hawaii since the 1990s. Non-profit organizations lead these FRCs with a variety of funding sources and have flexibility and autonomy to provide services identified for their community or populations they serve. School-based FRCs began in 2020 and operate based on the school’s identified needs, available staffing, and resources.
- Maintaining confidentiality of family needs.
- Streamlining approach for serving families.

- Using a universal approach; no judgment, not based on income or status, but on the family's need.
- Increase accessibility to meet families where they are, or where they can get to easily, or where there is free and accessible parking.
- Ensure sustainability - funding and personnel resources.
- More input from youth and young adults (14 – 26 years old) and from those with lived experience.
- Development of a pilot project; operationalize program, document implementation, identify successes and roadblocks, lessons learns/future improvements.

Ideally, FRCs are welcoming hubs of community services that are multigenerational and multicultural, and provide opportunities designed to support and strengthen families. The role of each family resource center is to connect families with comprehensive, coordinated services that help them achieve their own goals for success. Programs at each center are tailored to the culture, resources, and needs of the community they serve and focus on building on each family's and family member's strengths.

The added goal of school-based FRCs is to support a child's educational needs. The positive outcomes of FRCs are stronger, more resilient families, a reduction in reports of child abuse and neglect, increased family voice, parent leadership development, and workforce and professional development.

Importantly, FRCs are reflective and responsive to the specific needs and interests of the children and families in communities.

Updates to the FRC Pilot Program 2025

The following are accomplishments as set forth in Act 129, SLH 2022, as of December 1, 2025.

- (1) Criteria that the departments intend to use to evaluate potential family resource centers; completed.

Developed FRC Readiness Checklist

- Phase 1: Interest and Readiness Assessment
- Phase 2: Establishing a new FRC
- Phase 3: Building the FRC infrastructure
- Phase 4: Supporting FRC

- (2) Milestones that the departments expect to meet in establishing one or more family resource centers throughout the five-year pilot program.

- a) Expanded FRCs across the state with blended funding. Currently, there are eight (8) Neighborhood Places in communities statewide, 24 school-based family resource centers, one (1) FRC at a correctional facility, and a mobile family resource center on Hawaii Island.
- b) Discounted training, technical assistance, networking, and coaching are offered to FRCs and family strengthening organizations. In addition to training opportunities, the [Hawai'i 'Ohana Support Network](#) (HOSN), the local FRC network, participates in the national FRC Coalition and related advocacy efforts. These advocacy efforts resulted in President Joe Biden signing H.R. 9076, the Supporting America's Children and Families Act, Public Law

118-258, on January 4, 2025. The Supporting America's Children and Families Act defines family resource centers and includes FRCs as family support services eligible for federal reimbursement. The Act provides the FRCs as:

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER.— “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘family resource center’ means a community or school-based hub of support services for families that— (i) utilizes an approach that is multi-generational, strengths-based, and family-centered; (ii) reflects, and is responsive to, community needs and interests; (iii) provides support at no or low cost for participants; and (iv) builds communities of peer support for families, including kinship families, to develop social connections that reduce isolation and stress.”³

- c) DHS and the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR)-Waiawa Correctional Facility (WCF) partner to provide oversight for the pilot program at the ‘Ohana Visit and Resource Center at the WCF as part of Act 125, SLH 2022 relating to Children and Family of incarcerated individuals. DHS combined the efforts of Act 125 (WCF) with Act 129 (FRCs) to include families with an incarcerated parent and those engaged in reentry efforts.

The ‘Ohana Visit and Resource Center at Waiawa Correctional Facility opened in April 2024. The initial courses resulted in two graduation ceremonies held on December 10, 2024. Eighteen (18) fathers graduated from the *InsideOut Dad*® parenting course, and seven (7) dads who graduated from *The 7 Habits*® on the Inside by Stephen R. Covey, modified and refined by the California Department of Corrections Chaplaincy. Since then, more dads took the courses, practiced their parenting skills with special visits with their children on the playground, and engaged with their ‘ohana on quarterly Keiki Day celebrations.

As of October 2025, none of the dads who have taken the courses have been readmitted to Waiawa Correctional Facility. This is a preliminary indication that building parenting skills and reconnecting fathers to children and other family members can positively impact fathers reentering the community after incarceration and can change the trajectory of recidivism.

- d) Hawai‘i is an active member network of NFSN, and Hawaii network members are active participants on the Board of Directors, Steering Committee, Established Network group, and Mobile Family Resource Center Learning Cohort.

(3) Specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable, and time-based performance measures that the departments expect to meet by the end of each fiscal year.

To enhance coordination and effectiveness across FRCs, state departments are exploring a unified data collection framework based on the nationally recognized **Protective Factors**

³ [H.R. 9076 – “Supporting America’s Children and Families Act,”](#) p. 6. Sec. 106 (b). Modernization; Reducing Administrative Burden, Sec.431(a) (42U.S.C. 629a(a)), Allowing Support for Family Resource Centers.

Framework. These protective factors related to preventing or reducing child abuse and neglect include:

- **Parental resilience**
- **Social connections**
- **Knowledge of parenting and child development**
- **Concrete support in times of need**
- **Social and emotional competence of children**

A preliminary review of School Fiscal Year 2024, covering nine school-based FRCs, highlights key strengths in social connections and in concrete supports, such as food assistance, clothing, diapers, and other essential household items. However, areas identified for further development include programs or activities to promote **parental resilience, parenting knowledge, and children's emotional and social development.**

Similarly, FRCs in communities have strengths and challenges across Neighborhood Places. According to one of the Neighborhood Places, “[p]arenting support is one of the most critical needs in the community. Many caregivers are navigating complex challenges such as financial stress, housing instability, and personal trauma, all of which can impact their ability to respond to their children's behaviors with patience, consistency, and positive guidance.” In addition, “[c]aregivers often share feelings of overwhelm [sic], isolation, or uncertainty when managing their children's emotional and behavioral needs. We've seen a growing interest among families in strengthening parenting skills, establishing healthier routines at home, and improving communication strategies that foster connection rather than conflict.”

Notably, the FRC at Waiawa Correctional Facility demonstrates notable strengths in the very areas where school-based and community FRCs face challenges. Incarcerated fathers participating in programs like *“Inside Out Dad”* and *“7 Habits on the Inside”* are actively engaging in parenting education and child development training. These efforts have led to measurable improvements in parent-child interactions during supervised “special visits.”

According to the Waiawa Warden, children who once arrived angry and emotionally withdrawn now leave visits with smiles, hugs, and a renewed sense of connection. These outcomes reflect the transformative potential of targeted parenting programs, even in correctional settings, and underscore the importance of emotional support for both children and caregivers. The context of fathers preparing to leave the correctional facility and reenter their families' lives and community is also an important motivating factor at the Waiawa FRC.

To ensure quality, aligned evaluation, and accountability, departments are also working toward a strategic plan to establish standards and measurable outcomes across all FRCs statewide.

- (4) Controls that the departments intend to use to monitor and oversee family resource centers.

Currently, individuals may access training in the NFSN Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support. As part of the two-year certification, individuals are requested to complete a program self-assessment. School-based FRCs initiate and recruit parents for the Parent Advisory Committees. In addition, FRC program self-assessments and evaluations are collected and reviewed.

(5) Data and referral system tracking needs and protocols that comply with applicable state and federal laws.

The departments are continuing to gather data on the current protocols implemented by community- and school-based FRCs. State departments will make recommendations by the end of the pilot program.

To further the FRC development, the departments engaged in collaborative efforts such as:

- Act 129, SLH 2022 MOU 2.0 development with the Department of Education (DOE), Department of Health (DOH), and DHS,
- DOE Oceanview area schools ([Hawai'i Island](#)),
- DOE Principals Meeting (statewide),
- Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL),
 - Family Engagement in Early Childhood,
 - State Plan and Building Block Committee (BBC) 2 on 'Ohana Partnerships and Engagement, BBC #4 on Early Childhood Workforce, and BBC #5 on Access to Early Care and Learning Opportunities,
 - First Five Hawaii (EOEL/HCAN partnership),
- Early Childhood Family Resource Fair, City and County of Honolulu, "Information Booth"
 - July 19, 2025 – Wai'anae,
 - August 27, 2025 - KEY Project, Kahalu'u, and
- Department of Health, Children with Special Health Needs Branch Conference, "Information Booth."



The [Hawai'i 'Ohana Support Network](#) (HOSN) provides support for family resource centers/neighborhood places across the state of Hawai'i. Each family resource center/neighborhood place provides a safe, accessible place for families to receive support services and referrals. HOSN provides training, coaching, technical assistance, and membership options for existing FRCs, organizations interested in becoming FRCs, and communities seeking to establish an FRC.

HOSN Mission

To promote pono (successful) outcomes for all keiki (children), 'ōpio (youth), 'ohana (families), and kaiāulu (communities) by leveraging the collective impact of family resource centers and family strengthening programs; and by encouraging quality family support and strengthening practices and policies.

HOSN Vision

Cultivate growth by planting seeds of aloha and pono (righteousness) for every child, youth, family, and community.

Some of the FRC presentations at the national and local levels.

National:

- March 26, 2025 – National Family Support Network/Casey Family Programs Strategic Consultant Webinar, “Supporting FRCs in Hawai‘i,”
- May 6, 2025 – National Family Support Network, “National Forum/Capitol Visits with Hawai‘i Congressional Delegates – Senator Brian Schatz, Senator Mazie Hirono, Representative Ed Case, Representative Jill Tokuda,
- May 28, 2025 – IEL Community Schools & Family Engagement Conference, “HOSN Overview,”
- July 2, 2025 – National Family Support Network, “HOSN Mobile FRC,”
- September 22, 2025 – National Family Support Network, “School-Based FRCs in Hawai‘i,”
- October 23, 2025 - National Family Support Network, “Indigenous Leadership Insights for Stronger Families,” and
- FRC site visits:
 - Virginia - Mobile FRC
 - Minnesota – school-based FRC
 - Wisconsin – community-based FRC
 - Louisiana – community-based FRC

Local:

- April 4, 2025 – DOE Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Conference, “FRC Updates & Next Steps,”
- April 9, 2025 – UH Manoa Family Engagement PED3 Cohort, “Family Engagement and Hawai‘i FRCs,”
- May 20, 2025 – Hawai‘i State Coalition for Community Schools, “Family Engagement & Student Success,”
- July 7, 2025 – He‘e, “School-Based FRCS in Hawai‘i,”
- July 23, 2025 – Community School Coordinator Skill Building Session, “Asset-Based Mindset,”
- August 5, 2025 – Parent for Public Schools, “Interview with Parents for Public Schools on Olelo,”
- August 7, 2025 – Kaimukī Middle School, “FRCs and Engaging English Learner Families,”
- August 14, 2025 – No Wrong Doors Initiative, “Mobile FRC and Hawai‘i ‘Ohana Support Network,” and
- September 26, 2025 – ‘Aha Lokahi Family & Community Engagement Conference, “Partnering for Successful ‘Ohana Engagement.”

HOSN activities:

- Co-facilitates bi-monthly meetings.
- Maintains HOSN contact lists.
- Manages HOSN website.
- Produces and sends bi-monthly e-Newsletters.
- Provides training sessions (see above).
- Provides coaching, technical assistance, and networking opportunities for school-based FRCs.
- Participation in the NFSN
 - Member, Board of Directors,
 - Member, Steering Committee,
 - Member, Establishing Network,
 - Member, Monthly Meetings,



- Member, Mobile FFC Learning Cohort,
- In-Person Member Convening on May 5-9, 2025, in Washington, D.C., and
- Panelist at the virtual “Family Support Summit: Family Support Summit: Focus on Fathers, Parent Leaders, and Sustainability ” on October 23-24, 2025.

Training offered and conducted:

- NFSN Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support (2-year certification),
- Bringing the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work,
- Parent Leadership Training: The Key to a Successful Family Resource Center,
- Developing and Sustaining Effective Parent Advisory Committees (PAC), and
- New Family Resource Centers Information Sessions.

List of School-based FRCs by Island:

Maui

Lokelani Intermediate School (Kīhei)

Moloka‘i

Maunaloa Elementary School (Maunaloa)*

Kaua‘i

Kapa‘a Intermediate School (Kapa‘a)

O‘ahu

Wai‘anae Elementary School (Wai‘anae)

Wai‘anae High School (Wai‘anae)*

Nānākuli High & Intermediate School (Nānākuli)

Mākaha Elementary School (Mākaha)*

Barbers Point Elementary School (Kapōlei)*

Sanford B. Dole Middle School (Honolulu)*

Princess Ruth Ke‘elikōlani Middle School (Honolulu)*

Kaimukī High School (Honolulu)*

Hawai‘i School for the Deaf and the Blind (Honolulu)*

[Waimānalo Elementary & Intermediate School \(Waimānalo\)](#)

Blanche Pope Elementary School (Waimānalo)

[Kailua High School \(Kailua\)](#)

Kailua Elementary School (Kailua)

Keolu Elementary School (Kailua)

Waiāhole Elementary School (Kāne‘ohe)

Hawai‘i Island

Honoka‘a High & Intermediate School (Honoka‘a)

Konawaena High School (Kealakekua)

Hōnaunau Elementary School (Captain Cook)

Kealakehe Intermediate School (Kailua-Kona)*

Nā‘ālehu Elementary School (Nā‘ālehu)

Ka'ū High & Pahala Elementary School (Pahala)*

*The previously reported emerging school-based FRCs are now supported by the Congressionally Directed Community Grant for FFY24-26. The grant supports the development of up to ten (10) school-based family resource centers and a mobile van for Hawai'i Island on the Hilo side. Outreach Services will be coordinated with the Department of Education, Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Area.

Community-based FRCs contracted to Blueprint for Change

- Kaua'i:
 - Hale Ho'omalu (Kapa'a)
 - Nana's House (Waimea)
- Maui:
 - Neighborhood Place of Wailuku
- O'ahu:
 - Neighborhood Place of Kalihi
 - Waianae Neighborhood Place
- Hawai'i Island:
 - Neighborhood Place of Puna
 - Neighborhood Place of Kona

Hale Kipa's community-based FRC

- Hale Kū Ola (Honouliuli)

Correctional Facility:

- Waiawa Correctional Facility

Mobile FRC (MFRC):

- Sneak preview: Neighborhood Place of Kalihi (Oahu viewing)



On August 18, 2025, the MFRC made its way to the Parent and Children Together (PACT) site for a sneak preview before being shipped to Hawai'i Island.

- Neighborhood Place of Puna

The Mobile Family Resource Center (MFRC) was dedicated on November 17, 2025, at the [Connections Point Church of the Nazarene](#) in Kea'au. The MFRC is a community and family-strengthening initiative designed to provide essential family resources directly to families, underserved schools, and rural communities on Hawai'i Island—with a focus on East Hawai'i. Click [here](#) to view a short video about the MFRC.

Aligned with the mission of the Neighborhood Place of Puna, the MFRC fosters thriving families and prevents child abuse and neglect by addressing service gaps, particularly in rural and high-need areas where geographic isolation and financial hardship limit access to resources.

Project Objectives:

- Provide services in underserved communities in Hawai'i County;
- Deliver essential concrete support to families;
- Provide parenting support, resource connectivity, and follow-up;
Establish partnerships with local organizations and schools, and assist locally facilitated community engagement events and workshops to support local communities in creating family support networks; and
- Ensure sustainability through a strong data collection framework and support for additional fixed Family Resource Centers.

Initial Target Areas & Schools

- Ka'ū, Kea'au, Pāhoa Complex Area (with plans to expand)
 - Mountain View Elementary School;
 - Kea'au Elementary, Intermediate & High Schools;
 - Keonepoko Elementary School; and
 - Pāhoa Elementary School.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DOE – Ka'ū, Kea'au, Pāhoa Complex Area (in progress).

Plan

- The departments are exploring the establishment of a permanent program - a statewide network of family resource centers. Key stakeholders are being interviewed, and their feedback will aid in determining the pilot program's next steps of strategic planning for FY26 and potential legislation in FY27.
- Continued quality improvement - Review other state outcomes/outputs/annual surveys and program assessments for quality improvement;
- Provide coaching, technical assistance, and networking for new and existing school-based family resource centers;
- Offer training/workforce development opportunities: 1) NFSN Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support, 2) Bringing the Protective Factors to Life in Your Work, 3) Parent

- Leadership: The Key to a Successful Family Resource Center, and 4) Developing and Sustaining Effective Parent Advisory Committees; and
- Explore other funding opportunities.

Funding

The pilot program's current budget includes funds to develop further and implement a statewide network of school- and community-based FRCs' consultative services, to establish definitions, standards, and best practices, to identify and align available services, goals, and outcomes, and to develop referral and data-tracking protocols. To sustain and further FRC's development, the state will procure services to support existing FRCs and cultivate new FRCs, including start-ups, with technical assistance, training, coaching, furnishings, support for workforce development training sessions and follow-up, and expansion of the FRC network.

DHS will work with its Social Services Division to draw down or claim Title IVB funds available to FRCs, as well as pursue other public- and private-sector funding and grant opportunities.