

THE BACK PAGE

(EHS) Programs will honor and build upon the unique strengths and abilities of the children, families and communities they serve...

Statement of the Advisory Committee/Services for Families with Infants & Toddlers, U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services

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Molokai EHS Child Care Center

Molokai's first licensed Child Care Center will be located near Molokai High and Intermediate Schools, to best serve teen parents and others in need of services. "I am very excited about the opportunity presented by the EHS Child Care Center," said Claire Iveson, Director of EHS agency partner, Molokai Family Support Center.

Join the Family of Friends

I would like to support children and families in our community

I enclose \$ 25 Membership \$ 50 Supporter
 \$100 Patron \$250 Benefactor
 \$500 Sustainer Other

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I would like to volunteer to help with special events or in other areas. Please call me at _____



Family Matters is published quarterly by Maui Family Support Services



Family MATTERS

Maui Family Support Services, Inc. Vol. 3, Issue 1 February 1999

Issues concerning families with young children

MFSS introduces new program

Early Head Start

We are pleased to announce the start up of the MFSS' newest program, *Early Head Start for Maui County*. Serving the islands of Maui, Lanai and Molokai, EHS is designed for low income families and works in partnership with parents in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children.



*Bettye S. Williams
Executive Director*

The goals of this federally funded program are to provide safe and enriching environments to promote early development of physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth of infants and toddlers. For families who qualify, the enrollment age for children is from 0 to 13 months. Services may continue until the child is three years old. Emphasizing prenatal enrollment of families to promote early and continuous medical care during pregnancy, EHS offers education on risks to fetal development, dynamics of birth and the post partum period, as well as information on breast feeding and infant nutrition. In addition, there will be limited child care subsidies available to enrolled families, based on income.

On Maui and Lanai, services will be provided in the family home by a staff of specially trained home visitors. On Molokai, services will be available at a licensed child care center, the first on the island, which will be operated by the Molokai Family Support Center. EHS is working to establish partnerships with other community providers on all islands and will collaborate with them in producing a seamless comprehensive network of services for EHS families. Thus far, twenty-five other agencies have already agreed to partner with EHS in the delivery of services.

If you are a parent interested in information on services and eligibility, please call Carol White at 242-0900, ext. 231.

New Home for MFSS

Maui Family Support Services

Maui: (808) 242-0900 Fax: (808) 249-2800

Lanai: (808) 565-7484

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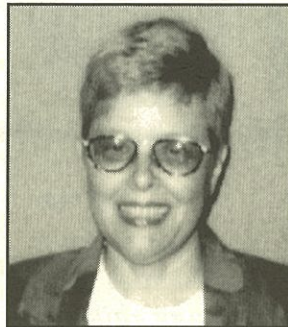
Maui Family Support Services, Inc.
333 Dairy Road, Ste. 201
Kahului, HI 96732



Community

Community Building, Cornerstone of EHS

Early Head Start accomplishes community building through community representation in the program's Policy Council or the Health Services Advisory Committee. If you have a willingness, an interest, or an expertise and a genuine concern for families, please consider contributing some time and thoughtful effort as a member of one of these groups. Parents with young children are especially encouraged.



Carol White, EHS
Program Coordinator

The importance of the EHS program lies in the age group it serves (0-3 years). Current research shows that ninety percent of brain growth takes place during the first three years of life. During this period, the impact of environmental factors on brain development is dramatic, specific, and affects how children develop, learn, cope with stress and handle their emotions. The results will influence how a child functions through adolescence and even adulthood.

Home visiting staff for Maui and Lanai are still being recruited. If you are interested in information concerning these positions, or are interested in becoming a part of the community building groups, please call Carol White, EHS Program Coordinator at 242-0900 ext. 231.

* Carol White worked for MFSS as a Clinical Supervisor for Healthy Start and Family Focus programs prior to her appointment as EHS Program Coordinator. A nurse for more than 30 years, Carol specialized for 15 years in community health nursing, which included administering programs serving pregnant women, infants and toddlers.

5th Annual MFSS Family Resource Fair

Plans are under way for the Annual Family Resource Fair, organized and presented each year by the MFSS Staff. The event will be held on Tuesday, March 30th at the Wailuku Community Center, from 10 to 2. The theme this year is *The First Years Last Forever*.

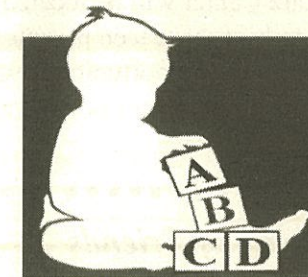
Representatives of community agencies and groups will be present to discuss their services with family members. Child care will be provided, enabling family members to take advantage of the opportunity to make contacts and gather information. Mike Beck of Fun On The Run, will generously provide a children's activity station, as he has each year. There is no charge for the event which also includes lunch. The Fair is cosponsored by Maui County and has won the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition State Award for outstanding programs that promote maternal and infant health through public education and coalition efforts.

Chaired by MFSS Family Facilitator, Liz Miller, the Resource Fair Committee has been working hard to organize this year's event. If a Staff member contacts your business, soliciting a door prize or food donation, your generosity will be greatly appreciated. If you have not been contacted but would like to contribute please call Pat at 242-0900.

Community

Good Beginnings Grant

A \$15,000 grant from the Rev. Takie Okumura Family Fund was given to Maui Family Support Services for the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Team to establish a Good Beginnings program at Makawao School for families in that area.



The program offers free classes for parents or related caregivers of infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Weekly classes will be devoted to parent-child activities and child development topics including setting up a safe environment for the young child, understanding language development, providing positive discipline and getting a child ready for school.

Also as part of the program, parents of Makawao School kindergartners will have the opportunity to attend special parent-child activity sessions three times during the school year. Activity sessions will be followed by a discussion period to assist parents in learning more about their child's kindergarten experience.

Class size is limited. The next available classes will begin Feb. 16 and April 13. The Okumura Family Fund is administered by the Hawaii Community Foundation and recognizes programs with proven techniques for strengthening families. For more information call Good Beginnings at 242-1608.



Maui Commission on Children and Youth

An advisory body to the Mayor and Council of Maui County, The Commission on Children and Youth began to take shape in the Spring of 1997, when then County Council Member Alice Lee suggested such a Commission be established. As Chair of the County's Child Care subcommittee, Ms. Lee felt strongly that early childhood issues could be dealt with more adequately. The Commission was officially formed on May 18, 1998, by former Mayor Linda Lingle.

Bettye Williams of MFSS and Terry Lock of Good Beginnings, who serve on the Commission, are among the original appointees, as well as Chair, Barbara Tanner and Alexander Akuna, Patricia Cyr, Katherine Fujimori, Brian McCafferty, Anita Tacderas and Kalani Tassil.

The group advocates for programs and policies that promote the well-being of children and youth, and makes recommendation to protect and strengthen families so that children and youth can achieve their full potential as citizens of our community.

THE BACK PAGE

"I want people who struggle and work daily for children to know they are valued...I hope people who choose to care for children, and whose programs and services are usually cut first and deepest, will carry on anyway. Serving children well is not a job. It is a calling."

Marian Wright Edelman, Children's Defense Fund

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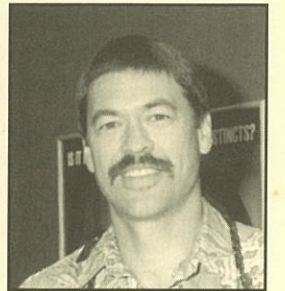
Maui Family Support Services, Inc. Vol. 3, Issue 2 October 1999

Issues
 concerning
 families with
 young children

19th Anniversary Annual Report

Building Strong Families in our Community

Most of us are able to influence a small circle of family and friends. A few are able to influence many more. One of these rare few was Senator Mamoru Yamasaki, a staunch supporter of children and families, and the social programs that aided them. He has passed on, and will be remembered. Fortunately, Yama left us a wonderful legacy ... he has passed down a healthy start for thousands of our next generation.



Dr. Michael Kim

In the 19 years that Maui Family Support Services (MFSS) has grown from a single desk operation, to a multi-program Agency serving over 5 thousand families, Senator Yamasaki was always there for us. He understood the importance of strong families that nurture children in the formative first months and years. Yama was a member of MFSS' Board of Directors since 1992, and an excellent example of caring and good deeds through action, which we shall carry forth.

There have been many hands involved in the success of MFSS. We want to honor and thank the Agency's staff. They are unparalleled in their commitment to our work. We continue to be fortunate in having a dedicated, active Board that have met the challenges presented by expanded services and funding cutbacks. We also appreciate the kokua of community organizations and services to which we link families.

At the heart of MFSS' existence is a commitment to support and strengthen families in our community. The Agency helps to keep families healthy and children safe through a range of preventive, supportive services delivered with flexibility, personalized attention and cultural sensitivity.

We especially want to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt congratulations to the families who have used MFSS program opportunities to become the best parents they can be.

As MFSS moves into a new year and a new century with optimism, we will continue to build strong families in our community. We invite you all to join with us in this important work.



Bettye Williams and Sen. Mamoru Yamasaki

Michael E. Kim M.D.

Michael E. Kim, M.D.
 Board President

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Bettye S. Williams
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Features

Early Identification Program

The Early Identification (EID) team covers the Maui Memorial Medical Center seven days a week. With consent, EID Facilitators talk to expectant or new parents to assess their strengths, needs and concerns. If appropriate, the family may be offered MFSS home visitation services or given a prenatal or After Birth packet outlining many of the services available to families with young children in Maui County. EID also accepts referrals from physicians, professionals or other community resources.

Shirley Chun-Ming, RNC, OB Supervisor at Maui Memorial comments, "The Early Identification team offers great support for new parents. By working together with them in the hospital, our patients can access needed services when they go home, to help ease an often stressful transition. The EID team members are professional, caring and compassionate when working with new families. Their initial contact with patients while they are still in the hospital is important to successful outcomes. Our nursing staff appreciates having Michelle, Mei, Jackie and Cindy to work with so that our new families get off to a good start."

"I have found the EID team to be extremely helpful to my patients," says Dr. Aaron Altura, Community Clinic of Maui. "I believe their services are indispensable and timely. Part of the reason for their effectiveness in reaching the mothers who need support is the genuine concern that the EID team members have." Susan Baumann, RN, at Maui Memorial adds, "In the past 10 years that I've been working at the hospital, I have been impressed by the professionalism of the Maui Family Support Services team. The services they provide are greatly appreciated by the OB staff, and by our patients. They are a wonderful asset to our community. Thank you so much!"

* EID Staff: Supervisor Michelle Pietsch, Mei Amuro, Jackie Balberdi and Cindy Jakubczak.

EID	
Screenings . .	1,529
Assessments. .	631

Family Days



Family Day Sugar Cane Train Ride

Family Days are held once a month, from January through October, in a different part of Maui (i.e., Kihei, Lahaina, Upcountry, and Central area). There is usually a 15-20 minute presentation for parents on subjects such as child development, parenting, safety awareness, plus an activity that fosters parent-child interaction. Parents are given the opportunity to network, share ideas about parenting, meet other parents and enjoy outside stimulation for themselves and their children.

Here's a typical Family Day: In June we had Graduation Family Day at Keopuolani Park, which was attended by 21 parents and 32 children. Graduating families that successfully completed their three or five year program were

honored with a certificate and a rose. The children were given a goodie bag of healthy snacks. The MFSS staff presented information about choosing quality childcare and a story about sharing was read, which related to craft activities that encouraged parent and child participation. Lunch was vegetarian or meat lasagna, Caesar salad, garlic bread, juice and water. For dessert we had a beautifully decorated graduation cake.

With the direct sponsorship of organizations such as the Trimble Foundation, Keawelai Congregational Church and businesses, we are able to provide a healthy lunch for all at Family Days.

Family of Friends

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This Newsletter was joyfully compiled by: Mei Amuro, Zina Andrade, Cookie Chong-Kee, Ronda Erwin, Mary Gilchrist, Dolly Hinau, Monika Irwin, Cindy Jakubczak, Pat Joaquin, Liz Miller, Robbie St. Sure, Claudia Thompson, Marie Via, Bettye Williams

Aloha Family of Friends,

A sincere *Mahalo* to all for your support of MFSS programs. The Agency is in its 19th year of continuous service in Maui County. Our history shows movement toward ever improving the quality of our work with families and our relationship with friends, funders and community.

Your contribution this year is more critical than ever. Babies can't wait. A 1998 RAND study found that for every \$1 spent in early childhood services, such as those offered by MFSS, \$7 are saved in later years through reduced social, educational, and criminal justice services.

At this time each year, MFSS does a direct mail solicitation to supporters. It is costly to "weed out" recent contributors and those who designated us through the Foodland "Give Aloha" drive or the United Way "Designation only" category. If you have made a recent donation to MFSS, we thank you once again for your generous support and ask you to please pass this solicitation along to others in our community.

Join the **Family of Friends**

I would like to support children and families in our community

I enclose \$ 25 Membership \$ 50 Supporter \$ 100 Patron
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Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I would like to volunteer to help with special events or in other areas. Please call me at _____

Community

Economic Hardship as a Risk Factor

Marcia Hartsock, University of Hawaii, Center on the Family

In this period of economic distress, it is important to remember that increasing numbers of families are affected by poverty. The most recent report shows that 20.7% of Hawaii's children live in poverty, about 6,000 of them in Maui County. By understanding how poverty acts to put them at risk, we can do more to assist.

Poverty is perhaps the single most predictable risk factor for child maltreatment. Maltreatment occurs across the entire economic continuum, but is more heavily concentrated among families in poverty. It is one thing to identify family poverty as a risk factor for child maltreatment but quite another thing to understand the processes by which poverty interacts with other stressors to undermine parental care - in the extreme, to the point of abuse or neglect.

In truth, financial hardship affects family functioning at every level, from individual distress and substance abuse, to strained marital and parent-child relations, to changes in the balance of family power and altered family beliefs. At the same time, financial hardship typically implies such long-term stressors as inadequate housing, residence in a dangerous and /or resourceless neighborhood, inability to pay for practical and human services, and lack of transportation to access affordable resources.

Among working-class families, substantiated child maltreatment has been found to be associated with parental reports of family conflict, fewer family outings and activities, negative feelings about the child, perceptions of the child as a behavior problem, and less support for child independence. Among poor families, these associations with maltreatment were either weaker or nonexistent, overshadowed by the stress of unemployment and poverty.

✦ ✦ ✦ ✦ ✦

Mahalo

Special Community Partnerships

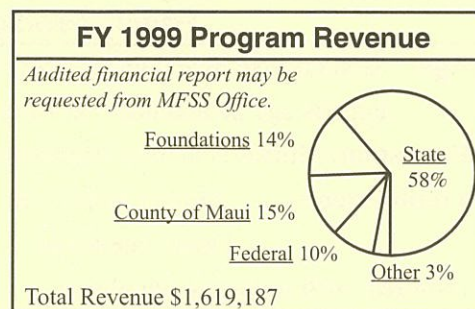
700 Club, KMART, Friends of the Children Advocacy Center,
Haleakala Waldorf School, Kahului Rotary Club, RSVP-Kaunoa Senior Citizens

In-kind Donations

All Tech Roofing, Borders Books & Music, Candy Bouquets-Maui, Guy Buffet, Billy Carvalho, Hal Drudge, Fred's Maui Produce, Chef Greg Gaspar, Fun on the Run, Hale Mahaolu, Holsum Bakery, Hopaco, Kaanapali Beach Hotel, Kapalua-Ritz Carlton, Kea Lani Hotel, Komoda Bakery, Lahaina Pure Water, Art Leal, Marcos Grill & Deli, Maui Soda & Ice Works, Meadow Gold Dairies, Ocean Activities, Old Lahaina Luau, Olga/Warner, Planet Hollywood, Dot Pua, Roy's Kahana Bar & Grill, Roy's Nicolina Restaurant, Sam Sato's, Star Markets, Starbucks Coffee, Stillwell's Bakery & Deli, Eugene Tanner

Major Financial Support

Atherton Family Foundation, County of Maui, Administration for Children & Youth, Anonymous, Children's Trust Fund, Dept. of Education, Dept. of Health, Dept. of Human Services, Hawaii Community Foundation, Maui Hotel Association, Rev. Takie Okumura Family Fund, Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation, Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation



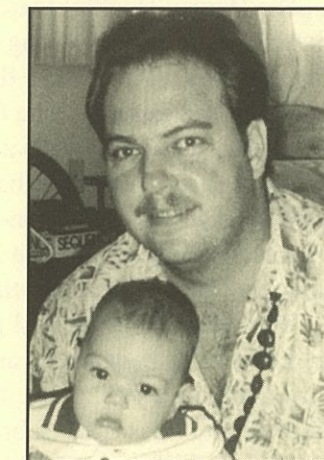
One father's story

"I was able to ask for help and still keep my pride"

Brooks Reynolds

Due to uncontrollable circumstances, when Hunter was 2 months old, we were suddenly orphaned from his mom. Immediately, Child Protective Services became involved. I called every organization I could reach for help, most did not answer or simply referred me somewhere else.

I called Maui Family Support Services and had Robbie, a Family Facilitator, appear on my doorstep the same day! She immediately gave me information and wonderful helpful insights. Her point of view allowed me a clear perspective on what I was experiencing. After her first visit, I was able to understand what I needed and let some of the other petty misgivings go. This allowed me to unclutter my mind and see what was important. The focus, as it had always been, was my beautiful baby boy, Hunter. I stayed focused and happy. Robbie has been helpful by supplying me with a list of phone numbers of organizations and community resources. The 700 Club was extremely beneficial, WIC also helped out. These agencies should be there to help and most are. Let me tell you people out there, I was able to ask for help and still keep my pride. Robbie has enriched our lives with the wealth of knowledge she possesses.



Just as wonderful was Kaleo from CPS. Instead of being a burden to me, or I to him, he offered assistance and help. When I worried about baby Hunter's food supply, he offered to help me by using his voice in the community to bring me together with the resources that we needed. I'm truly grateful to Kaleo and Robbie, they both became confidants, each someone whom I could trust in a time of need.

Gifts from God are hard enough to come-by but when gifts from locals or local agencies come to your door you should feel blessed. After that, Robbie brought me games and toys for baby Hunter, a calendar to tell me of baby's natural growth progression that integrates learning between infant and caregiver. I give my child daily love and support so that he is able to become anything he wants. Whether he follows Brother IZ as a ukulele player, Kaleo, a social worker or follows the fine art of helping others help themselves such as Robbie does, I know he will have the Healthy Start he needs.

As a result of Maui Family Support Services continued help, CPS has closed our case. As for Hunter, he is in the 95% in weight and happiness. He is consistently one month ahead of all growth projections and as for myself, I'm a glowing Father.

*Robbie St. Sure has worked as a Family Facilitator at MFSS for over 10 years. She was named 1998 Employee of The Year.

Home Visiting Statistics FY 1999

Home Visits Made	5,872	Agency/Professional Contacts	1,948
Families Served by Home Visiting	566	Client Transports	692
Children in these Families	688	Education/Support Groups	10
Client Phone/Other Contacts	8,091	Families Demonstrating Improvement on Collateral Contacts	737
		Level IV Assessment	92%
		Families Not Confirmed for Child Abuse and Neglect	99%

Programs

HEALTHY START

The Hawaii Healthy Start Program has become an international home visiting model focusing on three major goals critical to the development of healthy children and families. The first is early intervention regarding parenting skills and practices. Teaching parents how to read their baby's cues and respond appropriately, positive non-violent discipline, methods of coping and the importance of nurturing are just some of the parenting information provided.

The second critical goal is to teach parents about child development stages and what to do to encourage optimal development. The most current information on issues such as brain development is shared through written, video and verbal methods. Child development screenings, to detect delays as early as possible, are regularly administered along with a home environment assessment and a parent/child interaction assessment.

The third goal is to encourage self reliance by teaching parents how to problem solve; how to access community resources to alleviate stressors such as domestic violence, homelessness and lack of health insurance; how to practice preventative health care through timely immunizations, family planning, early prenatal care, proper dental habits and who to go to for help to stop substance abuse.

Families may enroll during pregnancy or until the infant is 90 days old. Home based services are available on Maui and Lanai islands and may continue until the child is five years old.

PARENTS AS FIRST TEACHERS (PAFT)

Parents As First Teachers can be conceptualized as the resource center for home visitors and families of MFSS programs, with a lending library of videos, toys, and books. The program provides on-going staff trainings and initiates appropriate referrals for children requiring specialized community resources to strengthen their development. PAFT collaborates within MFSS and in our community to support early intervention and prevention services. The program's mandate is: Helping parents make wise choices that will help their children learn.

EARLY HEAD START

There is continuous enrollment for this home visiting, Maui and Lanai Island program which is open to low income, pregnant women and families with children up to the age of three. Additionally, an ongoing effort is made to recruit families who have an infant or toddler with special needs.

The EHS program is designed to enhance children's physical, social, emotional and cognitive development; to enable parents to be better caregivers of, and teachers to, their children. EHS also works to help parents meet their own goals, including that of economic independence. Parental involvement is critical and parents participate in various decision-making processes related to the operation of the program.

LANAI PERINATAL SERVICES

This program is a unique outreach service targeting all pregnant women on Lanai. Because there are no birthing facilities on the island, community resource networking, early identification of pregnancy, education about prenatal care and planning for birth are essential for a healthy delivery.

The Family Facilitator offers the pregnant woman a trusting relationship while coordinating services with other care agencies. The Facilitator makes weekly contact and monthly visits to address risks that can be minimized through appropriate medical care, good nutrition and health habits, not using detrimental substances and child-birth education. Postpartum follow-up involves teaching about child development, parenting skills, family planning and the importance of regular medical appointments for the children and family.

PAFT	
Unduplicated Families Served by PAFT ..	515
Child Development Consultations	316
Developmental Screening (ICMQ/BASQ).	569
Parent/Child Interaction Scales (NCAST).	207
Training sessions for staff	11
Training sessions for families	10

Programs

FAMILY FOCUS

Family Focus is an early intervention program whose purpose is to strengthen and support families. Assistance is provided through home visiting services and/or information and referral to additional community resources.

The flexibility of this program allows families to determine which type of services they can most benefit from and how frequently they receive those services. Family Focus staff works to strengthen families by promoting good health, positive child development, parent-child interaction and improved parenting skills. Helping parents create a stable, nurturing home environment reduces family stress, which may contribute to an unsafe environment for the child.

The Program is available to any Maui family with a child(ren) up to the age of five. There is no other eligibility criteria such as income level or risk factors. Services also include home environment assessments, behavioral and developmental screenings of children, parent support groups and use of resource material such as educational toys, books and videos through our Parents As First Teachers lending library.

Ethnicity of Families As defined by participants

Hawaiian/Part Hawaiian	41 %
Filipino	25 %
Caucasian	14 %
Other Pacific Islander	6 %
Japanese	4 %
Puerto Rican/Mexican	5 %
Portuguese	4 %
Other	1 %

Family Profile Based on home visiting caseload of 566 families

Age: Mothers age 20 and under at Admission	34%	Geographic Location
Fathers age 20 and under at Admission	22%	Central Maui
Education: Mother is neither High School nor GED graduate ..	27%	Kihei/South Maui
Employment: Mother employed	41%	Upcountry
Father employed	73%	Lahaina/West Maui
Families with no home telephone:	10%	Hana/East Maui
		Lanai Island

MCECRT

The Maui County Early Childhood Resource Team leads the *Good Beginnings* effort in Maui County. Good Beginnings is a statewide, community driven initiative that is committed to a sustainable, collaborative and integrated early childhood education and care system for Hawaii's young children. Our children deserve the best possible start in life. This includes promoting responsible parenthood, quality child care choices and ensuring good health and protection.

Some projects in Maui County include child care subsidies to working families, accreditation support for preschools and family child care programs, a family education project at Makawao School for families with young children, and two new play groups, one in Napili and another among Marshallese families in Kahului.



MCECRT

Family Engagement Contacts	5,356
(Families Participating in Child Care Subsidy program activities or receiving information.)	
Total for Child Care Subsidy Activities.	417
Parent Education Workshops	32 families
Child Care Subsidy	34 children
Geographic Location	
Maui	78%
Molokai/Lanai	9%
State	13%