

# Fall Newsletter 2021



## Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children

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Aloha Fellow Early Childhood Educators!

Here we are over a year later, and we find ourselves still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it has brought pain and sorrow to many, it has also brought things to the forefront, such as the acknowledgement of the early childhood field as essential! The nation suffered during the closure of childcare centers and early childhood programs. It was evident that our world could not operate without child care. Having childcare centers and early childhood programs shut down, took a toll on families, people's mental health and well-being, and our economy.

As the world began to open up again, early childhood educators faced the challenge of operating in a pandemic, while providing quality care and services, as well as balancing their own personal lives and families. Although fear and uncertainty struck many, they continued to show up and make the adjustments necessary to operate safely. Each day brought forth new challenges. Each challenge was faced with determination. Programs provided support in any way possible to ensure needs were being met, either through distance learning, virtual opportunities, and for some, blended learning. Communities came together to help those in need.

Although the uncertainty lingers, we continue to push forward for our early childhood community. HIAEYC strives to provide opportunities for professional development and uplift those that touch the lives of our future, our keiki! We are excited to announce our 2021 Virtual Event "Equity Through Play". We hope you will join us on Saturday, Oct. 23 to hear keynote speaker, Luis Hernandez! His presentation will leave you feeling entertained, motivated, and inspired!

With much love and aloha,  
Alex Domingo  
HiAEYC Board President

### 2020-2021 HIAEYC OFFICERS

**President:** Alex Domingo

**Vice President Membership:**  
Kapua Hussey

**Vice President Public Policy:**  
Brenda Watanabe

**Treasurer:** Jayne Arasaki

**Secretary:** Gemma Medina

**Past President:** Valley Varma

**Member at Large/County Representative**

Wendy Correa

Sue Macklin

Judy Mailheu

Kathleen Cadiz

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Want to be part  
of the board?  
See our call for  
nominations!

**MISSION:** To promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's young children (B-8) and their families.

# Keiki Korner!

## Wonder Based Art Making

*Submitted by Na Pua Keiki (Island School, Kauai)*

*(Activity comes from Wonder Art Workshop Book Written by Sally Haughey)*

In this process of making, we are witnessing wonder. The Na Pua Keiki teachers are at the very essence of wondering while they listen and observe the schemas in children's play. In this wonder-based activity the children are experiencing transformation. They use mortar and pestle to mash and pound the chalk pieces. One child excitedly said, "Look we are making chalk powder!" The next day they took the "chalk powder" and mixed it with white play dough. This was another transformation process as the white play dough and chalk powder was Mortar and Pestle - Making chalk powder by crushing, grinding, and pounding. It takes eye-hand coordination as well as upper body and hand muscle strength to make the chalk pieces into powder.



**Would you like to see your activity to featured in our Keiki Corner?  
Send your submissions to [haeyc@hawaii.aeyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaii.aeyc.org) for consideration!**

## HiAECY BOARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Please email HiAECY with the name of your nominee, the position you are nominating them for, and their contact email. Mahalo!

**\*SEEKING NOMINEES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS\***

Secretary

Member-at-large

Member-at large

Member-at-large

Ballot will be shared in November. Election results shared January 2022.

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## 2021-2022 Upcoming Events

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23rd**

## Equity through Play

**2021 HAWAII STATE EARLY  
CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE**

Visit [hawaii.keiki.org](http://hawaii.keiki.org) to register!

**NAEYC NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**NOVEMBER 6-9**

Visit [NAEYC.org](http://NAEYC.org) to register!

**JANUARY**

A new book club will begin

Visit our website in November to vote on which book will be featured!

Training hours certificate available

**MARCH**

The Maui HiAECY conference

Keep a look out on our website and for emails via constant contact for more information

**APRIL**

Month of the Young child!

Let us know what your program is planning!

Events TBA

# Public Policy Updates

**Brenda Watanabe, Vice President Public Policy**

Public policy is continuing. HiAEYC has been at the table with other community advocacy groups to carry on its vision as a unifying voice. In May 2021, HiAEYC submitted to the state childcare licensing agency, Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS), the results of a HiAEYC membership survey regarding use of ARPA funding. Topics emerged in the survey, such as access to quality care and increased workforce compensation, as key policy issues. DHS has incorporated this and community feedback and will launch mid-October its stabilization program assisting Hawai'i's childcare sector.

HiAEYC continues to advocate and examine the outcomes of the Hawai'i State Legislative Session. One initiative from the 2021 session is the requirement that Pre-K programs be accredited to qualify for funding from Preschool Open Doors. HiAEYC is evaluating this as an opportunity to revive its accreditation technical assistance program for centers planning to be NAEYC accredited.

## SPOTLIGHT ON AN NAEYC ACCREDITED PROGRAM



I have been reflecting on accreditation a lot these days as our Na Pua Keiki program is preparing for another five-year anniversary visit. I view this process as assessing our compass to see if we are navigating in a high-quality path. NAEYC is truly a navigational tool for early childhood education programs to accurately ascertain one's position, planning, and directional accuracy. Every child deserves access to high-quality learning experiences and NAEYC Accreditation allows a program to become the vessel. If you are thinking about becoming an accredited program; I invite you to consider this as a positive journey for your program. This process:

- Will allow your compass to stay focused on providing children with a program that is safe, well prepared, and intentional. This leads to greater readiness and success for children in life.
- Ensures that teaching staff and administration work together to build a successful professional learning environment.
- Will connect you to a community investing in high quality learning opportunities for children and resources for families.

Sue Macklin, Early Learning Division Director, Island School

*If your program is NAEYC accredited and you would like to be featured in an upcoming spotlight, send an article to us at [HAEYC@hawaii.aeyc.org](mailto:HAEYC@hawaii.aeyc.org)!*

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