



## KAUAI PLANNING & ACTION ALLIANCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 14, 2014

**CONTACT:**

Diane Zachary, President & CEO  
Kaua`i Planning & Action Alliance  
Tel: 808.632.2005

Email: [dzachary@kauainetwork.org](mailto:dzachary@kauainetwork.org)  
Website: [www.kauainetwork.org](http://www.kauainetwork.org)  
Fax: 808.632.2018

### **2014 Kaua`i Youth Report Released**

*Lihu`e, Kaua`i, HI* – Kaua`i Planning & Action Alliance (KPAA) has announced the publication of the *2014 Kaua`i Youth Report*, the second report released under the organization's Keiki to Career Kaua`i initiative. Launched in 2011, Keiki to Career Kaua`i represents an island-wide network of more than 50 partners from the education, business, nonprofit and government sectors who are collectively working to ensure all Kaua`i youth are ready to learn and ready for life.

The 2014 Kaua`i Youth Report tracks data and identifies trends for 26 indicators reflecting the achievement, health and well-being of Kaua`i young people ages 0-24 years. Outcomes fall within four categories: kindergarten readiness; academic success; college and career readiness; health and well-being; and connectedness and contribution.

The report highlights several areas of significant improvement since the 2012 report; however, other areas indicate a need for additional focus and action.

The following are a few findings in the report:

- Kaua'i Kindergarteners attend preschool at a higher rate than their peers across the state and rates are steadily increasing; however, the current rate of 60.8% is still lower than the 2010 rate of 66.1%.
- Regular school attendance has increased by 8%, with 87% of all Kaua`i students regularly attending school during the 2013-14 school year.
- Reading proficiency of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders remains the highest assessed area with 60.5%, 71.5% and 68% reaching proficiency respectively.
- Science and math proficiency of 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders are lower than the state averages and represent an opportunity for additional support.
- 91.5% of Kaua`i students report someone at home is aware of how they are doing in school.
- The Kaua`i on-time high school graduation rate of 84% is higher than the state average.
- The sixteen-month college-going rate of 68% is higher than the state average of 63%.

**BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR KAUAI**

2959 Umi Street, Suite 201, Lihu'e, HI 96766 Phone 808.632.2005 Fax 808.632.2018  
Email [kpaas@kauainetwork.org](mailto:kpaas@kauainetwork.org) [www.kauainetwork.org](http://www.kauainetwork.org)

- The rate of child abuse and neglect is much higher than the state average and has risen steadily over the past three years.
- Suicide rates of young people ages 15-24 on Kaua`i are disturbingly high compared to the state rate, especially among young people ages 15-19.

The 26 indicators were selected under the guidance of the Keiki to Career Kaua`i Leadership Council.

The purpose of the report is to annually: 1) determine trends in the areas of youth achievement, health and well-being; 2) provide tracked information to government, businesses, nonprofits and citizens to assist in planning, policy-setting and resource allocation decisions; and 3) identify and promote opportunities for action that will move Kaua`i toward the vision established by the community for Keiki to Career Kaua`i.

“Keiki to Career helps bring everyone together to create effective strategies to enhance youth development,” states KPAA President and CEO Diane Zachary. “The data in this report are important in helping families, government and organizations determine where action may be needed to guide young people in more position directions. I’m very appreciative of the work of Kimo Perry and Stacey Gillette in preparing this report and of all those who contributed data for it.”

Financial support for the report came from the Atherton Family Foundation and The Marisla Fund of the Hawai`i Community Foundation. Additional support for Keiki to Career Kaua`i is provided by the County of Kaua`i, Office of Economic Development, Hawai`i Department of Education, Kapa`a-Kaua`i-Waimea Complex Area and The Learning Coalition.

To view or download free copies of the 44-page report, visit the Outcomes section of the Keiki to Career Kaua`i website at: [www.keikitocareer.org](http://www.keikitocareer.org).

Kaua`i Planning & Action Alliance is a nonprofit organization that serves as a neutral convener, providing a forum to the community to discuss, develop and implement effective solutions to issues that matter to Kaua`i. The organization coordinates the Keiki to Career Kaua`i initiative.

###