

Mayor Victorino,

During times of great distress our focus should be on community and the members that hold our community together. Child care providers (women, and often disproportionately women of color) are the backbone to our economy. They care, protect, and educate our keiki while parents work or go to school. They contribute and support our local economy; contributing \$150 million to the state.

And during this unprecedented time, they deserve our protection.

We call on our county leaders to make necessary investments to assist child care programs. A survey administered this week by the National Association for the Education of Young Children revealed that nationally, 30% of child care providers said they would not survive a closure of more than 2 weeks without significant public investment and support. Maui county was already experiencing a child care shortage. In Maui, there were 34 children under 3 for every 1 DHS-regulated child care seat. Child care is critical to sustain Hawai'i's economy and economic recovery. No recovery will be successful if families do not have access to child care when they return to work. We are asking that the county commit to providing direct and sustained economic relief to providers so that they may continue to serve your families and community.

We stand ready to overcome these challenging times together. Thank you for supporting your community, families, and keiki.