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Hawaii ranks 22nd nationally in 2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book

Honolulu, HI--Hawaii ranks 22nd nationally in the 2010 KIDS COUNT *Data Book*, a state-by-state study on the well-being of America's children. Produced by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the *Data Book* reveals that compared to last year's report Hawaii improved on 2 and worsened on 3 of the 10 indicators assessing child well-being. Conditions remained the same on 3 other measures, and 2 measures were not comparable to previous years.

The Center on the Family at the University of Hawaii is the state's KIDS COUNT affiliate. Dr. Sylvia Yuen, Hawaii KIDS COUNT Director, remarked: "Hawaii's overall rank, a composite index of child well-being, slipped from 18 nationwide last year to 22 this year. The good news is that our state had one of the lowest teen death rates and percentage of children in poverty--ranking second in the nation of those two indicators. What is troubling, however, is the decline in Hawaii's national rank over the past four years: from 11 in 2007, 13 in 2008, 18, in 2009, and 22 in 2010. This is an indication that our state is not doing as well for our children as we can and should--and that we must redouble our efforts to ensure that all of Hawaii's children thrive and achieve."

In comparison to findings in the 2009 Data Book:

- Improved on: percent of low-birthweight babies and teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)
- Did worse on: infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births); percent of teens ages 16-19 who are not in school and are not high school graduates; and percent of children under age 18 in single parent families
- The data remained the same on: child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14); teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-19); and percent of children under age 18 in poverty
- Comparable data was not available on: percent of teens ages 16-19 not attending school and not working; and percent of children under age 18 without secure parental employment

The 21st annual Data Book is complemented by the expanded KIDS COUNT Data Center, which contains hundreds of measures of child well-being and allows users to create maps and graphs of the data at the national, state, county, and city levels. To access information for Hawaii, go to <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/hi>. Copies of the Hawaii KIDS COUNT Data Book are available from the Center on the Family.