



Keiki Focus

News

16 September 2008



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Mahalo!

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Invest in Kids

The myriad of benefits that quality early learning programs can provide are recognized by broad circles in our communities. The national anti-crime organization [Fight Crime: Invest in Kids](#) includes more than 3,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, other law enforcement leaders and violence survivors. These law enforcement professionals have been strongly advocating for increased investment in children since the organization was established in 1996.



Fight Crime: Invest in Kids recently published "[School or the Streets: Crime and America's Dropout Crisis.](#)" This important analysis states that **"the most tested and widely adopted school reform shown to greatly increase high school graduation rates is high-quality pre-kindergarten."** Some of this study's stirring facts include:

- Students who drop out of high school are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested, and more than 8 times as likely to be incarcerated than students who graduate from high school.
- 68% of state prison inmates have not received a high school diploma.
- The most tested and widely adopted school reform shown to greatly increase graduation rates is high-quality pre-kindergarten.
- Two long-term evaluations of pre-kindergarten programs show that participating in high-quality pre-kindergarten increases high school graduation rates by as much as 44%.

As the [Early Learning Council](#) convenes this month it is clear that its work to develop a quality early learning system for Hawai`i will have benefits that reach far beyond the preschool years. [Visit the Good Beginnings Alliance website to read more about ensuring that all of Hawai`i's keiki are safe, healthy and ready to succeed.](#)

Good Beginnings Alliance is a nonprofit organization working in partnership with families, communities, policy makers, early childhood providers and advocates to shape community will and public policy, mobilize action and maximize resources for Hawai`i's children. Good Beginnings Alliance is a member of [Voices for America's Children](#)

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