



## Keiki Focus

**News**

**12 November 2008**



Aloha Kit,

GBA was off Tuesday in observance of Veteran's Day. Nice to see you on a Wednesday!

### **Forward to a Friend**



If you find this email informative, please take a moment to forward it to colleagues and friends.

Up this week:

### **Be An Advocate for Children**

Now that we know that Barack Obama will be the next president, it is time to watch closely and get involved to make sure the new administration's support of early childhood programs is actualized.

The Obama campaign quickly morphed into the Obama transition team: check out the [transition website](#) and read the [Obama Biden policy brief on education and zero-five plan](#) including a Presidential Early Learning Council (zero-five section begins on page 2).

### **Get Involved**

Your support is appreciated in whatever form it takes: contacting your legislator, passing news on to family and friends, or rolling up your sleeves and volunteering.

If you wish to support GBA financially in its efforts at policy advocacy or data collection, please visit our [Donation Page](#) today.

**Mahalo!**

### **Visit Our Website**

### **State Early Learning Council Seeks Work Group Volunteers**

The Hawai'i Early Learning Council has formed work groups to address tasks identified in the Early Learning Council [Work Plan](#) and is soliciting volunteers.

Act by November 17, 2008 to join--[click here](#) to see the different work groups and co-chair(s) to contact.

### **Keiki Care**

Keiki Care began in April of 2008 as a pilot program to provide children with basic medical coverage but the state cut funding effective November 1st. Keiki Care provides for children who don't have health insurance and are ineligible for state Medicaid programs, typically because their family's income is too high. The program's monthly cost had been split between the State Department of Human Services (DHS) and HMSA.

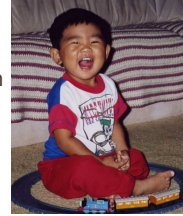
Because of the state's current economic shortfall and reduced federal matching funds for Med-Quest, (the state's Medicaid coverage program for low-income families) DHS terminated their Keiki Care participation. HMSA plans to extend the coverage through the end of the year without government support and affected families, a number of whom may



qualify for Quest, will be contacted.  
[Click here to read more.](#)

## Shuffling at the Legislature

Only time will tell what the changing seats at the legislature will mean for the upcoming legislative session and for children's issues in Hawai'i. Some of the changes:



- Senator Donna Mercado Kim is the new Chair of the Ways and Means Committee
- Higher Education (previously part of the Education Committee under Senator Norman Sakamoto) is now its own committee under Senator Jill Tokuda
- Housing is combined with Education under Senator Norman Sakamoto

[Click here to read more.](#)

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*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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