



Keiki Focus

News

9 December 2008



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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!

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Keiki Care Needs \$600,000

Senators Josh Green and Suzanne Chun Oakland are seeking \$600,000 annually from the philanthropic community to continue the [Keiki Care](#) program past December 31, 2008. As mentioned in our [November 12 Keiki Focus](#), the Department of Human Services has terminated their Keiki Care participation due to budget cutbacks.

HMSA, having partnered with the Department of Human Services to provide Keiki Care health coverage to children in Hawai`i, plans to maintain the current Keiki Care coverage through the end of 2008: the \$600,000 per year needed would replace the amount no longer available through public funds. [More...](#)

We know that **children with health care coverage have better health outcomes, do better in school, and are ultimately more productive members of society who require fewer state resources.** Please contact Senator Green's office at (808) 586-9385 or sengreen@capitol.hawaii.gov for more information.

Sneak Peek: Let the Numbers Do the Talking

Good Beginnings is completing our annual update to the Early Childhood Safe, Healthy, and Ready Indicators to be released in a future Keiki Focus. Here's a preview:

- **62.1% of 3 and 4-year-olds from low-income households in Hawai`i attended subsidized preschool or received subsidies to attend preschool in 2007**



These figures will be important as the Early Learning Council develops an early learning system that will start with at-risk children.

Elementary School Principals Go to Pre-K!

Thanks to an intensive program run by Community Advocates for Young Learners, or [CAYL](#), based in Massachusetts, elementary school leaders can participate in a yearlong program designed to **help principals**

strengthen their early childhood foundation.

Whether or not the early childhood education programs in their communities are located in their school buildings, the National Association of Elementary School Principals has encouraged principals in recent years to play an active role in expanding and improving the quality of the programs.

One participant praised her institute experience as "providing practical advice beyond the presentations about the educational and economic benefits of preschool that most principals have already heard." [More...](#)

Connecting Schools and Family Child Care Homes

Family Child Care homes are numerous and located in everyone's neighborhood. Read the latest Research and Practice [issue brief](#) from Schools of the 21st Century which highlights examples of **how schools reach out to and work with family child care providers.**



[Schools of the 21st Century](#), a Yale University based website, links schools, communities, and families across the United States. There are more than 1300 schools across the country incorporating the 21C "[revolutionary education model](#)" which includes "school-based preschool, before and after-school care and family support services designed to promote the optimal growth and development of children beginnings at birth."

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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