



Keiki Focus

News

February 24, 2009



Is Help on the Way?

What the Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 *Could* Do for Our State:

The Federal stimulus funds have great potential to aid Hawai`i's Early Childhood Education efforts, if focused in strategic ways:

~ Hawai`i stands to receive approximately **\$2.09M** to expand Head Start and Early Head Start.

- *Some of these funds can be used for a one-time start-up grant for a state early learning council*

~The Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) can provide approximately **\$6.44M** total to Hawai`i to "**supplement, not supplant** state funds for child care assistance for low-income families" according to the [Center for Law and Social Policy's state-by-state analysis](#).

- Of these CCDBG funds, **\$5.5M** provide early child care subsidies, with a minimum 4% to be used for quality activities -
 - *In Hawai`i, some examples of quality activities currently funded include the PATCH Child Care Resource and Referral, Child Care Registry, Healthy Child Care Hawai`i, as well as Good Beginnings' advocacy and facilitation of early childhood system building efforts.*
- The stimulus package also includes additional quality expansion funds of approximately **\$530,000**, of which approximately \$308,000 must be used for Infants/Toddlers.

~Hawai`i will also receive monies through the State Fiscal Stabilization Education Fund. The Governor shall use up to 81.8% of this allocation to support elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education and, as applicable, **early childhood education programs and services**.

~Funds will also come in the form of Title I grants, through the Department of Education. The State is expected to use some portion of the Title I dollars for early childhood programs and activities.

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~Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) funds, Part B and Part C, are another potential source of funds towards early childhood efforts.

At a time when Hawaii's economy is in a downturn and lawmakers are facing significant challenges in balancing the budget and determining which programs to maintain, these Federal stimulus funds are both timely and significant in helping our state maintain its focus on young children.

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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