



Keiki Focus

News

April 15, 2009



Still Surviving...

With the 2009 Legislative Session coming to a close, Good Beginnings Alliance is still very focused on the following surviving bills:

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Act Now!

Early Learning Council Bills - [Senate Version \(SB1329 SD2 HD2\)](#); [House Version \(HB395 HD1 SD2\)](#): Both the House and Senate versions of this bill originally had language to allow unencumbered Early Learning Council (ELC) funds (already approved and to be used for operating costs of the council, including hiring an executive director) to carry over into the next fiscal year through the Early Learning Trust Fund. Due to current economic challenges, the Senate Ways and Means and House Finance Committees have deleted this language and want to use these ELC funds to help balance the general budget. ***We must convince the Legislature to reinsert the lapsed funding language so the Early Learning Council's progress can continue.*** **HOW? Communicate your support for the continuation of unencumbered funds. [Click here for a sample e mail to TAKE ACTION on this issue.](#)**

[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!

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What happens next?

- While no testimonies are accepted for surviving bills, **emails to your Legislators, Chairs of the respective Committees, and leadership of the Senate and House are effective and we encourage you to take action.** The more positive

support generated for these bills, the better the chances of them passing.

- All bills remaining cross over again to the respective houses. If there are no disagreements with amended bills that crossed over for the second time, these bills can be voted on by the full House and/or Senate.
- If there are still disagreements regarding amended bills, the chairs of the committees will convene conference committee hearings on these bills. Note: the respective chairs of the applicable conference committees will insert the final budget amounts after receiving word from the Chairs of the House Finance and Senate Ways and Means Committees and what the state's budget will allow.

[HB739 HD2 SD2 - TANF Funds - Allocation of](#)

[Expenditures](#): Details how the legislature will spend TANF funds, emphasizing child care services, work program contracts and related support services, the prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancies, the purchase of service contracts for child protective services, information system maintenance, and administration costs. Transfers portions of TANF funds to the Social Services Block Grant and Child Care Development Fund.

[HB1354 HD2 SD2 - Keiki Caucus; Healthy Start](#); Enhanced Healthy Start; Appropriation: Appropriates Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds and general revenue funds for the Healthy Start and Enhanced Healthy Start programs, to maintain current services, to hire additional staff and for provider training.

[HB989 HD1 SD2 - Keiki Care](#): Amends Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which established the Hawaii Children's Health Care Program, to extend the program for three more years and require reporting to Legislature prior to the 2010 and 2011 Regular Sessions. Appropriates \$1.

[SB1679 SD2 HD1 - Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund](#); Appropriation; Education; Human Services; Health Programs: Appropriates moneys from the Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund to maintain levels of programs for Education, Human Services, and Health. Effective July 1, 2010.

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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