



Keiki Focus

News

May 5, 2009

Good Beginnings Alliance

On behalf of young children, GBA stands as Hawai`i's early childhood sentinel ensuring that communities are involved; efforts are connected; and decision-makers are well-informed.

GBA works across the state to inform and empower communities, business leaders, providers and decision-makers so that all Hawai`i's keiki are safe, healthy and ready to succeed.

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Final Results?

2009 Legislative Session Results

The 2009 Legislative Session closed on Friday, May 1st. As for the bills that Good Beginnings Alliance has been tracking, we are optimistic that the Early Learning Council (ELC) ended up in a stable place.

The remaining \$230,000 of ELC funding - money approved previously but not yet spent - will hopefully be retained for the intended purposes of the Early Learning Council's progress in building a comprehensive early learning system. Without these funds, the ELC would be operating completely unfunded. The monies were appropriated in the State Budget Bill ([HB200 CD1](#) Section 37). Final results depend on the fate of the budget...

Call to Action: We strongly encourage you to communicate your support for the budget and any other of the bills detailed below to Governor Lingle by asking her to sign them into law:

governor.lingle@hawaii.gov

Or

Honorable Linda

Lingle

Governor, the State of Hawaii

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

More details and more results:

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,
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Mahalo!

[Senate Version SB1329 CD1](#) - **Passed**. Requires the Department of Education, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, to use successful assessment tools and protocols for determining a student's initial placement and for decision making about a student's movement between junior kindergarten, kindergarten, and into grade one; clarifies provisions of the Early Learning System, established by Act 14, SSLH 2008, including requiring development of a plan to ensure the needs of junior kindergarteners are addressed, authorizing designees for all members of the Early Learning Council, and changing the name of the Keiki First Steps Trust Fund to the Early Learning Trust Fund. The lapsed funding language was deleted from this bill; however, \$230,000 was appropriated in HB200 CD1 (State Budget Bill), Section 37.

House Version HB395 - **Did not pass**.

HB739 (TANF Funds), HB1354 (Keiki Caucus; Healthy Start), and SB1679 (Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund) - **Did not pass**. However, many of the programs seeking funding through these bills were funded by HB200 CD1 (State Budget Bill).

[HB200 CD1](#) (State Budget Bill). Final result depends on final budget decisions. See some key excerpts below from this bill:

- SECTION 22 - \$3,000,000 for FY2009-2010 and \$3,000,000 for FY2010-2011 for Healthy Start Program.
- SECTION 140 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds of \$154,626,065 for FY2009-2010 and \$128,990,000 for FY2010-2011 for implementation of the TANF program, its associated programs, and transfers to other programs.
- SECTION 142 - \$44,000,000 in federal TANF funds for FY2009-2010 and \$37,000,000 for FY2010-2011 so that children of needy families may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives, and for associated eligibility determination costs.
- SECTION 148 - \$4,000,000 in federal TANF funds for FY2009-2010 and \$3,200,000 for FY2010-2011 for Enhanced Healthy Start Programs.
- SECTION 150 - \$19,800,000 in federal TANF funds for FY2009-2010 and \$17,200,000 for FY2010-2011 for transfer to the Child Care Development Fund.
- SECTION 155 - \$1,500,000 in federal TANF funds for FY2009-2010 for Healthy Start Programs.

There are a number of other social services programs covered in HB200 CD1 (e.g., TANF funds for cash assistance, prevention of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and family strengthening programs, child welfare, foster care). See the bill for more details.

[HB989 CD1](#) - Keiki Care - **Passed**. Amends Act 236, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, which established the Hawaii Children's Health Care Program, to extend the program to June 30, 2012, and require reporting to the Legislature prior to the 2010 and 2011 Regular Sessions. Appropriates \$200,000 for each year of fiscal biennium 2009-2011.

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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