



## Keiki Focus

News

October 8, 2009

### Good Beginnings Alliance

Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) is Hawai'i's leading champion for children.

On behalf of young children, GBA works across the state so that communities are involved; efforts are connected; and decision-makers are empowered to ensure all Hawai'i's keiki are safe, healthy and ready to succeed.

GBA is a member of Voices for America's Children

[Visit our website for more information.](#)

### 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!**

### State Economy Demands Everyone's Help - Part II

In our last Keiki Focus, we talked about the reduction to state early childhood programs such as Healthy Start and preschool Open Doors, and the Good Beginnings Alliance's and Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation's efforts to be part of the solution to develop that Common Vision that includes Hawaii's keiki. In this issue, we salute Kamehameha Schools for its herculean support of Hawaii's keiki and their families.

Did you know that [Kamehameha Preschools](#) educates 1,500 three- and four-year-olds at 31 locations statewide? Their preschools are serving keiki and families in largely Hawaiian neighborhoods. A modest tuition is charged at these sites, and financial aid is available.

Additionally, the Kamehameha Schools Pauahi Keiki Scholars program provides scholarships to 1,600 Native Hawaiian 3 and 4-year-old children each year to attend a private preschool. Even in these tough economic times of dwindling resources, Kamehameha Schools has not reduced its early childhood investment. In fact, Kamehameha Schools contributed over 87% of the nearly \$38 million spent in 2008 on early childhood programs by private foundations in Hawaii.

To invest in Hawaii's future economic development today will require the collective commitment of both public and private leaders. Yes, our state's budget challenges are significant, and the news reports often focus on the negative impact (e.g., job furloughs, closing businesses, decreasing visitor spending). However, working together, we can and will make a difference. We know that many others are doing their part too. A Native Hawaiian proverb which has been handed down from generation to generation through Hawaii's oral tradition says it best. A`ohe hana nui ka alu`ia - no task is too big when done together. Mahalo, Kamehameha Schools, for being part of the solution and helping develop Hawaii's Common Vision.

### **GBA Goes Web 2.0!**

You can now find GBA on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

Get up-to-date information about GBA and what we're doing by following our feeds on these cool sites:

- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Good-Beginnings-Alliance/95009246688?ref=ts>
- Twitter: <http://twitter.com/GoodBeginnings>
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/GoodBeginningsGBA>

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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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