



Keiki Focus

January 26, 2010

Current Hawai`i EC Bills in Session

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HB2355 - Imposes a maximum child care subsidy of \$500 per month per child and authorizes the department of human services to amend its guidelines for determining eligibility for child care subsidies. **Testimonies will be heard on Thursday, 1/28/10 at 8:30am in Capitol room 329**

It's For the Keiki

Gandhi's words "Action expresses priorities" are particularly meaningful in today's economy. Who are the people in our communities who are taking action to assure all keiki are safe, healthy and ready to succeed?

By identifying these true champions for children, we create a very real measure for all those who talk the talk. Take a moment to make a mental list of the leaders in business, community, education, healthcare, and government who walk the walk.

ONE Voice Meeting Recap

On Friday, January 22, 2010 over 60 advocates for children representing the health, safety, and education sectors of the early childhood arena met to develop a common platform supporting Hawai`i's young children and families. The goal of the group is to garner increased public will for a comprehensive system of services available to Hawai`i's keiki. [Click here to see meeting minutes.](#)



The attendees are concerned about the depth of cuts to services for children and are interested in coming together to advocate through a common agenda.

Good Beginnings Alliance convened the meeting to encourage the formation of a common agenda and to propose the convening of candidates' forums.

On January 22, the attendees were asked to review a [position statement](#) approved by the Good Beginnings Alliance Board of Directors as a jumping point for discussion. They were asked to reflect on its contents and take it back to their own organizations for feedback. What would they change? What is missing? The intent is to developing a common document which all the advocates could support.

Participants voted *One Voice for Children* as a title they thought was appropriate for this collaborative advocating body.

Attendees of the meeting volunteered to work in [committees](#) during the next month to refine the position statement, discuss organizational structure, and plan strategic next steps.

The group will reconvene on Friday, February 19, 9 - 11 am in the Parish Hall at Central Union Church to review input gathered from

About GBA

Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) is Hawai'i's leading independent voice dedicated to ensuring young children are safe, healthy and ready to succeed.

Every day, we strive to ensure a safety net exists so all children have the support and opportunity to grow into thriving, successful adults.

To this end, GBA remains in a heightened state of awareness to call attention to the needs of our children; we use data to support and bring that awareness to business, community, education, healthcare, and government; and we develop recommendations and comprehensive solutions so those in power can make decisions that ensure the safety, health and readiness of all Hawai'i's children.

GBA is a member of [Voices for America's Children](#)

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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their organizations and to decide on a final name and the wording of a common platform.

Please email kwynkoop@goodbeginnings.org if you would like to become involved in this important effort.

Mahalo,

Jean Johnson
Board President

Liz Chun
Executive Director



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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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