

# Hawaii

## NO PROGRAM

While Hawaii does not have a state-funded preschool initiative that meets the criteria established in this report, the state funds several initiatives that provide early learning services to certain populations.

Started in the early 1980s, the Preschool Open Doors Project provides subsidy payments to low-income parents that allow them to purchase preschool services for their 4-year-olds and, on a case-by-case basis, for 3-year-olds with special needs. Parents select their child's service provider and payments are made directly to the provider. Families with income below 85 percent of the state median income are eligible. Eligibility is reassessed every 6 months. The Preschool Open Doors Project is best characterized as a support for working families rather than as a preschool education program.

Hawaii's Pre-Plus Program, started in 2002, supports the construction of preschool facilities at public school sites in order to increase access to full-day preschool services for low-income children in select areas. Seventeen Pre-Plus facilities have been built since the program's inception, but there is currently no funding for further construction. Pre-Plus does not directly fund early childhood education services but early childhood providers bid on contracts to operate programs in these facilities.

Junior Kindergarten, launched in the 2006-2007 program year, is a two-tiered kindergarten program. Children who are age-eligible for kindergarten, but turn 5 after July 31, are eligible for Junior Kindergarten if school assessments indicate they are not developmentally ready for kindergarten. Depending on individual program practices and a child's readiness, children who complete one year of Junior Kindergarten may enroll in either kindergarten or first grade.

Keiki First Steps, introduced in July 2008, is a statewide early learning system that provides a variety of early learning opportunities for children from birth until kindergarten entry. Created by statute in 2008, Hawaii's State Advisory Council on Early Care and Education was designated in 2011 to develop and administer the early learning system. The statute also established the Keiki First Steps Grants Program and an Early Learning Trust Fund.

The state Department of Education (DOE) is piloting preschool programs at two elementary schools. Enrollment is determined through a lottery, rather than an income requirement. Four-year-old students attend a preschool classroom in the same school where they will enroll in kindergarten. The state DOE also operates Special Education Preschools (IDEA Part B), which provide services to 3-and 4-year-olds who have been diagnosed with disabilities.

Federal Race to the Top (RTT) funds have enabled the Hawaii DOE to subsidize preschool education for eligible families in existing programs within two "Zones of School Innovation" in school districts on Oahu and the island of Hawaii. The Hawaii Department of Human Services implements tuition assistance payments for eligible children through the Preschool Open Doors Project. However, the state DOE maintains fiscal oversight and data collection responsibilities. These funds also support pre- and post-assessments of children receiving RTT grants to support longitudinal studies of the children's progress.

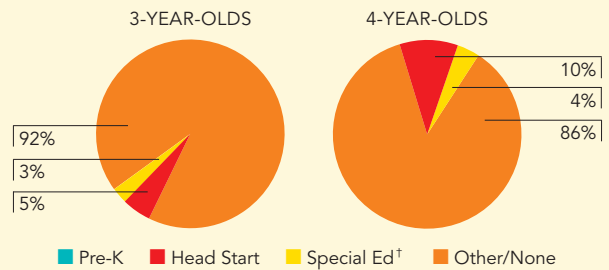
ACCESS RANKINGS	
4-YEAR-OLDS	3-YEAR-OLDS
No Program	

RESOURCES RANKINGS	
STATE SPENDING	ALL REPORTED SPENDING
No Program	

## ACCESS

Total state program enrollment .....	0
School districts that offer state program .....	NA
Income requirement .....	NA
Hours of operation .....	NA
Operating schedule .....	NA
Special education enrollment .....	1,519
Federally funded Head Start enrollment .....	2,682
State-funded Head Start enrollment.....	0

STATE PRE-K AND HEAD START ENROLLMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION



<sup>†</sup> This is an estimate of children in special education who are not enrolled in Head Start.

## QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET

No Program

## RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending .....	\$0
Local match required? .....	NA
State spending per child enrolled .....	\$0
All reported spending per child enrolled* .....	\$0

\* Pre-K programs may receive additional funds from federal or local sources that are not included in this figure.

\*\* Head Start per-child spending for the 2010-2011 year includes funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

\*\*\* K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures.

Data are for the '10-'11 school year, unless otherwise noted.

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

