



# Hawai'i P-3 Initiative

*Capturing the Momentum*

## About Us

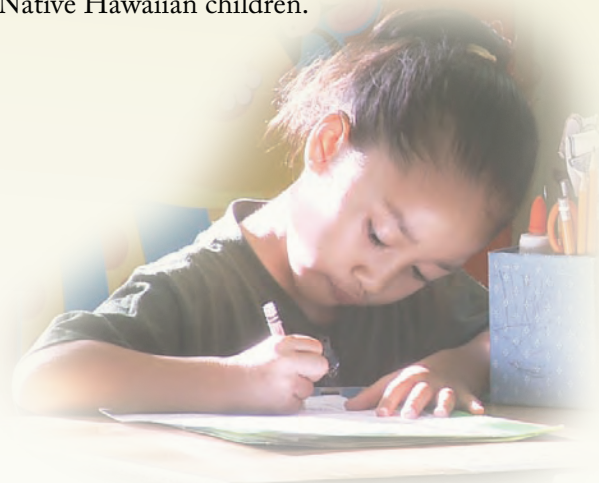
Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education is a statewide collaboration led by the University of Hawai'i System, the Hawai'i Department of Education and the Good Beginnings Alliance, to strengthen the education pipeline from early childhood through higher education so that all students achieve career and college success.

Hawai'i P-20's mission is to provide students of all ages with a high quality education that will enable them to support a family, participate in the global economy and exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. In 2007, Hawai'i P-20's commitment to the state's youngest learners was enhanced through Kellogg Foundation support for the Capturing the Momentum: Hawai'i P-3 Initiative, which galvanizes partners within and across communities, districts, islands and statewide levels, to work towards a common goal: **all of Hawai'i's children will read at grade level by third grade.**

Hawai'i P-3 is designed to address the weaknesses in Hawai'i's early education pipeline, starting from pre-birth (P) and proceeding through the lower primary years to grade three (3). The initiative builds upon momentum from preceding years of private and public investments in early childhood, particularly for Native Hawaiian children.

## Hawai'i's Children and Families

Many of Hawai'i's families are challenged to meet their most basic needs in a state with one of the highest costs of living in the nation. Affordable housing is a persistent issue and homelessness is growing. Nearly 70% of women participate in the labor force and those families with young children struggle to find affordable and quality care. Immigrants continue to add to Hawai'i's diverse ethnic make-up, but initial cross-cultural tensions are challenging to reconcile. Hawai'i's families place a high value on their 'ohana and community to sustain them through both good and tough times. In a recent study, 75% of households surveyed, favored increasing public funding to support the well-being of children, youth, elders and families. Among households with children, 85% would like the state to increase spending on education. Hawai'i P-3 partners are poised to mobilize these sentiments on behalf of the state's youngest children.



## Our Mission

P-3 partners promote a cohesive continuum of early learning experiences for children from birth to the age of 8, through better alignment and integration of programs in the P-20 educational pipeline. P-3 partners work at the school/community, district and state systems levels, to bolster children's social-emotional and cognitive development toward the end goal of all children reading at grade level by third grade. Achievement of this early educational milestone lays a solid foundation for future success in careers, college and citizenship.

# Learning Labs

Leading Change for Children

# Key Initiative Components

## Engaging Community Teams

Hawai'i P-3 promotes community partnerships among early childhood (pre-birth to five) programs and elementary schools to better align and integrate their programs with a particular focus on language, literacy and social-emotional development. These local level teams have included a diverse make up of community organizations from all levels of education, as well as from the health, housing and social service sectors. The grass roots nature of the Community Teams strategy increases the likelihood of responsiveness to local issues and needs, particularly regarding the unique language and cultural traits of learners.

## Aligning Statewide Efforts

In 2008, ACT 14 (Keiki First Steps) was passed by the Hawai'i State Legislature. The law creates a new state entity called the Early Learning Council (ELC), with authority to establish and administer a comprehensive and cohesive early learning system for children birth to Kindergarten entry. The ELC is charged with alignment of the birth to five segment of the P-20 education pipeline, and Hawai'i P-3 is actively contributing toward the initial planning and design work. P-3 partners are also working on other alignment needs between the early childhood and elementary systems, such as providing developmental perspectives to K-3 standards and building P-3 literacy frameworks.

## Replicating Successful Community Strategies

As Community Teams implement their literacy strategies, Hawai'i P-3 will harness new products, promising practices, and lessons learned and organize appropriate venues to share this information. Hawai'i P-3 will also leverage resources to support the replication of successful P-3 models.

## Training for P-3 Teachers and Leaders

Hawai'i P-3 employs both community strategies as well as state system level approaches to improve teacher and leadership capacity. Local regional conferences have brought early childhood and elementary educators together to focus on early literacy, culturally relevant strategies of family engagement, brain development and easing children's transitions to Kindergarten. At the state level, Hawai'i P-3 is increasing online access to ECE coursework, and has begun engaging representatives from higher education to examine their role in supporting P-3 educators' pre-service and in-service professional development.

## Educating Families and Communities

Hawai'i P-3 supports family-based strategies to promote child development, with particular attention to early language and literacy. This work is ongoing with the community teams. In the future, Hawai'i P-3 will utilize more broad based media campaigns to move public sentiment and seek out business leaders, including unions, to support the care and education of young children.

*E ala! E alu! E kuilima!  
Up! Together! Join hands!*

## Key Partners

University of Hawai'i System  
Hawai'i Department of Education  
Good Beginnings Alliance

## Project Lead

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