

NO PROGRAM

While Hawaii did not have a state-funded pre-K program during the 2013-2014 school year, the state has made several commitments to early childhood education.

The Executive Office of Early Learning launched a pre-K program in Hawaii's public schools in 2014-2015. The \$3 million program supports 20 classrooms in 18 schools across the state, serving approximately 360 students, and is supported by five Early Learning Resource Teachers with Master's Degrees in Early Childhood Education. Voters defeated a proposed amendment to the state constitution in November 2014, upholding a provision in the Hawaii state constitution barring the distribution of public funds to private providers.

The Preschool Open Doors program, created in 1990, offers subsidy payments to low-income parents, allowing them to purchase preschool services for their 4-year-olds. On a case-by-case basis, families with 3-year-olds with special needs may be eligible, as funding allows. Payments are made directly to the service provider chosen by parents. Income eligibility is set at 85 percent of the state median income, and family incomes are reevaluated every six months. The program is implemented by the state's Department of Human Services.

The federal Race to the Top (RTT) grant helps Hawaii's Department of Education (DOE) fund preschool education for qualified low-income families. These programs fall within two "Zones of School Innovation" school districts on Oahu and the island of Hawaii. Qualified families can access tuition assistance through the Preschool Open Doors project. The state DOE preserves fiscal oversight and data collection responsibilities. DOE funding is also provided for pre- and post-assessment of children in this program and to support longitudinal studies of the children's development and learning.

Hawaii's Pre-Plus Program was started in 2002 to support constructing preschool institutions on public school campuses with the goal of expanding full-day preschool services for low-income children in targeted areas. Private providers compete for minimal utility costs and no lease fees to operate on these sites. Seventeen Pre-Plus facilities have been built since the start of the program. Financial support for added construction has not been established.

The DOE also manages the Preschool Demonstration Program, an initiative planned to provide very young children with developmentally suitable and cognitively motivating activities. The program also works to expand inclusion opportunities for 3- and 4-year-olds with disabilities, as described in IDEA Part B. To help children smoothly transition to kindergarten, preschool programs are located in community elementary schools. Several preschool programs currently operate throughout the state, though there are plans to increase the number of schools throughout the state.

Established in July 2012, the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL) coordinates efforts on behalf of Hawaii's children from prenatal to age 8. EOEL creates partnerships, and aligns policies and programs for health, safety, and school readiness. The former State Advisory Council on Early Care and Education, now known as the Early Learning Advisory Board, is working with EOEL on incorporating a comprehensive early learning system in Hawaii.

In 2014, Hawaii was awarded \$2 million in a competitive federal Preschool Expansion Grant.



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	1,527
Federally funded Head Start enrollment	2,653
State-funded Head Start enrollment	0

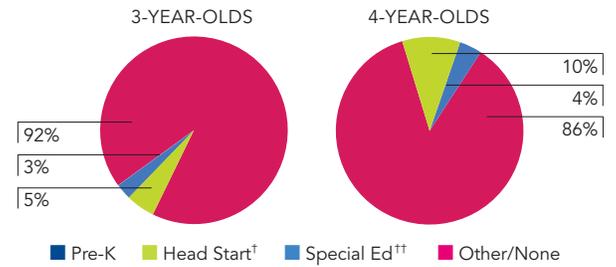
QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

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 2012-2013 year includes funding only for 3- and 4-year-olds served. Past years figured have unintentionally included funds for Early Head Start.
 *** K-12 expenditures include capital spending as well as current operating expenditures. Data are for the '12-'13 school year, unless otherwise noted.

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



† Some Head Start children may also be counted in state pre-K.
 †† Estimates children in special education not also enrolled in state pre-K or Head Start.

TOTAL BENCHMARKS MET
 No Program

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

