While the Republic of Palau does not have a state-funded pre-K program meeting the criteria of this report, the state recognizes the value of early childhood education. In its Education for All National Plan for 2002-2010, the Ministry of Education identified “expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children” as one of its key priorities. Ministry responsibilities include developing appropriate curricula for all public preschool, elementary school, and secondary school programs; and recommending minimum qualifications and requirements for preschool, elementary, and secondary school teachers.

There are two sources of early education in Palau. Head Start operated center-based classes for 536 3- to 5-year-olds throughout the Republic’s 16 states, administered by the Palau Community Action Agency. Numerous small communities are unable to meet the requirement that at least 10 eligible children will enroll in the Head Start program, creating a lack of access to early education for many young children.

The Ministry of Health’s Family Health Unit contributed to preparing the Palau Early Childhood Comprehensive System (PECCS) proposal in 2003, which included a 3-year work plan for developing a National Framework on Early Childhood Development for School Readiness.
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.