During the 2006-2007 school year, Hawaii did not have a state-funded preschool initiative meeting the criteria set forth in this report. However, the state does offer funding for initiatives that provide some support for early childhood education.

Since the early 1980s, the Preschool Open Doors Project has provided low-income parents with subsidy payments allowing them to purchase preschool for their 4-year-olds (or, in limited cases, 3-year-olds with special needs). Parents select their own program but the subsidy is delivered directly to the chosen provider. The Preschool Open Doors Project determines eligibility using the same income requirements as the child care subsidy program, but differs from that program in that it does not have a specific parent work requirement. Children are eligible if their family income is below 85 percent of the state median income. Until the 2006-2007 school year, income eligibility was reassessed on a monthly basis; beginning in 2006-2007, family income was reassessed every 6 months. Although this is a positive change, the Preschool Open Doors Project still does not necessarily offer continuous enrollment to children once they initially qualify. As a result, this initiative is best viewed as a type of support for working families rather than as a dedicated preschool educational program.

Hawaii started a separate initiative, the Pre-Plus Program, in 2002. The Pre-Plus Program supports construction of prekindergarten facilities at public school sites, but does not directly fund educational services for children. All 13 Pre-Plus facilities have been constructed and there are no additional funds available currently.

A third initiative, Junior Kindergarten, got its start during the 2006-2007 school year. Junior Kindergarten offers educational services for children who meet the state’s kindergarten entry age but turn 5 later than July 31—making them younger than most children in the regular kindergarten program. Districts may also place children in Junior Kindergarten if the results of school assessments show that they are not developmentally ready for kindergarten, despite being age eligible. After completing a year of Junior Kindergarten, some children begin first grade and others attend a regular kindergarten class, depending on the child’s readiness and individual program practices.
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 ..................................1,523
Federally funded Head Start enrollment ....................2,653
State-funded Head Start enrollment .........................0

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

3-YEAR-OLDS

4-YEAR-OLDS

Pre-K  Head Start  Special Ed  Other/None

90%  4%  6%  85%

10%  5%  0%

QUALITY STANDARDS CHECKLIST

RESOURCES

Total state pre-K spending ..............................................$0
Local match required? ................................................ NA
State Head Start spending .............................................$548,716
State spending per child enrolled .................................$0
All reported spending per child enrolled* .................$0

SPENDING PER CHILD ENROLLED

PRE-K*

$0

HDST

$8,601

K−12**

$11,634

$ THOUSANDS

0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18

State Contributions  Federal Contributions

Local Contributions  TANF Spending

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

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

Data are for the ‘06–’07 school year, unless otherwise noted.