Hawaii

**ACCESS**

- State program enrollment: 934
- School districts that offer state program: 100% (counties)
- Income requirement: 85% SMI
- Hours of operation: Calendar year
- Operating schedule: Calendar year
- State-funded Head Start enrollment: 0
- Federally funded Head Start enrollment: 2,638
- State-funded Special education enrollment: 1,236
- Federally funded Special education enrollment: 5
- State-funded Other/None: 22
- Federally funded Other/None: 0

**RESOURCES**

- Total state Pre-K spending: $2,475,000
- Local match required? No
- State spending per child - 4-year-olds: $3,478
- State spending per 3-year-olds: NA
- Maximum class size - 4-year-olds: No limit
- Minimum class size - 3-year-olds: No limit
- Staff-child ratio - 4-year-olds: 1:10 or better
- Maximum meal requirement - 4-year-olds: Lunch and snack
- Minimum meal requirement - 3-year-olds: Lunch and snack
- Screening/referral requirement - 4-year-olds: None
- Required support services: Vision, hearing, and health
- Involvement in entry activities: At least 1 service
- Teacher specialized training requirement - 4-year-olds: None
- Teacher specialization training requirement - 3-year-olds: None
- Teacher degree requirement - 4-year-olds: BA
- Teacher specialized training requirement - 4-year-olds: None
- Teacher degree requirement - 3-year-olds: None
- Curriculum standards - 4-year-olds and 3-year-olds: Comprehensive
- Teacher degree requirement - 4-year-olds: CDA
- Teacher specialized training requirement - 4-year-olds: None
- Teacher degree requirement - 3-year-olds: CDA
- Teacher specialized training requirement - 3-year-olds: None

Hawaii’s Preschool Open Doors Project provides low-income parents with subsidies to purchase preschool for their 4-year-olds or, in a few cases, 3-year-olds with special needs. Families with incomes under 85% of the state median income ($44,136 a year for a family of three) are eligible. Among children whose families meet the income requirement, those with special needs are given first priority to enroll. The Preschool Open Doors Project uses the same income eligibility criteria as the child care subsidy program, but unlike that program does not require parents to be working or engaged in other work-related activities in order for their children to participate.

The Preschool Open Doors Project served fewer children in 2002–2003 than the previous year as monthly reimbursement rates paid to programs for each child enrolled rose, while overall state funding declined slightly. With less total funding available, and more spent on each child, the number of children able to participate decreased. In 2003-2004, about 800 4-year-olds were enrolled in the program, and state funding was $3.2 million.

In 2002, the new Hawaii Pre-Plus program received an appropriation of $5 million over two years for the construction of preschool facilities at public elementary school sites. Thirteen sites were originally designated and, as of the 2003–2004 school year, eight sites were operating through Head Start agencies and private providers. The initiative does not fund direct services, so tuition for children enrolled at these facilities is covered by parent fees or other existing resources such as Preschool Open Doors funds.

Hawaii is working to ensure that children receive comprehensive services, beginning in prekindergarten, by initiating collaboration among different state agencies and focusing on health, safety, and school readiness.