



Pre-Plus has expanded access to affordable and high-quality early childhood education for three- to four-year old children from low-income families across the state. The program is a public-private partnership to develop and build preschool facilities on public elementary school campuses and contract private preschool providers to operate them.

Pre-Plus Philosophy and Goals of Service

All of Hawaii's children should have the opportunity to attend a quality early childhood education program. With a positive preschool experience, the children will be healthy, curious, socially aware, and ready to start kindergarten with their classmates.

The goals of Pre-Plus are to:

- Expand the number of preschool enrollment opportunities for disadvantaged children ages 3 and 4;
- Provide quality child care programs in which children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed; and
- Promote school readiness and prepare children for a successful transition into kindergarten.

Target Population and Enrollment

Pre-Plus was built on the premise that it would provide preschool opportunities to disadvantaged children who in the past would not have that opportunity due to lack of financial resources and availability of services.

- Target population for Pre-Plus is all children ages 3 and 4 who are not currently attending preschool.
- Priority for enrollment is given to those children whose family income falls at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Pre-Plus is not a free program, but most families who enroll their children in Pre-Plus would qualify, based on their income, for the Hawaii Department of Human Services' child care subsidy programs such as Child Care Connection Hawaii and Preschool Open Doors. Pre-Plus programs operated by Head Start agencies prescribe eligibility for participation in accordance with the Head Start Act regulations.
- Enrollment priority is also given to children who reside in the school district of the Pre-Plus site, although children may be accepted from any school district.

For more information regarding a specific Pre-Plus program, please contact the service provider for the site you are interested in.

Existing Pre-Plus sites and the Contracted Preschool Providers

OAHU

- Aiea Elementary
 - Ewa Elementary
 - Jefferson Elementary
 - Ka'ala Elementary
 - Kailua Elementary
 - Kuhio Elementary
 - Salt Lake Elementary
 - Wahiawa Elementary
 - Waiau Elementary
 - Waimanalo Elementary
 - Waipahu Elementary
- Honolulu Community Action Program (HCAP) Head Start*
www.hcapweb.org/headstart.html or (808) 847-2400
- Fern Elementary
- Parents and Children Together (PACT) Head Start*
www.pacthawaii.org/early_head_start.html or (808) 842-5996

HAWAII

- Keonepoko Elementary
- Parents and Children Together (PACT) Head Start*
www.pacthawaii.org/early_head_start.html or (808) 965-9180
- Mountain View Elementary
- Parents and Children Together (PACT) Head Start*
www.pacthawaii.org/early_head_start.html or (808) 961-0570

KAUAI

- Kilauea Elementary
- Child and Family Service (CFS) Head Start*
www.childandfamilyservice.org/ or (808) 240-2817

For more information, you may also contact Chris Jackson at (808) 586-7556 or christine.jackson@hawaii.gov.

History

Pre-Plus is a public-private partnership that delivers preschool opportunities to up to 350 of Hawaii's children and assists the State in achieving its community goal that "all of Hawaii's keiki will be safe, healthy, and ready for school."

The initiative evolved from the work of the School Readiness Partnership, a collaborative of educators, early childhood advocates, and policymakers, who identified the availability of quality early learning programs, especially in low-income areas, as one of the most pressing issues affecting the State's early education system in 2000. The group noted that even if families had sufficient funds for tuition, there was still an inadequate supply of early learning facilities or preschool slots available to offer needed services.

The concept of Pre-Plus came about in 2001 as the State and private agencies, including the Good Beginnings Alliance, Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children, Head Start, and Hawaii State Legislature's Keiki Caucus, collaborated to develop workable solutions to the lack of spaces in existing preschools to accommodate the growing number of children needing early childhood program services. Efforts were rewarded in May 2002 when the Legislature appropriated \$5 million in capital improvement project funds over two years - \$2.5 million in fiscal year 2003, and the same amount in fiscal year 2004 - to build preschools on public elementary school campuses throughout the State. Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono's office assumed planning oversight of this project until December 2002, when project oversight was transferred to the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS).

Over the years, 17 preschool facilities have been built on public elementary school campuses across the state, with contracts awarded to private preschool providers to operate these facilities: there are 13 on Oahu, 2 on Hawaii Island, 1 on Kauai, and 1 on Maui. The State agencies directly involved with Pre-Plus have included the Department of Accounting and General Services, the Department of Education, and DHS.