

## The Executive Office on Early Learning's FY15 Early Learning Plan

- The School Readiness Program, established by Act 169, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013, is a state-funded program for Hawaii's 4-year-old children. \$8,040,000 was appropriated to the existing Preschool Open Doors program (POD) and will be administered by DHS.
  - DHS has been working on the administrative rules for POD in accordance with Act 169 and has awarded the contract for expanded services starting with the 2014-2015 school year.
  - DHS, with EOEL and other public and private partners, has been working to develop the legislatively mandated POD child assessment.
- This only addresses a small population of our 4-year-olds – those not eligible for kindergarten due to the entry age change next year and those whose families make  $\leq$ \$67,725 (based on a family of four). The supplemental budget requests \$2.5 million in the DHS budget to increase the subsidies for these families because many of them cannot afford the current copayment amounts and therefore are not accessing preschool services for their children.
- The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) is requesting additional funding that is allowable with our current State Constitution (which prohibits State funds for private providers of educational services).
  1. The supplemental budget asks for \$4.47 million to, through an MOA with DOE, establish prekindergarten classes on DOE campuses:
    - a. Creates 32 classrooms in schools throughout the state that will serve 640 children (those eligible for free and reduced price meals).
    - b. DOE teachers will work in the classrooms.
    - c. EOEL will offer professional development support.
    - d. Schools have been identified by DOE administration, including complex area superintendents, using several criteria including: Title I status, rural location or limited preschool choices, existing preschool with Race to the Top or other federal funding support that is ending, and principal support.
  2. The supplemental budget request asks for \$1 million to fund family-child interaction learning programs to provide family engagement for 4-year-olds. This will be administered through a competitive contract process overseen by EOEL and will reach 400 children and families (those eligible for free and reduced price meals).