Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) are comprehensive child development programs that give children from at-risk backgrounds the skills and experiences they need to be successful in school and in life. HS serves children 3-5 years of age and their families; EHS serves pregnant women, and infants and toddlers and their families.

These slots filled 149 HS and EHS classrooms in Hawaii. The majority of EHS keiki are served through a home-visiting model.  

2,326 Funded Head Start (HS) Slots  
633 Funded Early Head Start (EHS) Slots

Hawaii HS/EHS Workforce

583 HS and EHS jobs in Hawaii  
27% of staff were/are HS or EHS parents  
57% of HS preschool teachers have a BA or higher (ECE-related)  
83% of HS preschool assistant teachers have a CDA or higher  
100% of EHS infant/toddler classroom teachers have a CDA or higher  
179,543 volunteer hours donated by HS/EHS parents

By the Numbers

Funding to Support Hawaii for HS, EHS, and EHS-Child Care Partnerships

$28,801,388 Federal Funding for Base Grant (program operations)  
$419,741 Federal Funding for Training/Technical Assistance (professional development supports)

Value of In-Kind Contributions:  
$3,119,226 Parent volunteers  
$4,402,618 Space in-kind  
$917,106 Professional/Community partners

Head Start’s Vision for Children, Birth to School Entry

A coordinated, comprehensive and sustainable system of early care and education would give all children access to:  
• High quality early learning experiences within safe, healthy, enriching and inclusive environments.  
• Opportunities to learn and play together, regardless of differences in socio-economic or cultural backgrounds, or differences in skills and abilities.  
• A range of health and family support services to those who need them.  
• Well-coordinated, smooth transitions as they move from one setting or program to another.  
• Resources that enable them to be served in settings that best meet their needs or the needs of their families.
The Head Start/Early Head Start Advantage in Hawaii

70 pregnant women were served by EHS

364 children with disabilities were served by HS/EHS

114 children in foster care were served by HS/EHS

215 children experiencing homelessness were served by HS/EHS

3,680 children were enrolled at some point during the year (cumulative enrollment)

2,962 families received at least one family service during the year

3,580 children had continuous access to health care (medical home)

3,242 children had continuous access to dental care (dental home)

1,586 families participated in health education

268 parents advanced their education level

219 families received job training

525 families received crisis intervention

Head Start/Early Head Start in the Community

- State-level interagency agreements between HS/EHS and Hawaii DOE (Special Education Section and Homeless Concerns Office)
- State-level interagency agreements between HS/EHS and Hawaii DOH (WIC, Early Intervention, Newborn Hearing Screening Program, and Public Health Nursing)
- State-level interagency agreements between HS/EHS and Hawaii DHS (Child Welfare Services)

Head Start Association of Hawaii (HSAH): Our Mission

We are a unified voice for Head Start across Hawaii, advancing high quality comprehensive services that ensure children (prenatal to age five) and their families grow and thrive in an ever-changing world. We do this by:

- Facilitating the sharing of information, skills and strategies among Association members.
- Identifying and acting upon issues of common concern.
- Advocating on behalf of member programs, and for children and families in Hawaii.
- Promoting linkages with other organizations and individuals concerned with the welfare of young children and families.
- Promoting comprehensive child development and family services for families in Hawaii.

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