

PATCH 'Ohana Network



PATCH - Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs

"Investing In Children and High-Quality Child Care is Investing In Our Nation's Economic Success."*

The need:

- Over half of new high school graduates are unprepared for work. They have inadequate oral and written communications skills. They have poor critical thinking skills and problem solving abilities. Their work ethic is poor and they don't understand how to act professionally. Children from high-quality child care programs are more likely to have better paying jobs.

- More than 20 percent of U.S. workers do not have the literacy and math skills needed to function at work. High-quality child care improves school readiness and likelihood to read and have basic math skills by grade 3.

- By age 4, children of professionals have heard almost 45 million words, children in a working-class family have heard 26 million words, and children in a family receiving assistance have heard 13 million words. High-quality child care needs to start with infants and toddlers.

- If current policies continue, over the next 10 years the proportion of the U.S. federal budget allocated to investments in children will decline by 14-29 percent.

What can you do?

Stay informed about investments in children and the impact of high-quality child care standards.

Pay attention to how your local and state representatives vote on these issues.

Make sure parents' voices are heard. Encourage your child's provider to invite community leaders and elected representatives to the center or family child care home.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT! Evidence indicates that investing in children during the earliest years of their lives yields high returns for our nation's economy. We need to document these results and have parents bring them to the attention of policy-makers and the public.

****Partnership for America's Economic Success***

For more information on child care and the economic recovery package see these websites:

National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies: <http://highqualitychildcare.org/ct/Ad3B3Yp1DSkw/>

National Women's Law Center: <http://highqualitychildcare.org/ct/A73B3Yp1DSks/>



What's New at PATCH?

Classes for Parents

PATCH offers over 100 Free Child Care Workshops, many of which are great for parents! The current training catalog is available on our website: www.PatchHawaii.org. Look in the Training Tracks



Newsletter for classes marked with the parent symbol (pictured

at left), and register now for a class in your area.

Check out
our new
website:



www.PatchHawaii.org

PATCH's website has a new look; one that we hope provides easier navigation and a better guide to all of our services. Please tell us what you think: we're happy to hear your thoughts!



Early Childhood Community Resources

Local

Arbor Child Care Connections is a federal subsidy program helping families pay for child care services. For more information call an office in your area. In Honolulu (Hawaii Kai – Halawa) call 356-5555. In Waipahu (Aiea-Wahiawa to Waiialua; Waipahu-Makaha) call 356-5577.

Arbor Preschools Open Doors Program (POD) is a statewide early education and care project funded by the State of Hawaii. POD helps 3- and 4-year old children attend preschool by helping families pay preschool costs. For more information call our office on Oahu 587-5254 and Neighbor Islands 1-800-746-5620.

The Parent Line: Oahu: 526-1222
Neighbor Islands: 1-800-816-1222.

Aloha United Way - 211: Available Monday-Friday, 6am-9pm, it's fast, free and confidential. Call 211 now to GET or GIVE HELP. Or visit www.auw.org/211/.

Online News

Daily Parent: Visit www.childcareaware.org/dailyparent.

KidSource OnLine: Visit www.kidsource.com today!

National

National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA): Visit www.naccrra.org/parent/index.php.

Born Learning: Visit www.bornlearning.org.

Healthy Habits for Healthy Kids - A Nutrition and Activity Guide for Parents: Visit www.wellpoint.com/healthy_parenting/index.html.

Walk for PATCH on Saturday May 16!

Join us and help to raise funds for PATCH at the 31st Annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk.

For more information contact your local PATCH office or visit www.patchhawaii.org.



It's Time to Register for Kindergarten!

**If Your Child Was Born In 2004,
Register NOW For Kindergarten!**

How to Start:

To find out which school to register your child at, you can :
call or stop by the elementary schools in your area
and give them your street address. The office staff
can tell you if your address falls in the school's district.
Ask if the school has specific registration days or times.

What You Need to Register:

When you know which school your child should attend,
take the following documents
to the school to register your child:

• Health Records (Form 14)

Have your doctor or health care provider complete a Form 14 for your child
to bring to school. Your child must have a physical examination,
written documentation of required immunizations, and
tuberculosis (TB) clearance to enter school on the first day.
For more information call the Hawaii Immunization Program at 586-8300.

• Birth Certificate

Bring an original or certified copy of your child's birth certificate
to verify your child's age. Your child must be age 5 by December 31
(born in 2004) to start kindergarten this year.
You can register now; don't wait until your child turns 5.

• Legal documents

If there were changes to your child's name, custody arrangement,
or guardianship, bring the legal documents that verify the changes.

• Proof of current local address

Your child must live within the school's geographic district.
Bring a document such as an electric, telephone, or cable bill, or a
housing or rental agreement that shows the address of your child's home.
If you have questions about geographic exceptions, ask the school registrar.

Other Information:

If your child has been enrolled in any special needs preschool program,
please share this information at the time of registration.

What's The Back Up Plan?

When you decided to seek child care, you planned to locate the "best matched" provider for your child. You took time to research programs, visit staff, and ask all the right questions. You were able to make your decision and now you're ready to go. But, are you sure you've thought of everything?

You have the formula, diapers, a favorite blankie for naps, and an extra change of clothes. But, do you have a *back up plan*? You may be wondering why you even need one. Regardless of your child care setting

- family child care or center-based - it is important to think about a back up child care plan. There may be times when you know your provider will not be available. But there are also times when your provider may have to be closed on short notice due to illness or an emergency.

Avoid last minute searches for back up child care: have a plan in place when you start with your primary child care provider. Here are some helpful hints:

- Check with your provider. Your provider may have information about back up child care that he/she suggests or has made arrangements with.
- Plan ahead. Know your provider's schedule and make note of dates the program will be closed (holidays and vacations). These may have been indicated in the parent handbook or contract. While you can't predict illness, you can at least be prepared for the closures you're aware of.



- Have more than one back up. Try to come up with a few solutions to your back up child care needs. You may have family in the area who are willing to help out from time to time. There may be a stay-at-home mother who has mentioned that she's available if you ever need someone.

- Will your employer help out? Check if there are any back up child care programs available through your company. Some employers offer on-site back up care. There are also companies that have designated "back up spots" at child care centers within the community. Depending on your job, you may be able to work out a telecommuting arrangement while your provider is closed.

Back up is not just back up. Be as serious about your search for a back up child care provider as you were with your primary provider. Take the same steps you did in your initial search. Ask the questions, conduct the interviews, visit the location, and ask for references. A temporary solution can still leave a lasting impact on your child. Therefore, you want to make sure you and your child are both comfortable with the arrangement you select.

Contact PATCH for referrals of child care programs in Hawaii that provide back-up care. For nationwide information, visit www.childcareaware.org or call 1-800-424-2246.

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Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Hawaii, along with the entire nation, is confronting the most serious economic downturn in many decades. An increasing number of low and moderate income working families and individuals are struggling financially and, more than ever before, are likely to need help from two federal tax benefits, the Earned Income Credit (EIC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC). This year, eligible families can get as much as \$4,824 from the EIC, and more if they also qualify for the CTC.

About the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): The EITC is a tax benefit for people who worked full or part-time in 2008. Check the chart below to see how much you could qualify for.

You are:	and you earn LESS than:	then you may qualify for a credit or refund of up to
A married couple with 2 or more qualifying children	\$41,646	\$4,824
A single person with 2 or more qualifying children	\$38,646	\$4,824
A married couple with 1 qualifying child	\$36,995	\$2,917

**Questions?
Call Today!**

Helpline:

www.hawaiiataxhelp.org
info@hawaiiataxhelp.org

DO YOU NEED A TIME OUT FROM YOUR KIDS?



Are you overwhelmed or in a stressful situation and need some time away from the keiki? Parents And Children Together (PACT) offers Respite Care to qualifying families with children ages 0-5 years old. Eligible families can drop off their children at our center in Kalihi on Oahu for up to three hours a week for Respite Care.

Respite is free of charge. Families can have three (3) hours of Respite one day per week. Families keep the same day each week.

Call PACT's Respite Care Program at 841-1027 to see if you are eligible and to apply for services.

The Kamehameha Schools Hi`ilani Program

Hi`ilani is an early childhood family education program that serves children prenatal to 36 months of age and their families. Hi`ilani offers small group classes that focus on tools and techniques that promote preschool readiness through positive parent-child interactions. Parents can also meet individually with program staff for information and resources that help nurture and stimulate their child's development.

The Hi`ilani program supports families in the community via FREE regularly-scheduled classes and activities during mornings, mid-days and evenings throughout the year. These include:

- Parent and child interaction classes
- Prenatal classes
- Family education activities
- Early childhood screening and referral
- Individual consultation

Classes include Prenatal, Baby Massage, Baby Milestones, Floor Time (play at the child's level), Child Guidance, Socialization and Preschool Transition.

To enroll in classes offered at our East Hawai`i site, contact:

Diane Mokuhalii at (808) 969-3883
42 Kino`ole Street, Hilo, HI 96720



New Special Services for Families of the Navy

In February 2009, PATCH launched a new respite care program for Navy families who have special needs children. If eligible, you can receive up to 40 hours per month of FREE respite care for your children.

PATCH trains child care providers who are paid by the Navy directly to give your family the respite care it needs. Eligible families must be part of the military's Exceptional Family Member Program.

Check back soon for updates on our website, www.PatchHawaii.org, under Special Services for Military Families, or call Jill at 791-2128.

For ALL MILITARY Families (except Airforce): On Active Duty? Deployed? Remember, we can help with special referral services to quality child care programs. Contact your PATCH office today.

PATCH Offices Statewide

Let PATCH assist you in finding licensed child care services across the state. Call one of our offices or visit our website for information on how to choose a quality child care provider, child care financial aid and much more!

In addition, PATCH can connect you to other early childhood resources that are available in your community.

PATCH-Oahu

650 Iwilei Road
Suite 205
Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: 808-839-1988

PATCH-East Hawaii

305 Wailuku Drive
Suite 4
Hilo, HI 96720
Phone: 808-961-3169

PATCH-Maui County

95 Mahalani Street
Suite 28-2A
Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: 808-242-4786
Lanai & Molokai: 1-800-498-4145

PATCH-West Hawaii

73-4354 Mamalahoa Hwy.
Suite 208
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Phone: 808-325-3864

PATCH-Kauai

4485 Pahe'e Street
Suite 124
Lihue, HI 96766
Phone: 808-246-0622

Mahalo to the State Department of Human Services, Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division.



Visit our website at www.PatchHawaii.org

- Online child care referrals
- Sign up to receive email news & updates
- Early childhood development resources
- Child care subsidy information
- Much more!

PATCH is a local 501c(3) resource and referral agency created in 1976. Our mission is to support and improve the quality and availability of care for the young people of Hawaii. PATCH has not investigated the resources listed and makes no warranties, express or implied, regarding the nature and quality of goods or services rendered by said resource providers.



Come Visit the PATCH Booth at the
New Baby Expo 2009!

May 16 and 17, at the
Neal Blaisdell Exhibition Hall, Honolulu.



650 Iwilei Road
Suite 205
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
PATCH@PatchHawaii.org
www.PatchHawaii.org

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