

MEDIA ADVISORY
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**HAWAI'I COMMUNITIES UNVEIL \$10 MILLION
PLANS FOR HIGHER STANDARDS IN EARLY
CARE AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**
*P-20 Initiative Receives Grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to
Improve Reading of 3rd Graders*

WHAT: Key leaders in early care and education from across the state -- legislators, educators, business executives and early childhood experts -- will gather for an unveiling of their work plans designed to strengthen Hawai'i's policies and programs for children from birth to school entry.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation recently awarded the Hawai'i P-20 Initiative with \$10 million to support the goal of having every third grader in Hawai'i reading at grade level by 2015.

Called "Capturing the Momentum – the P-3 Initiative," the project will provide coordinated efforts at community and state levels to ensure children are ready to succeed.

WHEN: *Tuesday, April 10, 10:00 a.m.*
Palolo Valley

WHO: *Greg Taylor*, Vice President of Youth and Education and *Valorie Johnson*, Program Director, Youth and Education, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; *Linda Johnsrud*, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy, University of Hawai'i; *Tammi Chun*, Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20 Initiative; *Elisabeth Chun*, Executive Director, Good Beginnings Alliance; and *Capturing the Momentum* Community Partners and Families:
INPEACE (Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture)
Haka 'Ula o Ke'elikolani College of Hawaiian Language
Hawai'i Pacific Islands Campus Compact/Palolo Valley
Lana'i High and Elementary School
Kaua'i P-20 Initiative

WHY: These five communities will share what they are currently doing and how community partnerships impact early education for the state of Hawai'i.

Leaders will also share how, in addition to strategies to boost student reading, they will be spending grant monies and setting higher standards for early learning throughout the state.

BACKGROUND: Improving educational performance rates starts with having all learners master the skills of reading by the end of third grade. From infancy through

grade three, children learn to read; from grade four on, people read to learn. Thus, the Hawai'i P-20 Initiative has identified the "P-3" section of the educational pipeline as one of its key focus areas.

"Capturing the Momentum" will support the development of high quality, culturally sensitive learning environments in early childhood through grade 3 settings and classrooms. A key component of "Capturing the Momentum" will be to replicate successful community-based and statewide initiatives already in place and provide support for these strategies in other communities.

The Hawai'i P-20 Initiative is a collaboration of local community organizations and three statewide education entities—the University of Hawai'i (UH), the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE), and the Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA). The Initiative is focused on increasing the number of learners who successfully navigate the education pipeline, which begins with early learning, continues through formal schooling from pre-kindergarten to postsecondary coursework, and lasts lifelong.

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ABOUT THE HAWAII P-20 INITIATIVE

The purpose of the Hawai'i P-20 Initiative is to address the challenges of the educational "pipeline" in Hawai'i, beginning with early learning, continuing through formal schooling from pre-K to postsecondary, and persisting lifelong. The Initiative is co-led by University of Hawai'i System President David McClain, Department of Education Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto, and Good Beginnings Alliance Executive Director Elisabeth Chun. For more information on the Hawai'i P-20 Initiative, visit www.p20hawaii.org.

ABOUT THE W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation was established in 1930 "to help people help themselves through the practical application of knowledge and resources to improve their quality of life and that of future generations." To achieve the greatest impact, the Foundation targets its grants toward specific areas. These include: health; food systems and rural development; youth and education; and philanthropy and volunteerism. Within these areas, attention is given to exploring learning opportunities in leadership; information and communication technology; capitalizing on diversity; and social and economic community development. Grants are concentrated in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the southern African countries of Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org.