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**For Immediate Release**  
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**Executive Office on Early Learning Announces  
Research-Based Standards for Early Learning**

HONOLULU – This month, the Executive Office on Early Learning is releasing the Hawai'i Early Learning and Development Standards (HELDS). These research-based standards identify the expectations of knowledge and behavior for children from birth up through kindergarten entry. The standards will be used to support early childhood professionals in the development of their programs and provide guidance on how to integrate strategies to educate young children. HELDS will also be used to help inform and reassure parents about the development of their child, and can support communication between teachers, caregivers and families.

"This is the first time a set of standards have been released that address the development needs of the whole child from birth to kindergarten entry," says Terry Lock, Director, Executive Office on Early Learning. "In addition to national research, the updated HELDS are based on decades of work within the Hawai'i early childhood community and show our state's commitment in ensuring that all children receive a quality early learning experience."

The HELDS mark the first time Hawai'i's early childhood field has a set of standards that aligns with the Hawai'i State Department of Education and the Common Core State Standards and aims to allow for a smoother transition for students from early childhood into kindergarten.

"The HELDS standards provides the framework, goals and language to help put everyone on the same page both in the early childhood field and across the entire educational pipeline," says GG Weisenfeld, Director of Early Learning at Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education.

The HELDS standards are an expected set of knowledge and behaviors categorized into five "domains" or areas based on the National Education Goals Panel framework. These areas are:

- Physical Well-Being, Health, and Motor Development
- Social and Emotional Development
- Approaches to Learning
- Cognition and General Knowledge
- Language and literacy

The standards were developed and researched by an advisory group that included representatives from Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, Center on the Family at the University of Hawai'i (COF), the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB), Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA), the Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC), and the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE).

For more information on HELDS visit <http://p3hawaii.org>.