



February 24, 2003

Dear Principal,

As you know, there is a growing concern among educators in our state that many of our entering kindergarten students lack the skills necessary to succeed in kindergarten. A few elementary schools have offered summer transition programs to children who have had little or no prior preschool experience. They have found that such programs help children and families make a smooth transition to kindergarten.

In the _____ District, the upcountry elementary schools, through their 21st century grant (Ka Upena Ho`ohui), have conducted transition-to-kindergarten programs for the past three summers. other elementary schools have allocated school funds to pay for the programs. The fact is that the cost of a half-day, 3 week summer program is really not prohibitive. As you will see from the budget below, a program can be operated for just under \$3,000.

If your school or complex is seeking grant funds from federal or other sources, it might be a good opportunity to include summer transition to kindergarten as a part of the school's plans needing funding. Another possibility is seeking funding from the business community in your area.

Good Beginnings has been a partner with the upcountry complex over the past three years, providing assistance in hiring teachers, providing teacher and volunteer orientation, and preparing evaluation tools. We would be glad to partner with any school interested in establishing a transition-to-kindergarten program.

Sincerely,

Sample Budget				
Transition to Kindergarten Program (Three Week Session)				
Teacher Salaries*	15 days	x 2 teachers	x4 hours**	= \$2,400.00
Orientation and Set up		x 2 teachers	x6 hours	= \$ 240.00
Materials				\$ 150.00
Snacks				\$ 100.00
				\$2,890.00

* Salaries figured a \$20.00 per hour (DOE1s PTT rate)
 **Includes 1 hour of prep time and 3 hours class time per day.