



NCLB Making a Difference in Hawaii

- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases federal education funding for Hawaii to more than \$341.1 million – 51% more than when the President took office.
- President Bush's 2005 budget proposal increases Title I funding to \$48 million – \$21.6 million over 2001 levels – to help Hawaii's neediest children.
- Hawaii has received \$9.1 million in reading grants to help schools and districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction since 2002. President Bush's proposed budget includes an additional \$3.5 million for Hawaii. In total, over six years, Hawaii is set to receive approximately \$17.7 million in Reading First funds.
- "Some of Mountain View Elementary's students live in tents and trailers in the isolated rural subdivisions of Upper Puna, and more than 87 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. Teachers limit the amount of homework they assign out of consideration for families without electricity for lighting. But most importantly, Mountain View offers tutoring and an intense focus on reading, and it is paying off. For all of the challenges facing its students, Mountain View Elementary School achieved coveted 'adequate yearly progress' status last year under the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*. In fact, Myrna Watanabe, the schoolwide reading resource coordinator, said all of Mountain View's kindergarten students were reading by the end of last year, which astonished many parents. One key to the advances the school made was employing a program called Reading Mastery that is designed to accelerate the learning of at-risk students. Teachers provide intensive phonics instruction using scripted materials delivered at a quick pace. It was expensive, but the school invested \$45,000 in federal grant money to launch the program two years ago, and the difference, especially in kindergarten and first grade, is 'just unbelievable, it's phenomenal,' Watanabe said." (*Honolulu Advertiser*, 3/22/04)
- "Last summer, almost half the seventh- and eighth-grade students at Jarrett Middle School gave up a month of vacation to improve their math and reading skills. With a significant portion of the student population coming from the public housing project in Palolo Valley, the school knew many families would not be able to afford to send their children to summer school. So the school started its own summer academy, charging just \$25 for the half-day program. The academy helped some students rise a grade level or two in reading, and as much as six grade levels in math." (*Honolulu Advertiser*, 3/25/04)
- "Ho'okena Elementary and Intermediate school is a rural Kona school, with some students bused or driven 25 miles each way, each day. More than two-thirds of them qualify for free or reduced lunches, and 20 of its 28 classrooms are in plantation-era buildings or portables. The school bell is broken, so students were summoned from recess recently by a pupil ringing an old-fashioned clanger. Yet last year Ho'okena achieved adequate yearly progress under the *No Child Left Behind Act*, and principal Lyndia Uchimura hopes to repeat that performance this year, pulling Ho'okena out of 'corrective action' status." (*Honolulu Advertiser*, 5/27/04)
- "Scores on the 2004 Hawaii State Assessment show more students at every grade level tested are rated proficient in reading and math this year than last, with the biggest leap shown by fifth-graders. 'Although we have a long journey before us, we are heading in the right direction and picking up speed,' Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto said in releasing the results. 'Our teachers and students are beginning to benefit from standards-based learning.'" (*Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, 8/20/04)