

# Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB)

Thursday, February 13, 2014

1:30 am – 4:00 pm

*The public may attend the meeting in any of the locations specified below:*

**Main Site:** Hanahau’oli School, Professional Development Center  
1922 Makiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

**Meeting Chair will preside at the Hanahau’oli School location.**

## Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Dana Balansag (for Pankaj Bhanot), Michael Fahey, Christine Jackson, Robert Peters, Lora Perry, Namaka Rawlins, Alfred Castle, Christina Cox, Chris Pating, Anna Peters, Ben Naki, Dani Tomiyasu (for DOH Director), Lisa Kimura, Geriann Hong (for Kathryn Matayoshi),

**Absent:** Malia Shimokawa, Kaina Bonascorsi, Lynn Cabato, Joanne Taira

**Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance:** GG Weisenfeld, Kerrie Urosevich, Kalei Keolanui

## Public in Attendance:

James Raymond, Melissa Pavlicek, Keiko Nitta, Gale Flynn, Tod Robertson, Cindy Hirai

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chair Robert Peters welcomed Geriann Hong, Superintendent Katherine Matayoshi’s alternate on the Board.</li><li>Also later in the meeting welcomed Lisa Kimura, the ELAB’s new Parent Representative.</li></ul>	
<b>Review and Approve</b> <b>1/9/14 Minutes—Bob</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1/9/14 Early Learning Advisory Board minutes reviewed; Member Alfred Castle moved for approval, Member Chris Jackson</li></ul>	<b>Minutes unanimously</b>

Early Learning Advisory Board

<http://elab.k12.hi.us>

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Peters	seconded. Minutes unanimously approved, 14-0.	<b>approved, 14-0</b>
<b>Executive Office on Early Learning Update</b> —GG Weisenfeld	<p><b>GG Weisenfeld:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in January in Henderson, Nevada, in the second of three NGA Policy Academy meetings for State strategies to improve learning outcomes 0-8</li> <li>• Defining the Role of HCYC: Kaina is the point person</li> <li>• GG and Wimmie visited 24 representatives and 17 senators by the date of this ELAB meeting—more are scheduled</li> <li>• EOEL has met with WAM and FIN staff and noticed we needed good talking points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Main objective: increase opportunities for 4-year-olds</li> <li>○ Action Strategy is our foundation</li> <li>○ Con Am</li> <li>○ Capacity and building capacity as we wait for the vote</li> <li>○ Mixed delivery system page</li> <li>○ Funding streams don't necessarily align with the budget request</li> </ul> </li> <li>• People extremely confused about Jr-K <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explained it is not a stand-alone program</li> <li>○ Younger children were forced into Kindergarten, and cannot satisfy the common core requirements</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Kerrie Urosevich:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign for Higher Level Reading will be here in two weeks; P-3 is the contact</li> <li>• Identified metrics for each focus area and projects</li> <li>• Solidifying funding stream for AS implementation</li> <li>• Resolved “child outcomes” versus “process outcome” issue</li> <li>• 2 new interns</li> <li>• Securing website support</li> <li>• Planning a discussion with Mark Glickman for advice on tech tools</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying the cost of implementing the entire Action Strategy</li> <li>• Designing a template that shows the progress of the Action Strategy</li> <li>• Tracking bills that support the Action Strategy</li> </ul> <p><b>GG Weisenfeld</b>—Education Week (March 17, 19, &amp; 20):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOE on Spring Break that week</li> <li>• 3/17/14 Big Rally in the Rotunda: Christina Cox organizing the groups coming to the Rally</li> <li>• 3/19/14 Action Strategy Day: Kerrie will be in charge</li> <li>• 3/20/14 ELAB Day in the Rotunda: GG and Bob are putting together the message</li> <li>• GG is coordinating with Kamehameha Schools</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Legislative Update—</b> Kendra Oishi</p>	<p><b>Kendra Oishi:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor’s priorities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since this is the second biennium, the focus is on the supplementary budget</li> <li>2. Early Education bills—passed out of the House and the Senate</li> <li>3. Minimum Wage</li> <li>4. Tax credits for seniors</li> <li>5. Health Transformation bills</li> <li>6. LG’s REACH Initiative</li> </ol> </li> <li>• How the Governor’s office operates with the legislature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stays away from submitting testimony on other bills</li> <li>○ Testifies on Governor’s bills and other bills that support Governor’s bills</li> <li>○ All departments submit their budget requests, and the Governor creates the budget</li> <li>○ GG gave the same talking points to the EOEL and the Governor today, so everyone is current</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Kendra offers her assistance in reviewing Early Learning testimony prior to submitting for the hearing</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We need ELAB’s independent voice to advocate for the Early Learning bills</li> <li><b>Melissa Pavlicek:</b></li> <li>• Focusing on the bills most important to our strategy, and which bills are alive and moving</li> <li>• Melissa’s #1 priority is the Con Am: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Her not-so-great conversations are due to ignorance</li> <li>○ It is a never ending battle to communicate</li> <li>○ Strongly encourages ELAB to take a strong stand on Mandatory Kindergarten</li> <li>○ Suggests coming up with a position statement for all testimony</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Final Committees for these bills, scheduled in the next two weeks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HB 14 Mandatory Kindergarten—please submit a position in support</li> <li>○ HB 1676/ SB 2236 Vacant DOE/Charter School Classrooms for Pre-K—for GG a mechanism to get discussion going for our budget request</li> <li>○ HB 1700 Budget</li> <li>○ HB 2276 Governor’s package—post-Con Am bill</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Not advancing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HB 2223 Licensing Sanctions</li> <li>○ HB 2456 School Entry Dental Exam Requirements</li> <li>○ HB 2220 Healthy Start Child Abuse Prevention</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contact Melissa if you would like a list of education legislation for older children</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Bill Review</b>—Miki Lee</p>	<p><b>How do we vet the bills we support?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anything promoting school readiness in a comprehensive way to support Hawaii’s families in an educational way</li> <li>• We want to avoid negative impacts</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory Kindergarten: right now about 300 children estimated to enter 1<sup>st</sup> grade without Kindergarten (no hard data)</li> <li>• Bills that lay the foundation for the School Readiness system</li> <li>• <i>Learning</i> must be in the bill, with access also considered</li> <li>• We need to create a sense of urgency regarding at-risk children to be served in high quality settings with access to care, and the parent component is absolutely essential</li> <li>• We need to be much more aggressive on the Con Am</li> <li>• ELAB should be in strong support of the Con Am and the Governor’s budget bills—not “support the intent”</li> <li>• EOEL’s priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HB2276-SB2826 Constitutional Amendment</li> <li>○ HB1676-SB2236 DOE Pre-K plan</li> <li>○ SB2275 FCIL bill</li> <li>○ HB14 Mandatory Kindergarten</li> <li>○ HB1700 Budget</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 25 bills that support the Action Strategy: departmental legislation</li> <li>• EOEL submitted testimony in support of minimum wage legislation</li> <li>• Chair Robert Peters called for a vote in support of the current legislation on the list—14-0 in favor</li> </ul> <p><b>Can we talk about the bills we strongly support?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HB1676-SB2236 DOE Pre-K Plan</li> <li>○ HB2276-SB2826 Constitutional Amendment</li> <li>○ SB2975 Contracts with 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Providers</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How are we going to support these bills? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Members should advocate for ELAB</li> <li>○ Another member felt it would be confusing for onlookers to see her instead of Bob testifying for EOEL</li> <li>○ Another member suggested doing as she does and announce that she is putting on another of her hats when she testifies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>ELAB support of Early Learning bills unanimously approved, 14-0</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Another member said he presents his testimony a number of ways based on who he is representing at the time</li> <li>● Can the members have a boilerplate for ELAB testimony? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Melissa and Bob will prepare testimony</li> <li>○ They will make it available</li> <li>○ They will call on the members if necessary to testify on a bill</li> <li>○ Melissa will work with Kalei to coordinate the hearing details</li> <li>○ Testimony will be sent out so everyone is included in the loop</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bob will create the statement with Melissa and send it to the members to review, and then see where the ELAB wants to go with it</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Leadership Report</b>—Bob Peters and Kalei Keolanui</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The ELAB needs a Vice Chair</li> <li>● No volunteers, so the Chair will ask members individually to assume the duties</li> <li>● EOEL is working closely with the new Boards &amp; Commissions manager, Jason Muraki, to make sure that we closely comply with established procedures. Please contact Kalei with any of your questions regarding your individual membership.</li> <li>● One seat remains empty, the Family Child Care Program Provider seat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Need ELAB’s assistance to find a representative for this seat</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The Philanthropic Organization, Center Based Program Provider, HEICC, Hawaiian Language Medium Early Learning Provider, and Family-Child Interaction Learning Program Provider terms expire this year—contact Kalei regarding your status</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Member Updates—Bob Peters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Christina Cox:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Service Employees International Union is here in Hawaii to organize our family care providers. California has already started.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Namaka Rawlins:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium’s (WINHEC) accreditation committee completed its on-site review of the ‘Aha Pūnana Leo preschools at the end of January. The final report and action will be announced at the WINHEC Board of Affirmation/Accreditation Meeting to be held in Honolulu on May 15-17 prior to the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) to be held May 18-24.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Dana Balansag:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ POD rules adopted 2/9/2014. Public notice will be published statewide in the papers indicating that the Application Period for the 2014-2015 POD year is March 1 – April 30, 2014.</li> <li>○ POD Applications will be available for downloading at the PATCH website on March 1. DHS will also be putting on the DHS BESSD CCPO website. Families can contact PATCH POD to get on the notification list for applications now. It is important for families to apply, even if they may be over the POD income limits, so that DHS can provide information to the Legislature to show that there is demand for POD and that \$6M would not be enough to meet the demand.</li> <li>○ Preschools should encourage families to apply early; and mail their applications EARLY as applications must be received by April 30, 2014.</li> <li>○ DHS will have PATCH do a presentation at the next ELAB</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	<p>meeting regarding the changes to the POD program for the 2014-2015 POD year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alfred Castle:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kia Ika Ike, the Hawaii Preschool Directors Association, will hold its annual conference. The Castle Foundation supports this annual conference of preschool directors to provide networking and professional development opportunities for directors who are often isolated geographically and professionally. Dr. Debra Ren-ETTA Sullivan, a leading figure in leadership training and studies, will be the guest speaker.</li> <li>○ Al also mentioned that Castle Colleagues, a management training program for pre-school directors, will open its 22<sup>nd</sup> year of training at the East-West Center March 6<sup>th</sup>. This program was a pioneer program in the field of professional development for pre-k center directors and is offered in partnership with Chaminade University. An additional graduate program for Castle Colleagues graduates will assist directors seeking accreditation or re-accreditation for their centers. The graduate program opens with workshops on advocacy issues on March 8<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Chris Jackson:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hawaii Head Start and Early Head Start grantees received notice this month that, with the signing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 by President Obama, they will be able to recoup the 5.27% reduction in funds due to sequestration, along with a 1.3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Sequestration cuts resulted in services to 60 fewer children in Hawaii. Restoration of these funds will support grantees in restoring their funded enrollment slots, and the COLA funding will help grantees with improved staff</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	compensation. Grantees will need to apply for these funds through a grant application.	
<b>Public Comment</b> —Bob Peters	No public comment.	
<b>Review Agenda Outcomes</b> —Bob Peters	<p>For the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DHS report on Preschool Open Doors</li> <li>• Invite GBA to share their Con Am talking points</li> <li>• Homework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair = Get a Vice Chair, work with Melissa on the Con Am position statement, and prepare testimony for bills we will support</li> <li>○ ELAB = get very familiar with the bills we discussed today</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b> —Bob Peters	The next ELAB meeting will be at the Koolau Ballrooms in Kaneohe on March 13, 2014, from 1:30-4:00PM.	
<b>Closing</b> —Bob Peters	<p>Closing words shared by Mike Fahey:</p> <p><i>“You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams.”</i></p> <p>— Dr. Seuss</p>	

Submitted by: Kalei Keolanui