

Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB)

"It is absolutely clear to me that the early learning system of the future will be a mixed delivery system of providers. That system will include Head Start, state preschool programs, private providers, community-based programs and any other programs in the states that are willing and able to offer a high quality program." Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education

Origin:

Act 178 created the Executive Office on Early Learning and established the Early Learning Advisory Board to replace the Early Learning Council.

Composition:

Public and private representatives from departments, agencies, service providers, philanthropy, parents, pediatricians and educational organizations/institutions (see back)

Purpose:

- Advise the EOEL on how best to meet the educational needs of children, from 0 - 5;
- Provide recommendations to the office on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early childhood care and education programs;
- Promote collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children;
- Be an independent voice for children's health, safety, development, and learning,

Context: What we know

- Children who attend quality preschool programs perform better academically and socially than children who do not (3rd grade reading scores, 9th grade grade point averages);
- Leg took first step last year and now need to build upon, particularly given the elimination of JK; waiting is ill-advised, especially knowing the advantages for disadvantaged and low-income students;
- Hawaii, one of 11 states without state-funded preschool
- Only 56% of Hawaii 4 year olds attend a program that will prepare them for Kindergarten;
- Arne Duncan: "a powerful, bipartisan coalition of governors are funding expansions in the states. . . of high quality early learning programs."
 - Range from Mississippi with a \$3 million first-time investment to Michigan with a \$65 million infusion during this past year.

By supporting current legislation, we can join other states not waiting and moving forward.

ELAB Bill Support for 2014 Session:

- HB 1676/SB2236: DOE and Pre-K Plan: vacant DOE/Charter School classrooms
- SB2975: appropriation for EOEL to contract with FCIL
- HB2276/SB2826: Implementation post Con-Am; est. early learning program
- HB 1700: Budget Funding: DOE Pre-K; Preschool Open Doors; FCIL; EOEL Staff