**To**: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

 Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

 Members of the House Committee On Finance

**From:** Robert G. Peters, Chair

 Early Learning Board

**Subject**: **Measure**: HB 1562, HD 1 Relating to Early Education

 **Hearing Date**: Friday, February 25, 2022

 **Time**: 11:00 AM

 **Location**: Conference Room 308 Via Videoconference

**Description**: Adds the director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education as an ex officio, nonvoting member to the Early Learning Board. Effective 7/1/2050 (HD 1)

**Early Learning Board Position: Comments**

Aloha. I am Robert G. Peters, Chair of the Early Learning Board (ELB). Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments about HB 1562, HD 1 on behalf of the ELB.

Through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, ELB transitioned from an advisory to a governing board for the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and is charged with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning.

The ELB is composed of 17 representatives from across the early childhood field, in both the public and private sectors. This bill would increase the Board’s current size by adding the Director of P-20 Partnerships for Education as a permanent, ex-officio and non-voting member of the ELB.

HB 1562 was discussed at our recent Board meeting with no position taken on the bill. Comments indicated that the Board is mixed in its response about the advisability of adding a new permanent seat. While there was no question raised about the value of the P-20 voice, either in its own right or as the UH representative, some raised questions about Board size along with what characteristics should qualify for a permanent Board seat. ELB has set Board composition and organization as one of its priority issues for the year where these questions can be addressed.

While I am unable to attend today’s hearing, I can be available to answer Committee Member questions at a later date if desired. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1562, HD 1.