

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, April 11, 2019

1:30 am – 4:00 pm

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

**Main Site: KCAA/CEED Center  
2707 South King Street, Honolulu, HI 96826**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Dana Balansag (for Director Bhanot), Kaina Bonacorsi, Ben Naki, Mike Fahey, Keiko Nitta (for Director Anderson), Cherilyn Shiinoki, Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto), Bob Peters, Namaka Rawlins, Mari Uehara

**Absent:** Edel Baguio-Larena

**Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance:** Lauren Moriguchi, Wimmie Wong Lui, Jeff Larson, Ashley Miura, Chris Jackson

**Public in Attendance:** Kerrie Urosevich, Cheri Nakamura, Christina Cox, Melodie Vega, Camille Masutomi, Kim Guieb, Charis Sole, Mei Ou, Carol Wear, Jordana Ferreira, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Deborah Zysman, Kara Kusunoki, Robyn Chun

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Bob welcomed the group at 1:36 p.m. He then asked Keiko to read the ELB mission statement and asked that members keep this in mind as they engage in today’s work and work going forward.	
<b>Review and Approve</b> <b>3/14/19 minutes—</b> Bob Peters	Minutes were reviewed and approved with the change proposed by Mari (to insert “It’s not just the container but the content that matters.” on page 4 under comments made by Mari).	
<b>Public Comment –</b> Bob Peters	Justina Acevedo-Cross: announced a new 3-year initiative called “Promising Minds” to support children and families who have had	

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<http://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/early-learning-board/>

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	<p>trauma experiences in their lives. 4 Communities of Practice (CoP) will be funded by Hawaii Community Foundation every year for the next 3 years. The first CoP applications are due 4.12.19.</p> <p>Kim Guieb: announced that <i>Read to Me International Literacy Conference</i> will be convened on June 6 and 7; flyers and registration forms were made available to members.</p> <p>Robyn Chun: announced that the <i>Early Childhood Education Summer Institute</i>, a partnership between the UH College of Education, EOEL and Honolulu Community College, (HCC) will be held at HCC on July 7-11. Sue Bredekamp will be the featured presenter. A flyer about the event is forthcoming.</p> <p>Chris Jackson: announced an opportunity to link into the live streaming of the <i>Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium 2019 Annual Meeting</i> plenary sessions. A handout with information on the event was distributed.</p>	
<p><b>EOEL Report</b> — Lauren Moriguchi</p>	<p>Lauren provided EOEL updates – please refer to handout distributed.</p> <p>An EOEL pre-K brochure was distributed to members describing services provided to children and school teams.</p> <p>Lauren also mentioned that she met with the Keiki Funders network on 4.8 to update them on the progress of the NGA Workforce work group and to solicit their feedback on what it will take to build a qualified and sustainable work force in Hawaii.</p> <p>Comments from ELB members and the public included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interesting to see what everyone is doing around early learning and how huge the workforce development issue is, including the compensation issue. Conversation at the meeting was also</li> </ul>	

	<p>around family child care and the need for more of these settings in rural areas where preschools might not be a viable option.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting also addressed the health, safety and learning opportunities that funders could support with additional public funds.</li> <li>• It is not whether or not, but how, to develop the workforce – we need future conversations around this topic.</li> <li>• This workforce issue is broad, and not limited to education – recruitment, retention and capacity-building affects all sectors; we need to help the early childhood community be as professional and knowledgeable as it can be.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Legislative Update</b> ---Bob Peters &amp; Wimmie Wong Lui</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bills related to increasing access and workforce development have died.</li> <li>• Bills still alive related to the EOEL budget (House and Senate versions are still moving forward); some have partial and some full request for funding; 2 bills related to CIP request for pre-K expansion</li> <li>• HCR and SR introduced by Senator Kidani to explore the possibility of implementing a sliding scale fee for EOEL pre-K in order to include the middle-class gap group in its eligibility criteria. (It is believed that this would both expand the reach of EOEL and address under-enrollment in some existing classrooms.)</li> <li>• Charter School funding and EOEL pre-K expansion in some form is still in play.</li> <li>• HB 1193: Dependent Care Tax Credit bill is still alive.</li> </ul> <p>EOEL “authority and responsibility” issue – testimony is no longer being accepted on the 2 bills addressing this issue. Bob was</p>	

	<p>approached by board members who suggested ELB coming up with a possible policy position around this issue rather than getting caught up in the details of the bills. The following motion was proposed by Bob: <b><i>“The ELB supports legislation that affirms the independence, authority and responsibility of EOEL and ELB over early learning in the State as defined in statute.”</i></b></p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glad this motion was proposed because it is the baseline for why we are here.</li> <li>• Glad for this motion to come forward – have felt that we needed to take a stand and make a statement about our authority and responsibility as an independent body. Maybe delete “legislation” for a broader view.</li> <li>• What if we don’t like future legislation that might be created? (Response: we would not support anything that diminishes independence, authority and responsibility that currently exists in statute)</li> <li>• Do we need a policy position if we have a vision and mission statement? (Response: the vision and mission statements do not necessarily assert the authority, independence or responsibility of EOEL and ELB around early learning)</li> <li>• Worried that we may be creating a policy that may undermine our work together – wonder if a policy is the best venue. Is EOEL and ELB only looking at early learning in the State? (Response: current statute has provided a charge to ELB and EOEL to set up an early learning system in the State)</li> <li>• Why do we need legislation when we know that the pre-K program is working and that collaboration is happening at the school level?</li> <li>• Recommend removing the word “legislation” and inserting language from the existing statute.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We should have referred to our vision, mission, and guiding principles to use during this legislative session to guide our thinking. We could have applied the questions posed by the consultant as our filter in these discussions.</li> <li>• ELB is a representative board which creates a challenge; some members can vote and others can't; we have a complex structure.</li> </ul> <p><i>Action: Y-2; N-6 Abs – 0</i></p> <p>A second motion was proposed by Ka`ina that ELB “take a general position which supports the independence, administrative authority and responsibility of EOEL and ELB over early learning and care in the State while promoting collaboration across agencies.” Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still want to use vision, mission and guiding principles to guide us, rather than a policy. Would be excited to engage in policy development this year.</li> <li>• Don't want to be reactive in the moment. Don't feel we are being reactive. Want to develop policy to go forward as a reminder of who we are.</li> <li>• We need to take the time to develop good policy to help direct the EOEL.</li> <li>• Our committee structure is not yet in place, but we do need a committee to develop policy rather than trying to do it as a committee of the whole.</li> <li>• I'd like to affirm the kuleana of this body and the emphasis of collaboration but maybe call it something other than a “policy” statement.</li> <li>• A larger conversation around pre-K is needed, and we need to discuss governance at some point.</li> <li>• Boards develop policy to guide their legislative interactions.</li> <li>• Bob's intent is an admirable one – a policy could help guide us, especially with all the different iterations of legislation.</li> </ul>	
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	<p><i>Action: Y-6; N-2. Policy now needs to be brought back for how to apply it and when to apply it.</i></p> <p>Sliding scale fee discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This resolution is for EOEL’s consideration for implementation is to open up slots to lower middle class families.</li> <li>• EOEL checked with the AG’s office – pre-K is not mandatory, nor is higher education; Higher education charges tuition, therefore, pre-K should also be able to charge tuition.</li> <li>• EOEL would need to do a cost/benefit analysis – this may help fill vacancies (transportation and late applications are also issues that have impacted full enrollment in some areas).</li> <li>• EOEL would need to develop a system of collection of tuition fees – would need to create positions and hire staff.</li> <li>• A cost, capacity and feasibility study would be needed.</li> <li>• Implications – would need to change the existing statute regarding eligibility since currently, parents do not pay tuition.</li> </ul> <p><i>Action: ELB take a position that it supports the intent of this resolution with caveat that resources would be needed to implement this.</i></p>	
<p><b>Committee Update</b> —Bob Peters</p>	<p>Nominations Committee report (Mike): A confirmation hearing is scheduled for 4.17.19 at 2:45 p.m. for the following ELB members:</p> <p>GM 707: Ben Naki (2<sup>nd</sup> term as HS rep)  GM 685: Kerrie Urosevich (1<sup>st</sup> term as HEICC rep)  GM 687: Leilani Au (to serve out remaining 1<sup>st</sup> term as center-based provider rep)  GM 721: Justina Acevedo-Cross (to serve out remaining 1<sup>st</sup> term as philanthropy rep)</p> <p>Testimony on behalf of the ELB has already been submitted.</p>	

<b>Member Updates – Bob Peters</b>	<p>Kaina: Maui County named Lori Tsuhako as its new Housing and Human Services Deputy Director.</p> <p>Ben: 2 Hawaii Island PACT HS classrooms, closed due to Hurricane Lane, just reopened at the end of March newly renovated; 2 new PACT Early Head Start classrooms opened up in March, as well, at the Easter Seals site and in Hawaiian Beaches.</p>	
<b>Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bob to send out ELB’s vision statement, mission statement and guiding principles to the Board.</li> <li>• ELB member confirmation by the Senate is scheduled for 4.17 – ELB members can submit testimony as individual members.</li> <li>• Bills supporting EOEL and expansion of classrooms still alive.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	<p>A PBS Insights roundtable on the <i>High Cost of Child Care</i> will be aired tonight (with a rebroadcast on 4.17), featuring Deb Zysman, Jordana Ferreira, a parent and a Kamaaina Kids director.</p>	
<b>Executive Session</b>	<p>No items from the AG.</p>	
<b>Closing—Mike Fahey</b>	<p>“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of others.” (Charles Dickens)</p>	

Submitted by Chris Jackson`