

**(Special) Early Learning Board (ELB)**

**Thursday, January 31, 2020**

**9:30 am – 11:00 am**

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

**Main Site: 2707 South King Street, Honolulu 96826 (KCAA/CEED)**

**Teleconference Site: County of Maui Early Childhood Resource Center, 251 Napua Street, Wailuku 96726**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Pankaj Bhanot, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Leilani Au, Kerrie Urosevich, Matthew Shim (for Dir. Anderson), Cherilyn Shiinoki, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Bob Davies (for Supt. Kishimoto), Melodie Vega, Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Bob Peters, Kaina Bonacorsi (by phone)

**Absent:** Ben Naki, Namaka Rawlins, Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Mari Uehara,

**Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance:** Lauren Moriguchi, Wimmie Wong Lui, Keopu Reelitz, Jeff Larson, Keli Houston, Alohi Maiava, Ashley Miura, Chris Jackson

**Public in Attendance:** Jordana Ferreira, Lynn Hammonds, Mary Ann Nemoto, Christina Cox, Suzie Uyeda, Nicole Revis, Grant Kogami, Jennifer Tanele, Silvia Sharrar, Kathy Murphy, Ka’anoi Walk, Terry Lock, Charis Sole, Deborah Zysman, Doug Imig, Janina Martin, Robyn Chun, Cheri Nakamura, Kaiulani Laeha, Ashley Mizuo, Sue Von Lee, Robbie Dingeman, Deanne Goya, Kim Guieb, Dana Balansag, Amanda Stevens.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Bob welcomed the group at 9:35 a.m. and asked Director Pankaj Bhanot to read the ELB mission statement. Bob asked everyone to keep this statement in mind to give the ELB direction as they discuss HB 2543.	
<b>H.B. No. 2543: Relating to Early Learning –</b> Bob Peters	Bob provided some context for ELB members to know who the players are related to HB 2543 and some background on this bill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key decision-makers have had conversations to advance Pre-K access at a faster rate than currently being proposed by EOEL.</li><li>• As conversations began to grow between businesses and non-profits, the legislature stepped in and used the Aloha United Way (AUW)</li></ul>	

	<p>ALICE Report to support a more integrated approach to supporting working families, including housing, income inequity, and other barriers, including the affordability of child care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was economic motivation to try to reduce the number of families leaving Hawaii due to the high cost of living.</li> <li>• Both public and private sectors have been discussing potential funding support.</li> <li>• This bill will require long term sustainability – not sure what that means at this point.</li> <li>• The early childhood community was not invited to earlier conversations, but is now being involved.</li> </ul> <p>Bob then posed these questions to the ELB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the opportunity that presents itself?</li> <li>• If there is an opportunity, how do we guarantee that the experiences for children and families are good ones?</li> <li>• How do we (ELB) play into that guarantee?</li> </ul> <p>Wimmie was asked to provide a summary of the bill’s content. (Please see attachment for this summary of what is currently understood from reading the bill – what it seems to do. The summary does not speak to the intent behind the bill.)</p> <p>A brainstorming of ideas then ensued around 3 key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What questions does the bill raise?</li> <li>• What information should legislators know/consider?</li> <li>• What is needed to achieve rapid expansion of Pre-K for 3 and 4-year-old children?</li> </ul> <p>Thoughts were recorded on chart paper and are attached, as well.</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b>— Bob Peters</p>	<p>Comments from the public were acknowledged and included in the chart paper notes.</p>	

<p><b>Proposed Testimony: H.B. No. 2543: Relating to Access to Early Learning – Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>The “Policy Statements to Inform Testimony” were emailed to ELB members prior to the meeting and were offered to set priorities to guide forthcoming testimony to the Legislature.</p> <p>The policies were reviewed, and there were 2 recommended changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spell out the ELB’s current responsibilities as a governing board to increase clarity of its role.</li> <li>• Change the wording in the last policy for consistency with the 4<sup>th</sup> policy – replace “early childhood education” with “early learning opportunities”.</li> </ul> <p>The policy statements were approved with the suggested changes.</p> <p>Discussion was solicited as to what to include in the testimony that Bob will develop on behalf of the ELB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What kind of governing structure do we need to address the bill?</li> <li>• Do not want for the EOEL Director to be Governor-appointed.</li> <li>• Include specificity of ELB’s role as a governing body.</li> <li>• Make changes to the proposed policy statements to plan testimony for HB 2543.</li> </ul> <p>A motion was made/seconded that testimony be developed to support the intent of HS 2543 with comments based on the policy statements to inform testimony, and the notes recorded on chart paper, and to ensure alignment with testimony from EOEL. Motion was approved.</p>	
<p><b>Approval of Testimony Between Meetings Template – Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>The testimony template provided by Wimmie and emailed out earlier to ELB members was approved as distributed.</p>	
<p><b>Review Agenda Outcomes – Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Agenda items for the February meeting will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A review of the testimony to be provided by Bob on behalf of the ELB</li> <li>• Discussion of ELB’s role in the expansion plan development</li> <li>• Governance Committee to begin conversations about implications of</li> </ul>	

	legislation and how to address these between now and the next ELB meeting	
<b>Announcements</b>	Next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2020 from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the CEED Center, KCAA.	
<b>Executive Session</b>	No items from the AG.	
<b>Closing</b> —Kerrie Urosevich	“Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.” (Mattie Stepanek)	

Submitted by Ashley Miura/Chris Jackson