

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, April 9, 2020

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

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

**Meeting Chair will preside via the Zoom link.**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Dana Balansag (for Dir. Bhanot), Kaina Bonacorsi, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Leilani Au, Ben Naki, Kerrie Urosevich, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Matt Shim (for Dir. Anderson), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Cherilyn Shiinoki, Bob Peters, Namaka Rawlins, Mari Uehara

**Absent:** Melodie Vega, Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto), Edeluisa Baguio-Larena

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

**Public in Attendance:** Anne Horiuchi, Jim Raymond, Alison Kunishige, Caroline Soga, Deborah Zysman, Hide Wu, Ken Kakesako, Kim Guieb, Mary Deneen, Mary Nemoto, Mel Horikami, Suevon Lee, Terry Lock, Toni Fujimoto, Charis Sole, Doug Imig, Jordana Ferreira, Ka’ano’i Walk, Ka’iulani Laeha, Capsun Poe, Cheri Nakamura, Katherine Murphy, Robyn Chun, Barbara Watanabe, Jordan Smith, Deanne Goya, Ainoa Naniole, Janet Smith, Deanne Goya, Christina Cox, Carol Wear, Pua Enos, Pualani Kaho’ohanohano, Felicity, Susan

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Bob welcomed the group at 1:31 pm and asked that Matt read the ELB mission statement.	
<b>Review and Approve</b> <b>3/12/20 Minutes—</b> Bob Peters	The meeting minutes were approved as distributed.	
<b>Public Comment—</b> Bob Peters	None offered at this time.	

Early Learning Board

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

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<p><b>Access to Learning Implementation Plan Progress Report— Mel Horikami</b></p>	<p>Mel Horikami gave a brief presentation about his work on the Access to Learning Implementation Plan for HB2543 that he has been contracted to do by Hawaii Executive Collaborative (HEC). He explained that HEC is looking to support early learning in various ways, whether this is through sharing expertise, resources, or funding. To that end, Mel has been trying to gather as much information about the early learning sector as possible in order to frame the implementation plan in a way that takes all parts of the industry into consideration.</p> <p>Key takeaways from Mel’s presentation and ensuing discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mel’s graphic should be corrected to reflect that EOEL and HIDEOE are partners on FCIL and Pre-Plus programs; not just for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program.</li> <li>• We may need to consider services for children ages 3-5 who are not eligible for DOE SPED services.</li> <li>• While EOEL and ELB are responsible for coordinating early learning across the state system, Mel said his graphic is meant to show what is related to the proposed expansion of programs for 3- and 4-year-olds in the public/private sectors.</li> <li>• While Mel has not been working with national groups or other states that have expanded access to pre-K, he has received a lot of literature around Hawaii’s early learning system which has been informing this project.</li> <li>• Because this type of work is iterative, there is no timeframe for completion of the implementation framework.</li> <li>• Mel is not seeking specific support or asks at this time, but is primarily seeking clarity and is learning as much as he can.</li> <li>• Mel believes there is strong support for early education at the</li> </ul>	
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	<p>Legislature but the impact of COVID-19 on how the Governor and Legislature will balance the State budget and support more needy families is uncertain at this time, and funding appropriations will need to shift.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EOEL has hired Dana Ciacci as its workforce specialist who could help support the implementation plan by focusing on workforce development issues.</li> </ul> <p>Bob thanked Mel for meeting with ELB and sharing his thinking to date on the implementation plan, and asked that in the future, Mel might identify what he sees as the “big bucket” pieces within the framework (e.g., workforce, facilities, funding, etc.).</p>	<p><b>More time will be given on future agendas for Mel to provide further updates.</b></p>
<p><b>Early Educator Excellence and Equity Plan—Terry Lock</b></p>	<p>Terry Lock of the University of Hawaii at Manoa was asked to provide an update on the Early Educator Excellence and Equity Plan, or ECE3, which she had reported on at a previous ELB meeting. An executive summary was sent out to all ELB members earlier. The actual letter of intent that was submitted is over seventy pages long, and Terry offered to provide a copy of the letter to any interested ELB member. A power point presentation was provided that covered the contents of the executive summary in greater detail.</p> <p>Key takeaways from Terry’s presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ECE3, if funded, could provide an opportunity for those who may be losing their jobs because of the current economic situation, to consider pursuing a career path in education.</li> <li>• The ECE3 is meant to support any individual in the private or public sector who wishes to pursue a baccalaureate degree. The best recruitment strategy to attract the workforce is a viable career that compensates well, offers benefits and includes favorable working conditions.</li> <li>• The ELB could support this effort by members writing letters of support and for the ELB to perhaps create an ad hoc committee</li> </ul>	<p><b>An agenda item will be dedicated at the next meeting for discussing the</b></p>

	<p>on workforce equity that might look at policy development around compensation. This would need to be an agenda item for another meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to the UH system, the University of Phoenix and Chaminade are also going to be participating in this project.</li> <li>• Hawaii is waiting to hear if it will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal which would be due in June. Awardees are to be selected in July with a notice of award in August. The project would end in July 2022. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justina offered to work with Terry on developing the outline of a letter of support by ELB and an ELB ad-hoc committee proposal to present at the next meeting.</li> <li>• It was suggested that this plan could be worked on in subcommittees. Since ELB meets only once a month, subcommittees would be most expeditious.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>board's actions in response to ECE3.</b></p> <p><b>Justina will work with Terry to develop the outline of a letter of support, to present at the next ELB meeting along with an ad-hoc committee proposal.</b></p>
<p><b>EOEL/ELB &amp; COVID-19 (March 30 Discussion Follow-Up)</b>—Lauren Moriguchi and Bob Peters</p>	<p>Bob asked Lauren to share updates on what EOEL has been working on in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. EOEL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is working to serve as a clearinghouse of information for families and providers, including scholarships, subsidies, and other resources, as well as small business relief information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Has created a new website specifically for COVID-19 information; Lauren went into this in greater detail with Keopu's help later in the meeting (see below).</li> <li>○ Is sharing COVID-19-related information, and resources to families regarding guidance on developmentally appropriate practices for children birth through 5</li> <li>○ Is putting links to state agency partners on its website</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is sharing resources with public Pre-K educators via Educational Specialists and Resource Teachers</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is connecting stakeholders to strengthen and leverage efforts with help from HCAN</li> <li>• Is working with PATCH, which has requested assistance in creating the awareness that emergency child care providers are in need of supplies</li> <li>• Alan Oshima, the newly appointed Hawaii Economic Recovery and Community Resilience Navigator, has reached out to Lauren and is interested in obtaining information on providers and the types of support needed by these providers.</li> </ul> <p>Lauren then asked Keopu to share the new EOEL COVID-19 resources website. Keopu explained that the state website template is very difficult to work with and not user-friendly. Therefore, the new site is on a Google site template. Keopu shared what the website looks like and all the resources listed on it, as well as how they are all organized. She explained that the website is still a draft and focused on birth through 5 information.</p> <p>Matt gave an update on how DOH is dealing with the COVID-19 crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a shortage of supplies for staff and contractors, so DOH is trying to figure out what they need to do to keep operating.</li> <li>• Developing guidelines for people to follow as crisis continues.</li> <li>• Talking to DHS about what can be done regarding mental health supports for children and families.</li> <li>• Child abuse awareness month: some of the usual awareness events have been postponed or canceled, but DOH is still promoting parent-child engagement, especially given the physical limitations.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EOEL will continue to communicate with Alan Oshima.</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting 2-1-1 and the Parent Line as supports for families.</li> <li>• The Maternal and Child Health Branch (MCHB) is focusing on Family Strengthening and Domestic Violence PSAs.</li> <li>• Hoping to link EOEL’s new website to the DOH COVID-19 website so it will be easier for some people to find, and will post EOEL updates to the DOH website.</li> <li>• Families on Kaua’i and Oahu who are receiving e-WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Food Program) cards can now use them. Maui and Big Island families will receive e-WIC cards by the end of May.</li> <li>• Early Intervention Services are conducting home visits through telehealth technology.</li> </ul> <p>Dana gave an update on how DHS is dealing with the COVID-19 crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response times for requests for information may be delayed because departments are consulting with other agencies for guidance and expertise; DHS recognizes that there has been a bit of a lag in communication and is working to improve that.</li> <li>• DHS submitted requests for waivers to the federal Office of Child Care (OCC). On a call this morning OCC indicated that they will be providing feedback to those states that have submitted waiver requests sometime next week.</li> <li>• DHS has moved forward in revising child care subsidy eligibility requirements to expand to families impacted by the pandemic, and is working with EOEL to do a joint press release on this issue.</li> <li>• DHS has created COVID-19 child care FAQs on the DHS COVID-19 website page in order for people to get answers to</li> </ul>	
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	<p>their questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PATCH and Learning to Grow are focused on direct services to support child care providers and families, so DHS is requesting EOEL to receive external community requests at this time to help consolidate those requests in order to respond to them. Focusing also on what the recovery efforts are going to need to look like for the early childhood system and what resuming child care operations is going to look like. Despite the unknowns, child care will definitely be essential to recovering from the pandemic.</li> </ul> <p>Bob thanked Matt and Dana for updating the ELB.</p>	<p><b>DOH, DHS, and EOEL will continue to communicate with each other in the midst of the pandemic.</b></p>
<p><b>Public Comment – Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Deborah Zysman from HCAN posted a comment in the chat box: “It’s my understanding that DHS was told they cannot do bailout grants like other states. Can the ELB request an opinion from the AG on using CCDBG and/or CARES funding for 1) To pay providers directly for childcare of essential workers and 2) to issue bailout checks to childcare providers to ensure they don’t close? These are both for childcare so they should not trigger constitutional issues.”</p> <p>Jim Raymond, recently retired from the Attorney General’s office, brought up the Constitutional amendment issue that was referred to during the discussion following Mel Horikami’s presentation. He explained that Article X, Section I of the Constitution prohibits public money from going to the benefit of private educational institutions. Jim suggested asking the Attorney General’s office for advice before taking any major actions, as it is easy to start pursuing a certain path, only to discover that it leads to a dead end due to the Constitution not allowing it. He also encouraged the board members to look at Chief Justice William Richardson’s opinion on an old case from 1962, <i>Spears v. Honda</i>, which he says offers a well-written argument that is easy to understand in favor of this prohibition.</p>	

	<p>Kim Guieb from Hawaii P-20 posted a comment in the chat box : “Just an information link to the Early Literacy Project Request for Application: <a href="http://www.p20hawaii.org/clsd-rfa2020/">http://www.p20hawaii.org/clsd-rfa2020/</a> The application is due on May 15, 2020. Thank you for allowing us to share, especially when priority right now is how best to support our care and education providers, families, and children.”</p>	
<p><b>Member Updates—Bob Peters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Wai’ale’ale</i> reported results from a survey of KS providers to try to understand how to navigate scholarships for families. KS is trying to see how they can fill in the gaps and provide emergency care through their own institution.</li> <li>• <i>Kerrie</i> reported that the Ulupono Initiative has been working with PATCH and Costco to waive the purchasing limitations for child care providers for cleaning supplies.</li> <li>• <i>Melodie</i> reported (Bob delivered this message because Melodie was not present) that on Monday, April 6, Keiki O Ka Aina Early Education Center launched its virtual classrooms. Currently-enrolled families and keiki can participate in family-child interaction, parent education, and culture-based learning online.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will be necessary for the board to make arrangements for Mel Horikami to return to give more updates.</li> <li>• At the next meeting, the board will dedicate an agenda item for taking action on a letter of support for the equity project, along with a potential ad hoc committee on workforce equity. Justina will work with Terry to frame both of these.</li> <li>• We want to encourage the continuation of communication between DHS, DOH, and EOEL, and continue to reach out to Alan Oshima with how critically important it is to include providers’ input in planning the recovery phase.</li> <li>• ELB needs to think about/have some discussion about priorities in the recovery phase.</li> </ul>	

<b>Announcements</b>	None.	
<b>Executive Session</b>	No items from the AG.	
<b>Closing—Kerrie Urosevich</b>	<p>“Life isn’t about waiting for the storm to pass, it’s about learning how to dance in the rain.” –Vivian Greene</p> <p>“If you’re going through hell, keep going.” –Winston Churchill</p>	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson