

EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, August 13, 2020
(as of August 7, 2020)

2020 Legislation

The Legislature recessed on July 10. The following bills related to early learning are now with the Governor for his consideration.

1) S.B. No. 126

Budget bill that made the following changes to EOEL's/ELB's budget:

- Cut \$719,000 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 – no details specified.
- Cut 8 positions and associated funding for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.
- Restored the 8 positions for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 that were cut through HB2200 SD1 in the Legislature's previous reconvening. However, the associated funding was not restored.

The Governor signed the bill on July 31.

- He has committed to providing funding for the 7 classroom-level positions (direct instructional staff for the EOEL Public Pre-K Program) that were cut.
- He did not provide funding for the 8th position that was cut – a program specialist that is instrumental to EOEL's early childhood systems-building/coordination work.
 - Recruitment is on hold for the position.
- Provided \$15M out of the Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund for grants via contracts to support child care providers to address COVID-19 in FY2020-2021.
 - Purposes:
 - To maintain or resume operations;
 - For cleaning, sanitation, and similar activities necessary to maintain or resume operations, including the purchase of disinfecting and personal protective equipment and supplies;
 - For employee salaries or training; or
 - For other purposes authorized by DHS.
 - Covers licensed child care facilities, family child care homes, group child care centers, group child care homes, and eligible exempt child care facilities.
 - The Legislature expected this would impact at least 900 facilities.
 - To be expended by DHS.
- Provided \$61M out of the Emergency Budget and Reserve Fund for the purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment to facilities including those for childcare and the schools (in addition to hospitals, elderly care facilities, businesses, and non-profits). The original appropriation in the bill was \$100M; Governor said the remaining \$39M would be used for sanitation or disinfectant supplies for eligible organizations and State agencies.
 - To be expended by the Department of Defense.

We are grateful to Chair Peters and any members, as well as our early childhood advocates, who supported our request for funding for our 8 positions through their communication with legislators, the Department of Budget & Finance, and/or Governor's Office.

2) H.B. No. 1346 (suspension and expulsion in the EOEL Public Pre-K Program)

- Awaiting action by the Governor.

3) H.B. No. 2543 (access to early learning bill in joint House-Senate-Governor package)

- Awaiting action by the Governor.

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Initial Grant

- **Needs Assessment (Activity 1).** The [reports](#) are live on the EOEL website, under the "Resources" tab. Please share.
- **Strategic Planning (Activity 2).**
 - The strategic implementation plans, summaries, and other supporting documents are now going into graphic treatment. When complete, EOEL will be able to post this information on the EOEL website. All tasks within this activity are scheduled for completion by the end of August.
- **Sharing Best Practices among Early Care and Education Providers (Activity 4).** A Resiliency and Wellness Toolkit for each of the four recognized settings is now complete. The vendor is now designing webinars to be paired with each of the toolkits. All tasks within this activity are scheduled for completion by the end of October.
- **Other updates.** We submitted our April-June 2020 quarterly progress report to ACF for review last month.

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program

DOE Department Schools

We are continuing to work with schools on reopening the classrooms by:

- Providing a guidance document regarding reopening.
- Providing informational sessions for administrators and teaching staff.
- Providing sessions for teachers and educational assistants to share and discuss issues, address concerns, generate ideas, and engage in collective problem-solving.
- Providing assistance and consultation as requested by principals and teachers.

Our guidance and practices are based on ECE research and pedagogy, input from individual schools, CDC and DHS guidelines, and DOE's "Return to Learn" guidance.

DOE Department Schools – Privately funded Pre-K

- We continue to work with Kamehameha Schools and the DOE to develop a MOA for School Year 2020-2021 for 6 classrooms.

Charter Schools – programs for 3-year-olds

- MOA between EOEL and Kamehameha Schools for Ka ‘Umeke Kā‘eo Kai Koholā Preschool
 - The MOA for SY2019-2020 has been approved by the attorneys general and will be executed shortly.
 - The MOA for SY2020-2021 is pending the outcome of H.B. No. 2543, which would make the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission the administrative authority for private partnership-funded preschool programs in the charter schools.

Recruitment for EOEL Positions

- **Government Affairs Specialist.** Position posted externally as of 8/1/20.
 - <https://ehr.k12.hi.us/hrprod/faces/p/ap/pages/ApJobRequestDetails.jspx?id=72497>

Note: To be “posted internally” means applications will be accepted from individuals who are currently DOE employees. If candidates are not hired through the internal process, the position may be posted externally (i.e., may become available to non-DOE employees).

EOEL Resources

As a reminder, following are some of the resources we’ve created with ELB’s support for EOEL as an information hub as part of its responsibility to coordinate the early childhood system. Please share widely with your networks.

- COVID-19 Resources for Families & Providers:
<https://sites.google.com/eoel.hawaii.gov/covid-19/home>
- EOEL’s “Little Ones” e-newsletter: sign up on EOEL’s COVID-19 resources page.