

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, October 8, 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:** Dayna Luka (for Dir. Betts), Justina Acevedo-Cross, Leilani Au, Ben Naki, Kerrie Urosevich, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Matt Shim (for Dir. Char), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Bob Peters, Mari Uehara, Melodie Vega, Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto), Cheryl Shiinoki

**Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance:** Lauren Moriguchi, Keopu Reelitz, Kathi Takakuwa, Alohilani Maiava, Chris Jackson, Jeff Larson, Keli Houston, Ashley Miura

**Public in Attendance:** Anne Horiuchi, Aldric Ulep, B. Noelani Iokepa-Guerrero, Danny Cup Choy, Deanne Goya, Deborah Zysman, Hide Wu, Jordan Smith, Jordana Ferreira, Kaina Bonacorsi, Ka’ano’i Walk, Kim Guieb, Mary Ann Nemoto, Namaka Rawlins, Riley Fujisaki, Scott Fujii, Nandana Kalupahana

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Bob welcomed the group at 1:32 PM and asked Edel to read the ELB mission statement. He then took a moment to recognize the loss of several key figures in the early childhood community who passed away during the past few months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Calvin Sia, champion of the medical home, who played a key role in child welfare services, school health, home visiting programs and served on national and local advisory committees to support an integrated system of health care;</li><li>• Ruby Takanishi, researcher, and proponent of a pre-K to 3 coordinated and aligned system;</li></ul>	

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Early Learning Board

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

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathy Murphy, Executive Director of the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children, who was a strong advocate for early childhood professionalism and was key in helping improve the quality of early childhood services through her accreditation activities, and who served with Bob as co-chair of the Act 259 Legislative Task Force; and</li> <li>• Ray Sanborn, co-founder of Kama’aina Kids, whose centers stayed open during the COVID-19 crisis to provide childcare to essential workers and who had provided after school and summer programs for children and youth in Hawaii for years.</li> </ul> <p>All of these leaders were recognized for their years of dedicated work and will be sorely missed.</p> <p>Bob then asked EOEL’s Communications Specialist Keopu Reelitz to review Zoom etiquette once again. Bob also announced that an Executive Session was to be convened towards the end of the meeting, with Board (and key staff needed for logistics) to attend this session.</p>	
<p><b>Review and Approve 9/10/20 Minutes</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>The 9/10/20 meeting minutes were approved as amended, with Cherylyn Shiinoki’s name to be added to the attendance list. (Justina/Kerrie: Y=10; N=0)</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comments were offered at this time.</p>	
<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates</b>—Lauren Moriguchi</p>	<p>Bob turned this portion of the meeting over to Lauren who began by making a correction to the 2020 Legislation section of the EOEL updates—HB2543 was not enacted as Act 24, but as Act 46. HB1346 was enacted as Act 24.</p> <p>Lauren then reported that the office is currently interviewing to fill the vacant Government Affairs Specialist position previously held by Wimmie Wong Lui. Bob, Lauren, and Wimmie comprise the interview panel, and they hope to decide by next week.</p> <p>Lauren then asked Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist who is</p>	

	<p>responsible for oversight of the Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) activities and deliverables, to provide an update around the PDG B-5 Champions re-engagement plan. Alohi reported that there will be a virtual engagement meeting with entities that volunteered to be “Champions” for the PDG work on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. and that information to prepare participants for this meeting would be forthcoming.</p> <p>Finally, Lauren provided a presentation on the work of EOEL. The presentation was designed to remind the board that EOEL has been deeply engaged in early learning system-building and coordination efforts since 2017, with facilitation of the development of the Early Childhood State Plan and PDG strategic implementation plans in 2019. Keopu provided a link to the graphic that was featured in the power point presentation in the chatbox: <a href="https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/EOEL-goals-priorities.pdf">https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/EOEL-goals-priorities.pdf</a></p> <p>There were no comments or questions related to this update.</p>	<p><b>In November, EOEL will share information on the projects they will be working on for the remainder of the year.</b></p>
<p><b>EOEL Director Search Committee Updates—</b> Matt Shim</p>	<p>Matt Shim, convener of the EOEL Director Search Committee, offered updates on the process for hiring a new Director. Key takeaways from this portion of the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The committee (Matt, Justina, Edel, Steve and Bob) met twice prior to the October ELB meeting. During these meetings, they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reviewed the current EOEL Director’s position description, including the various duties, competencies, and other responsibilities that were previously approved by the board. They also discussed the need to define the type of Director needed right now to address the critical needs of the early learning community at this time.</li> <li>○ Noticed that the official position description was missing a component related to having some competence in the Hawaiian culture. While this is not necessarily a requirement, the committee feels that it</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>would be worth keeping in mind the needs of the native Hawaiian community, and that whoever the new Director is, it would be preferable that s/he have a good understanding of the local early learning system in Hawaii.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decided on a target date and deadline for hiring a new Director: the first week of May 2021, but hopefully, even sooner. This decision is in accordance with Lauren’s remarks that she would be willing to stay on as Director until the end of the next legislative session.</li> <li>○ Discussed the need for input and design of the process of the Director search, not only from ELB, but also from the EOEL staff and external stakeholders.</li> <li>○ Formed two immediate goals: (1) research the minimum requirements of the EOEL Director’s search process, which needs to be approved no later than the November 2020 board meeting; and (2) continue discussions to create an EOEL Director’s search advisory group to provide input and assistance to the main search committee.</li> <li>● Currently, the search committee is investigating external financial support, and an external consultant to help with logistics and management of the search process. They are also working on having the design of the search requirements presented to ELB by the next meeting.</li> <li>● Next meeting dates for the search committee are October 21, 23, and 29. The committee welcomes any feedback, suggestions, or concerns from the rest of the board members, and wants everyone to engage with the documents and notes they are sharing as soon as possible. After November, the search committee wants to have one straightforward path to follow.</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Justina reminded everyone on the board that if they are considering becoming a candidate, they will need to think about what that means for their ELB position.</li> <li>• With regards to private funding and ensuring that outside entities are not influencing the decision, the search committee agreed that they neither want anyone influencing the decision, nor do they want things to appear that way. However, they need to have further discussion about how to prevent this from happening.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Act 46 (HB2543, HD 1, SD 2): Role of ELB/EOEL– Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Bob reviewed the changes to the early learning system that Act 46 (formerly HB2543 HD 1 SD2) contains. Noting that it is important to think about the role of EOEL related to these changes, Bob first wanted to focus on the board and save discussion on EOEL’s role for the next time, especially since without Dana Balansag being present at today’s meeting, the relationship between EOEL and DHS cannot be discussed in great detail.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two potential short-term roles for the board were discussed: advocacy around public commitment to funding Act 46, and functioning as a temporary coordinator since there is no one in that role yet.</li> <li>• Kerrie pointed out that the bill is probably going to be restructured during the next legislative session since the state is lacking in funds.</li> <li>• Although the kindergarten entry assessment (KEA) is being administered through the DOE and they will ultimately be the ones deciding how it will work and what components it will contain, several board members voiced their opinions that EOEL and ELB should be consulted in making these decisions. If EOEL/ELB is thinking about early learning as a system that</li> </ul>	<p><b>Board identified some potential roles ELB might fill related to Act 46.</b></p>

	<p>includes children birth through age 5, to not be included in discussions for designing the KEA would ignore the mission and expertise of EOEL and ELB. Lauren confirmed that EOEL’s statutory responsibilities include birth through kindergarten entry and asked for the board’s support in advocating for EOEL to be included in the development of the KEA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was discussion around data collection and management, and whether there is a role for ELB to play in helping to ascertain what might be the best data collection repository and data-sharing agency.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ DHS currently holds the majority of data on services for Hawaii’s children, but their information is just a part of the overall data infrastructure.</li><li>○ Stephen explained that Hawaii P-20 is the managing partner of the data exchange partnership. This means that they house the statewide longitudinal data system, which is an integrated database. DOE and UH are currently key partners, but the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), DOH, DHS and EOEL are also partners. He feels that Hawaii P-20 has the ability to house data if they had the resources to do it, especially taking into account their experience with governance infrastructure, setting up Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), and data security.</li></ul></li><li>• There was a question regarding the kindergarten family disclosure information. The information gathered from the question “Did your child attend preschool?” will be used by both EOEL and DHS to assess pre-kindergarten attendance. However, a second rationale behind asking this question has to do with “identifying the highest priority regions requiring pre-k</li></ul>	
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	<p>programs and child care to meet the needs of undeserved children.” It was unclear how the second half would be achieved through this question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On this question Bob Davis explained that there are a lot of assumptions made in that piece because in many cases, there are geographical areas that have the best pre-k programs, but due to family dynamics or other personal reasons, families end up not sending their children to those programs. The intent is therefore to figure out which areas are affected by this phenomenon.</li> <li>○ Justina explained that the question is technically already asked; however, it is a “yes or no” kind of question, not one that allows for nuance or deeper understanding.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Leadership Report: 2020-2021 Priorities</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Bob presented his draft of the Early Learning Board’s 2020-2021 priorities. The priorities were divided into three categories: board-related, system-related, and EOEL-related. Bob hoped that these priorities would prepare the board for the upcoming legislative session and also guide everyone in their subcommittees and work groups.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There was some concern that the priorities do not have enough focus on Act 46 and furthering expansion for enrolling more 3- and 4-year-olds.</li> <li>● A few board members felt the board-related and EOEL-related priorities had more feasible goals, and clearer paths to get to those goals, while the systems-related priorities felt vague and less concrete in comparison.</li> <li>● A board member proposed that ELB or one of its subcommittees should strategize advocacy efforts to sustain programs that are losing their businesses and/ or funding, in order to preserve what is already in existence. The Governance</li> </ul>	

	<p>subcommittee is currently tasked with helping develop ELB policy, and will explore this at their next meeting this month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the chatbox, a board member raised a question for the board as a whole: among all the elements found in Act 46, which should the board prioritize for funding? This decision would be one way the board can organize its actions around Act 46.</li> <li>• Bob thanked everyone for their feedback and said that he would come back to the next meeting with revisions to better assist the ELB in approving the priorities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Priorities for the board, particularly the ones in the systems-related category, will be refined for greater specificity.</b></p>
<p><b>Public Comment—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>No public comments were offered at this time.</p>	
<p><b>Member Updates—Bob Peters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dayna Luka</i> reported that DHS is partnering with the Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) to award up to 15 million dollars in federal CARES Act funds to reopen or continue the operations of licensed and registered child care providers and license-exempt contractors. The goal of the new stimulus grant funds is to provide one-time flexible funding and help programs implement health and safety measures in accordance with DOH guidelines. Dayna reminded everyone that based on Hawaii’s Constitution (Article 10, Section 1), public funds are prohibited from going towards private educational institutions.</li> <li>• <i>Justina Acevedo Cross</i> reported that there has been a 23% decrease in early learning seats so she hopes that everyone within the system will support each other. She expanded upon the CARES Act Funds, explaining that the money needs to be returned to the state pool at the end of the year, so the Child Care Stimulus Grant Program is “fast and furious.” It runs from October 1 to November 30, and applications are due at the end of October. The timeline is very short, but HCF hopes to get as much funding as possible out to eligible providers. There is a website about the CARES Act grants, the link to which Justina provided in the chatbox:</li> </ul>	



	<p><a href="https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/CareGrants">https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/CareGrants</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Matt Shim</i> encouraged everyone to continue to uphold COVID-19 precautions -- not gathering in crowds, washing hands, and wearing masks. He reminded everyone that Director Anderson has retired and that Dr. Libby Char is the new Director of DOH. DOH is promoting safe Halloween activities on their website. Matt reminded ELB that quarantine for neighbor island travelers means that if they fly to Oahu, they will not have to quarantine, but when they return to their home island, they will need to do so.</li> <li>• <i>Leilani Au</i> reported that it is “National Campus Child Care Week”. Child care centers usually celebrate by having events in the malls or other activities like inviting the public to visit classrooms, so she has been Zoom-bombing meetings with adorable pictures and videos instead. If anyone wants her to Zoom-bomb a particularly unengaging meeting, she would be glad to do so.</li> <li>• <i>Edel Baguio-Larena</i> reported that October is “Domestic Violence Awareness Month”, and that although we should always be aware of domestic violence, this month is dedicated to spreading more awareness and information. Maui Family Coordination Committee is distributing information to increase awareness.</li> <li>• <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> reported in the chatbox, in relation to the domestic violence issue, that Domestic Violence Action Center has had a 2000% increase in intakes between April and September.</li> <li>• <i>Cherilyn Shiinoki</i> reported that October is also “Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month”, so Hawaii’s Safe Sleep Coalition is trying to put out more information about safe sleep practices for infants.</li> </ul>	
<b>Executive Session</b>	Bob convened the Executive session at 3:28 PM and adjourned the	<b>Plan for another executive</b>

	meeting at 3:58 PM, at which time the open Board meeting resumed.	<b>session at the next meeting.</b>
<b>Review Agenda</b> <b>Outcomes—Bob Peters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In November, EOEL will share information on the projects they will be working on for the remainder of the year.</li> <li>• The Board has identified some potential roles for ELB with regard to Act 46.</li> <li>• Priorities for ELB, particularly the ones in the systems-related category, will be refined so there will be greater specificity, with input from the ELB.</li> <li>• Bob will plan for another potential Executive Session at the next meeting.</li> </ul> <p>Bob acknowledged the work that everyone is doing for our keiki and encouraged everyone to take care of themselves and one another.</p>	
<b>Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>	
<b>Closing—Kerrie Urosevich</b>	“If I have seen further, it has been by standing on the shoulders of giants.” –Isaac Newton	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson