

**EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, January 21, 2021**  
(as of January 14, 2021)

**2021 Legislation**

- *EOEL Budget and Budget Briefings*

Governor Ige submitted the budget to the legislature on December 21, 2020. Governor's budget included: 2 FTE counts for appropriated positions, including 1 Teacher and 1 Educational Assistant, in existing Pre-K classrooms; and the restoration of funding for 7 Pre-K classroom teaching positions totaling \$249,239.

Reductions proposed in the Governor's budget include: travel related expenses for ELB members, EOEL staff related to the EOEL Public Pre-K Program, and for systems-coordination efforts; operating expenses that were budgeted for the transfer of classrooms to EOEL per Act 276 (that do not impact EOEL Public Pre-K programs); and reductions to charter school pre-k classrooms approved by the Commission (that do not impact existing charter school pre-k classrooms).

Funds appropriated from bills not included in the budget Act will be reviewed through the normal process, which includes Act 276, SLH 2019. Appropriations from this specific Act included: the ten new EOEL Public Pre-K classrooms that opened this school year 2020-2021, 20 positions related to these classrooms (10 Teachers and 10 Educational assistants), 2 positions (1 Teacher and 1 Educational Assistant) for the transfer of a DOE classroom to EOEL, and 6 positions within EOEL for the implementation of the Public pre-Kindergarten Program and to fulfill EOEL's statutory responsibility. What is proposed in the Governor's budget maintains existing classrooms and we appreciate the Governor's support. EOEL will be closely monitoring the budget as it progresses through the legislative session.

With the enactment of Act 046, SLH 2020, the administrative authority over all state-funded early learning programs and private partnership-funded pre-K programs in public charter schools, except SPED and Title 1-funded pre-K, now lies with the State Public Charter School Commission (SPCSC). EOEL has submitted a request to transfer the appropriated funds for Charter School Pre-K classrooms from EOEL to the SPCSC budget. Including the reductions approved by the Governor, we are requesting a total of \$3,224,161 be transferred to the SPCSC. Should the request be approved, it will reduce EOEL's budget and be reflected in the Governor's Message.

The WAM-EDU budget briefing was held on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm. The FIN budget briefing, initially scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>, will be rescheduled. We will update ELB members when a new date is finalized. The House EDU committee's budget briefing will be Tuesday January 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

- *Legislative Session*  
The 31<sup>st</sup> legislature will convene on Wednesday January 20, 2021. Prior to this, EOEL staff have been meeting with legislators to discuss budgetary needs and priorities, including maintaining existing early care and education programs and services across the sector and supporting the early learning workforce.
- *Stipend Bill*  
Representative Woodson will be introducing an Early Childhood Stipend Bill. Recognizing the budget shortfall Hawai'i is currently facing, the bill does not include any appropriations. It's passage would establish the Early Childhood Stipend Pilot Program, which would be provided through EOEL, in partnership with the University of Hawaii, using private funding from the Samuel N & Mary Castle Foundation.

### **EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program**

- *DOE Department Schools*  
All classrooms are providing in-person learning for children.
- *DOE Department Schools—Privately Funded Pre-K*  
We continue to work with Kamehameha Schools and the DOE to develop an MOA for school year 2020-2021 for 6 classrooms.

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

- *Strategic Planning (Activity 2)*
  - **Strategic Implementation Plans.** The graphic design of the strategic implementation plans is complete and final copies have been printed. The distribution process will begin and if anyone is interested in receiving a copy, please contact Alohi at [alohilani.maiava@eoel.hawaii.gov](mailto:alohilani.maiava@eoel.hawaii.gov).
  - **Champion reengagement.** EOEL continues to support the reengagement of Champions. Each plan and its Champions have initiated at least phase 2, with a few beginning phase 3 of the reengagement process. Champions are: reviewing the plans with consideration given to organizational capacity and changes in priorities due to the pandemic; developing meeting processes; and tracking changes and other steps necessary to support the SIPs. Next steps involve continuing through to phase 4 by June 2021.
- *Improving Overall Quality (Activity 5)*
  - **Web Resource:** We are excited to announce the launch of the new site, [www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com](http://www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com). This web-based platform is meant to be far-reaching and available to the range of audiences within Hawaii's early care and education system. This includes: the broader workforce that service children birth through five; families with young children; stakeholders and partners. Hawaii's Early Childhood State Plan will be the central theme of the website, along with the strategic implementation plans. Other activities, tools, and

resources supported by the PDG B-5 grant, such as the the transition toolkit and COP resources created in activity 3 and 4, will also be accessible. EOEL will maintain and update the website with new or updated resources as they become available.

- [Program Performance Evaluation Plan](#)
  - The program performance evaluation plan, a final grant deliverable, has been completed and submitted to ACF. The PPE plan lays out how the state will monitor progress and evaluate impact of work connected to the PDG-funded strategic implementation plans (SIPs). It describes mechanisms to ensure continuous quality improvement throughout the implementation period (2020-2023). This plan is a work-in-progress, and before it is finalized the Early Learning Board and all implementation teams will have an opportunity to provide input. Please find the full plan [here](#).
- *Other Updates*
  - The PDG B-5 grant period ended on December 30th, 2020. All final reports to the Administration of Children and Families must be submitted within 90 Days of the closing date on March 30th, 2021.

#### **Head Start State Collaboration Office**

- *Miscellaneous*
  - We continue to partner with DOH, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Hawaii Community Foundation and the Association for Infant Mental Health Hawaii on several projects related to infant/early childhood mental health
  - We are integrating elements from the EC State Implementation Plan into Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) infant and toddler and CHAT subcommittee work plans.

#### **EOEL Staffing Updates**

- We would like to send an aloha to Ke'opu Reelitz, EOEL's Communications Specialist. Ke'opu has accepted a position with Congressman-elect Kai Kahele's Office. Her last day with EOEL was Tuesday January 5, 2021. Her duties will be covered amongst various EOEL staff, and Jordana, EOEL's Government Affairs Specialist, will be assisting with ELB Meeting logistics.