

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, January 21, 2021

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. Betts), 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, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Bob Davis (for Superintendent Kishimoto)

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

Public in Attendance: Anne Horiuchi, Deborah Zysman, Carol Wear, Deanne Goya, Hide Wu, Kaina Bonacorsi, Kim Guieb, Landon Wong, Olan Leimomi Fisher, Vivian Eto, Namaka Rawlins, Samantha Cummins, Ka’iulani Laeha, Bernard Lagud, Cynthia Yao, Shirley Karrer, Noelle Granato, Maureen Burns-Vermette, Laura Candeloro, Melissa Pavlicek, Scott Fuji

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Bob welcomed the group at 1:30 PM, read the ELB mission statement and wished everyone a “Happy New Era.” Bob reminded the group that 6 voting members constitute a quorum, and that roll call would be taken for all actions requiring a vote.	
Review and Approve 12/10/20 Minutes— Bob Peters	The 12/10/20 meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Edel/Ben: Y—9; N—0)	
Public Comment— Bob Peters	Public testimony was provided (via written correspondence) by Sylvia M. Hussey of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) regarding item IV on the agenda. Her testimony was in reference to a bill that would	

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

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	<p>replace the Hawaiian-medium seat on ELB with a permanent seat for ‘Aha Punana Leo (APL), not subject to term limits. OHA strongly supports the Board approving a motion to support APL’s bill that, if signed into law, would give APL a permanent seat on the Board. OHA contends that although the Hawaiian language is the second language of the state, current board term limits only allow APL to serve a maximum term of four years. As such, the ELB is missing out on the opportunity to have representation from a Hawaiian-language provider. APL is the only early learning (as well as K-12) provider that uses a Hawaiian-medium education system, including exclusively using the language. Therefore, APL is uniquely equipped to provide a voice for Hawaiian-medium educators on the Early Learning Board.</p>	
<p>APL Draft Bill: ‘Aha Punana Leo Board Membership—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Bob drew the Board’s attention to the ‘Aha Punana Leo draft bill that former Board member Namaka Rawlins had presented at the last meeting. The bill, if passed, would replace the “Hawaiian medium early learning provider representative” seat with a permanent seat for APL at the Board table, with no term limit, the same way the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) and Kamehameha Schools (KS) have permanent seats with no term limit. The CEO of APL, or a designee, would occupy the seat.</p> <p>The discussion that followed centered on the current demographic of the ELB, the reasoning behind the representation, and how these representatives are chosen by their respective organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members provided clarification regarding their term limits, as well as how their organizations select representatives. • Questions and clarification about the subject of designees were raised; some organizations (namely DHS, UH, KS, DOE, and DOH), have the ability to appoint designees to represent the official ELB member (usually the Director or head of the organization), while others do not. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Schatz commented, as an example, that while he is known to the group as a staff from Hawaii P-20, he is officially the designee for the UH President (David Lassner). It is important to understand the original intention of governance and the membership and whether it is meeting current needs. Although this proposal makes sense, it is important to consider whether the ELB is comprised properly. • A few Board members expressed that they did not understand why some organizations have permanent seats while others have term limits. • A comment was made that the Board should understand its own composition and the reasons behind it. • A member pointed out that this was “a nice sign of maturity” and that perhaps it is time for the Board to step back and review its own structure. <p>The board approved a motion to support the intent of the ‘Aha Punana Leo bill. (Bob/Wai‘ale‘ale: Y—8; N—0; A—2)</p>	<p>In the future, there should be a discussion regarding Board member composition, both the original Legislative intent and to adequately reflect what the Board needs at this stage of its development.</p> <p>The Board approved supporting the intent of the ‘Aha Punana Leo draft bill.</p>
<p>Region 9 Head Start Presentation—Chris Jackson</p>	<p>Bob invited Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start Collaboration Director, to introduce the Office of Head Start Region IX team. Chris introduced the Regional Program Manager Cynthia Yao who asked Program Specialist Bernard Lagud to introduce the other team members: Bernard Lagud, Noelle Granato, Maureen Burns-Vermette, Shirley Karrer, and Laura Candeloro. The Board welcomed them, and the team gave a presentation on Region IX Head Start’s plans for 2021. The goal for the “meet and greet” was to introduce The Region IX team and to promote partnerships with Hawaii’s state agencies. The team briefly reviewed the purpose of the Office of Head Start (OHS) and its mission, and provided updates on OHS administration transition and</p>	<p>The slide deck will be e-mailed to ELB members per their request.</p>

	<p>budget appropriations. They also shared new regional priorities around COVID-19, school readiness, leadership/professional development, family engagement and community partnerships.</p> <p>Due to time constraints, Bob asked that any questions the board had for OHS R9 be written in the chat box or emailed to Chris, who would then send them on to the R9 team to answer.</p>	
<p>EOEL Director Search Committee Updates: Qualifications, Position Description—Matt Shim</p>	<p>Matt Shim, head of the EOEL Director Search Subcommittee, was asked to provide an update. Matt shared that included in the handouts provided were documents on the EOEL Director competencies, qualifications, and primary responsibilities description. Both Matt and Bob invited Board members to provide input that the Subcommittee should consider as it prepares the position description and qualifications for the Director position. Bob acknowledged that the official DOE description presented is one from the original position description (from 5 years ago), and since things have changed over time, there may be gaps in the description that need to be filled or some qualities that are no longer relevant.</p> <p>The following suggestions were provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When asked for her input, Lauren explained that for the most part, the DOE’s position description is inclusive of the majority of the work and added that the person selected would need to have a good understanding of the early childhood system in Hawaii – an awareness of the numerous programs and services, the various settings in which care and education are offered, and how the different programs function and work as a part of the system. The new Director should also be aware, particularly if s/he comes from the private sector, that because the EOEL is administratively attached to the Hawaii State Department of Education, s/he will need to learn HIDOE’s various systems as well as other nuances of working within the HIDOE. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Board member suggested including more systems-building components and knowledge of the early learning system. Regarding the “systems building for the early learning systems,” section, there should be more information provided, and it should be more focused on birth through kindergarten entry. • Regarding the line, “advises the Governor and the department directors to identify policy, priority, and initiative as it relates to early learning,” include ELB, as ELB is now a governing board. • Sees “advising the Governor and the department directors to identify policy, priority, and initiatives as it relates to the early learning system” as separate from early learning systems-building components. • The DOE document is out-of-date, as it still references the “Early Learning Council.” Another part of it states that EOEL handles “birth through elementary,” when it should say “prenatal to kindergarten entry.” • Comments were raised that although the EOEL has shifted from being directly under the Governor to being administratively attached to the HODOE, the EOEL Director’s position should still work closely with the Governor. • There should be “minimum” and “ideal” qualifications, with the “minimum qualifications” including a background in early childhood to some extent, along with administrative experience, and “ideal qualifications” should include some familiarity with the early childhood landscape in Hawaii, especially considering expansion efforts will be happening, and we will need someone who can coordinate that growth. • It was suggested that instead of using the term “cultural responsiveness,” we use “cultural humility.” “Cultural humility” invokes more of an idea of being able to accept the different cultures this person will need to be able to work 	
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	<p>alongside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ability to move in and out of both public and private stakeholder group conversations is very critical for the Director position, and to communicate effectively amongst the diverse stakeholders should be included as a key competency. • It was noted that the desired education does not match with the desired qualifications. For instance, “desired education” is someone with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education or social work, but one of the qualifications is someone with a “good understanding of legislative processes and procedures.” • “Coordination” may be too passive a term. The EOEL Director needs to actively respond to community needs, not just coordinate or strengthen the system. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for quick and effective responses. • Consider adding minimum qualifications and desired qualifications. You can put the core positions in the desirable qualifications section—you may not be able to find all those qualifications, but you would want individuals with those qualifications to apply. • The purpose of the Director position needs to be more comprehensive than the way it is currently written. It needs to include management of funds, communication with stakeholders, and responsibility to community. • Regarding the Primary Responsibilities section of the Competencies/Responsibilities document, the last bullet talks about coordinating the development of a state-wide early learning strategic plan. “Strategic” would need to be changed to “implementation,” since strategic implementation plans (SIPs) are completed. <p>Matt said he would take all of this feedback into account. The subcommittee’s goal is to post the job description in February or early</p>	<p>Cherilyn to provide a parent representative</p>
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	<p>March. Matt shared there would be other opportunities for Board input. He asked Cherilyn for help in finding a parent with a child who is being served by the early learning system to serve on the advisory committee, to which Cherilyn agreed.</p>	<p>recommendation to Matt to serve on the Advisory Committee.</p>
<p>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates— Lauren Moriguchi</p>	<p>Lauren announced the departure of Ke‘ōpū Reelitz, EOEL’s Communications Specialist, who has accepted a position as Communications Director for U.S. Congressman Kahele. Her responsibilities have been taken on by other EOEL staff. Jordana will provide support on Zoom for ELB meetings. The Communications Specialist position is one of the positions that has been appropriated through Act 276, SLH 2019. The legislature will need to decide whether the appropriations from Act 276 will be included in EOEL’s base budget. Lauren asked for the Board’s continued support of the positions and funding which have been included in Governor’s package.</p> <p>Lauren asked Jordana Ferreira to provide legislative updates. Jordana reviewed the Governor’s submitted budget and proposed reductions, which include the following: 1) travel related expenses for ELB, EOEL staff related to both systems efforts and public pre-k classrooms; 2) operating expenses intended for the transfer of classrooms to EOEL pursuant to Act 276; and, 3) reductions to charter school pre-Kindergarten classrooms approved by the Public Charter School Commission, which should not impact existing classrooms. Funds appropriated through bills not included in the budget Act will be reviewed through the normal process, including Act 276. Act 276 included 10 new EOEL Public Pre-K classrooms and 20 FTE positions for those classrooms (which opened this school year), additional positions necessary to implement the EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program, and positions to support the systems coordination work for which EOEL is statutorily responsible. Pursuant to Act 046, which moved the purview of Charter School Pre-K programs from EOEL to the HSPCSC, EOEL has requested a transfer of \$4 million dollars from</p>	

EOEL’s budget to the HSPCSC. Should this be approved, budgets will be updated per a Governor’s Message. Jordana also mentioned that Representative Woodson will introduce an Early Childhood Stipend bill that would not include any budget appropriations. Rather, if passed, it will simply establish the Early Childhood Stipend Pilot Program, which would be provided through EOEL, in partnership with the University of Hawaii, with private funds from the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation. The new legislative session will begin on January 20, 2021, and leading up to this, EOEL has been meeting with lawmakers to discuss budgetary needs and priorities.

Lauren asked Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist, to share the new Early Childhood Hawaii website, created with PDG B-5 grant funding. The site hosts Hawaii’s Early Childhood State Plan and its Executive Summary, Strategic Implementation Plans (SIPs), needs assessment summaries and additional resources for providers, families and stakeholders. In development is a section, which will include a constant feed of new information about Champions and continued work around PDG B-5. EOEL has asked the Board, partners, and stakeholders to share the link to the website broadly, including social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter. A Board member asked why the website was “.com” and not “.gov” Lauren responded that this website houses the State Plan and its SIPs for which there is shared ownership and responsibility across public and private entities. She explained that using “.gov” in the address would associate the website with state government. People already have misconceptions about the Early Childhood State Plan being “EOEL’s plan.” The use of the “.com” address was intentional as it provides a neutral site for all partners and stakeholders. The website can be accessed at: www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com.

Jeff Larson, EOEL’s Research Statistician, provided information on the PDG B-5 Program Performance Evaluation (PPE) plan. The PPE plan describes how we are going to monitor progress, as well as evaluate the

	<p>impact, of the work that is connected to the Strategic Implementation Plans (SIPs). It will also address how EOEL and PDG B-5 stakeholders will continue to improve the quality of the system. Jeff shared the evaluation data that would be collected and shared between EOEL, ELB, and the implementation teams, while describing each organization’s role in the process. He provided a timeline for the work ahead, and then ended by reminding everyone that this PPE plan is still a draft. The board will be asked to provide additional input before it is finalized. Jeff provided a link to the presentation in the chat box: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X9DwKzz_dvw3hu6B1OjiPn2G4JNLzJrJ/view?pli=1</p>	
<p>ELB Subcommittee Updates—Wai’ale’ale Sarsona and Cherilyn Shiinoki</p>	<p>This agenda item was deferred to the next ELB meeting because of time constraints.</p> <p>Wai’ale’ale urged the Board to provide input regarding the Strategic Implementation (SI) Subcommittee. She requested that Board review the documents provided in Bob’s email and asked members to e-mail their input to her by the following Friday. The Governance Committee will review and discuss Board input at their next meeting in February and will propose recommendations at the February ELB meeting.</p>	<p>The Governance Committee needs input from Board members regarding the Strategic Implementation Subcommittee, specifically the scope of its work and roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>The Board needs further discussion about the SI Subcommittee, the reporting plan for the Strategic Implementation Plan, and the constitution and charter of the Capacity and Resources Subcommittee.</p>
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comment.</p>	
<p>Member Updates—Bob</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Edel Baguio-Larena</i> reported that the Local Implementing 	

Peters	<p>Agencies for home visiting programs have selected a new representative to ELB, Erin Henderson from Keiki O Ka ‘Āina. Erin will need to submit an application and receive Senate confirmation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dana Balansag</i> reported that DHS may experience a budget reduction for the next fiscal year (2021-2022) which will impact the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program. This is a temporary stop-gap measure that DHS had to come up with in response to the pandemic. However, DHS is hoping that families can continue to be served, and that they will still be able to access child care through the Child Care Connection Hawaii subsidy program. • <i>Matt Shim</i> reported that vaccinations for child care employees will be coming soon. Keiko Nitta is helping him develop a one-page handout that will be sent to ELB members. Right now, DOH is in phase 1B of vaccination distribution, with the current focus on kupuna (elderly) and the first responders (who were part of phase 1A). Matt acknowledged there has been some confusion because in one of the charts which referenced the phased vaccination plan, education was listed as K-12 only, causing some child care providers to wonder if they were included. Matt clarified that “education” does include early learning programs and, not just K-12 teaching staff. Matt also mentioned that Oahu’s vaccination roll-out has been slower than that on the Neighbor Islands because the demand for the vaccine on Oahu exceeds the supply and number of sites that can administer the vaccinations. Wai’ale’ale offered Kamehameha Schools as a potential vaccination site, if needed. 	<p>The Board will receive a one-page handout from DOH regarding COVID-19 vaccinations.</p>
Executive Session	No items from AG.	
Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board approved supporting the intent of the ‘Aha Punana Leo draft bill. • In the future, there needs to be a discussion of Board member 	

	<p>composition to understand the original Legislative intent and to adequately reflect what the Board needs at this stage of development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob will investigate whether the Board needs to have a broader budget discussion of other agencies, with particular regard to reductions and what legislative implications that entails for early learning. • The Governance Committee needs input from the Board regarding the Strategic Implementation Subcommittee, including the scope of its work and roles and responsibilities (it was suggested that Lauren’s memo should be used as a starting point). • The Board needs to further discuss the scope and responsibilities of the SI Subcommittee and have more conversations around the reporting plan for the Strategic Implementation Plan. The Board also needs discussion about the charter for the Capacity and Resources Subcommittee. • The Board will be receiving a one-page handout from DOH regarding vaccinations. 	
Announcements	None.	
Closing—Kerrie Urosevich	<p>“For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it If only we’re brave enough to be it.” --Amanda Gorman, National Youth Poet Laureate</p>	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson