

EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, April 8, 2021
(as of April 2, 2021)

2021 Legislation

- *Bill Updates*
 - Early Childhood Stipend Bills (H.B. No. 1360 / S.B. No. 1271)
 - The Senate Committee on Education recommended passage of H.B. No. 1360 S.D. 1 and referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on March 25, 2021.
 - The House Committee on Finance heard S.B. No 1271 on March 16, 2021. The Committee recommended its passage and referred to the House Committee on Finance.
 - Amendments to Act 046 (H.B. No. 1362)
 - H.B. No. 1362 H.D. 1 was heard by the Senate Committees on Education and Human Services on March 22, 2021. Amendments included:
 1. Clarifying the purpose of the measure is to improve assessment of the longitudinal education and workforce outcomes of students provided with early childhood services;
 2. Removing the prohibition for private partnership funds to go directly to DOE schools for prekindergarten classrooms;
 3. Adjusting the kindergarten entry age from July 31 to December 31;
 4. Reinstating the language that the DHS and EOEL shall collaborate to identify needs for child care and early learning in geographic regions of the state;
 5. Clarifying the joint reports shall be submitted prior to the convenings of the regular sessions starting in 2024;
 6. Inserting Section 13 of Act 046, SLH 2020, to be amended to clarify that the DHS will work with other state departments and agencies on inter-departmental data sharing through the statewide longitudinal data system;
 7. Inserting a 1.0 FTE position under the ELB to coordinate and facilitate the implementation of Act 046, SLH 2020.
 - H.B. No. 1362 H.D. 1 S.D. 1 had a hearing scheduled on April 1, 2021 by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and deferred to April 6, 2021 at 10:05am.
 - On-site Group Child Care Facilities Tax Credit (H.B. No. 514)
 - H.B. No. 514 H.D. 1 crossed over to the senate and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. A hearing has yet to be scheduled.
 - ELB Composition (H.B. No. 546 / S.B. No. 1384)
 - H.B. No. 546 H.D. 2 S.D. 1 has changed. This version of the bill now requires complex area superintendents to report directly to the superintendent of education.

- The House Committee on Finance passed S.B. No. 1384 H.D. 1 unamended on April 1, 2021.
- Budget Bills (H.B. No. 200 / S.B. No. 1229)
 - H.B. No. 200 H.D. 1 adopted EOEL’s budgetary requests. The Senate Committee on Ways and Means held a decision-making on April 1, 2021. The budget sheets have yet to be posted, however, WAM stated they had 6 defined actions, including allocating federal funds received through ARPA to operational areas impacted by Governor’s reductions and considering revenue enhancers to provide additional dollars that would not adversely impact Hawaii’s residents.
- Trauma-Informed Care Task Force (H.B. No. 1322)
 - H.B. No. 1322 H.D. 1 passed the Senate Committee on Health. Amendments included removing some members from the task force but the director of EOEL remains.
 - The measure has been referred to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.
- Newborn Screening (H.B. No. 986)
 - The Senate Committee on Health passed H.B. No. 986 H.D. 1 S.D. 1 and referred the measure to the Senate Committees on the Judiciary and Ways and Means.
- Hearing and Vision Program (H.B. No. 987)
 - The Senate Committee on Health passed H.B. No. 987 H.D. 1 S.D. 1 with amendments and referred the measure to the Committees on the Judiciary and Ways and Means.

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program

- *DOE Department Schools*
 - Schools began accepting applications as of March 1, 2021.
 - For complete application packets received from March 1 – May 28, 2021, priority is given to those families who reside in the geographic area of the respective schools.
 - Each class is limited to 20 students. However, as the state progresses through the COVID-19 pandemic over the coming months, class enrollment may be limited to no more than 10 per group to address the health and safety needs of the children and staff. (This information is noted in the application packet for families.)
 - We are currently working with DOE to develop a MOA for school year 2021-2022.
- *DOE Department Schools—Privately Funded Pre-K*
 - We continue to work with Kamehameha Schools (KS) and the DOE to develop an MOA for school year 2020-2021 for 6 classrooms. We have also received a letter of commitment from KS for continued support of six public prekindergarten classrooms for the 2021 – 2022 school year.

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

- *Strategic Planning (Activity 2)*
 - **Strategic Implementation Plans (SIPs).** Those interested in obtaining a packet may contact Alohi Maiava at alohilani.maiava@eoel.hawaii.gov. The plans can also be viewed on www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com.
 - **Champion reengagement.** We have begun efforts to review the Program Performance Evaluation (PPE) Plan as an added component of the champion reengagement process. All Champions have received the PPE plan and have been asked to review logic models and to share feedback with EOEL pertaining to the logic model outputs, outcomes, and measurements. Champions were also invited to a virtual Q&A session to address any questions regarding the PPE Plan and process. EOEL continues to support Champions through each phase of reengagement for the six SIPs and will continue until all plans are through to phase 4, with a target date of June 2021. We also continue to provide technical assistance and convening support to champion groups that have expressed need for that type of support.
- *Improving Overall Quality (Activity 5)*
 - EOEL has begun preliminary planning discussions on how we can expand the website and are assessing existing similar websites to avoid duplication as the www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com grows. EOEL also continues to monitor site usage through Google Analytics.
 - Please visit and share the link to the website with partners, stakeholders and families.
- [Program Performance Evaluation \(PPE\) Plan](#)
 - Efforts to finalize this plan are on-going and input is still being considered. Please find the full plan [here](#).

Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)

- *Memorandum of Understanding*
 - Participated with 13 state teams to develop MOUs between Head Start Collaboration Offices (HSCO) and HS Associations in our respective states that describe shared goals and activities. MOU draft will be shared at the April 14th meeting of the Head Start Association of Hawaii Board for review and approval. If approved, the draft will then need to go to EOEL's AG for review and approval before signatures can be obtained.
 - Reviewing, along with HS/EHS directors and leadership staff, the seven (7) state-level MOUS coordinated by the HHSSCO with DOH, DOE and DHS for needed revisions and/or updates to enhance communication, coordination and collaboration between HS and state partners.
- *Grant Activities*
 - Contracted for a third-party evaluation of the HHSSCO and a needs assessment of local HS/EHS grantees to help inform a new 5-year refunding application and work plan for the HHSCO. A final report with findings and recommendations was submitted mid-March but additional information has been requested of the vendor to better inform the development of meaningful goals and activities.

- *Miscellaneous*
 - Assisted in the development of an “Integrated Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health Plan” in partnership with DOH, ECAS, HCF and AIMH-HI. The plan (version 1.0) is currently being graphically treated for an anticipated “launch” date in April or May.
 - Coordinated procurement activities for new Pre-Plus Child Development Services contracts. Proposals were due on March 22. An evaluation team will conduct a group review process on March 30th and will send its recommendations to the HIDEOE Procurement and Contracts Branch to develop draft contracts for review by the AG.