

EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, March 11, 2021
(as of March 4, 2021)

2021 Legislation

- *Bill Updates*
 - Early Childhood Stipend Bills (H.B. No. 1360 / S.B. No. 1271)
 - The House Committee on Finance held a public hearing on February 24, 2021 and recommended the passage of H.B. No. 1360 H.D. 1 unamended.
 - The Senate Committee on Ways and Means held a public decision-making and recommended the passage of S.B. 1271, with an amendment to add an effective date of 2050.
 - Both versions would establish an early childhood stipend program, administered by EOEL. Funds for the program would be deposited into the early learning special fund and exempts EOEL from the prohibition of contracting with a collection agency to collect from a debtor, a commission.
 - Amendments to Act 046 (H.B. No. 1362)
 - The House Committee on Finance held a public decision-making on March 2, 2021. H.B. No. 1362 H.D. 1 passed, unamended.
 - H.B. No. 1362 H.D. 1 removed language that would require EOEL to partner with the State Public Charter School Commission to provide the Early Childhood Education program; restores language that requires the DHS and EOEL to collaborate to identify the need for child care and early learning in geographic regions of the State; requires DHS and EOEL to collect annual data on available seats, vacancies, and waitlist information; and changes the effective date to 2050.
 - On-site Group Child Care Facilities Tax Credit (H.B. No. 514)
 - The House Committee on Finance held a hearing on February 24, 2021, and passed H.B. No. 514 H.D. 1, unamended.
 - H.B. No. 514 H.D. 1 would establish an income tax credit for employers who create on-site group child care centers and appropriates funds for an on-site group child care center coordinator position within EOEL to assist with licensure, accreditation, and facility design.
 - ELB Composition (H.B. No. 546 / S.B. No. 1384)
 - The House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs passed H.B. No. 546, with an amendment to add a sunset in 10 years. The bill would remove the Hawaiian Medium representative and require ELB to invite the CEO—or designee—of ‘Aha Punana Leo to serve as a voting member.
 - The Senate Committee on Judiciary recommended the passage of S.B. No. 1384. This version would not remove the Hawaiian medium representative and clarify the prohibition against serving two consecutive terms shall not apply to the Hawaiian medium early learning provider, not to exceed eight consecutive terms.

- Budget Bills (H.B. No. 200 / S.B. No. 1229)
 - The budget bills in both chambers have yet to have a hearing scheduled. The Legislature has amended the 2021 Legislative Timetable as follows:
 1. The Budget Decking deadline is changed from March 15 to March 22, 2021.
 2. The Budget Crossover deadline is changed from March 17 to March 24, 2021.
- Trauma-Informed Care Task Force (H.B. No. 1322 / S.B. No. 1242)
 - H.B. No. 1322 H.D. 1, which establishes a trauma-informed care task force within the DOH, passed in the Committee on Finance, unamended on March 2, 2021.
 - The Senate Committee on Ways and Means passed S.B. No. 1242 S.D. 1, with amendments. The amendments including clarifying language from DOH and defective date of 2050.
- Newborn Screening (H.B. No. 986 / S.B. No. 1140)
 - The House Committee on Finance recommended H.B. No 986 H.D. 1 pass, unamended. H.B. 986 H.D. 1 requires diagnostic audiological evaluation results of newborn hearing screening to be provided to DOH.
 - S.B. No. 1140 S.D. 1 was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
- Hearing and Vision Program (H.B. No. 987 / S.B. No. 1141)
 - The House Committee on Finance recommended the measure pass, unamended. H.B. No. 987 H.D. 1 increases early identification of children with hearing or vision loss by establishing consistent protocols for hearing and vision screening and follow-up, screener training, and data collection.
 - S.B. No. 1141 S.D. 1 was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.
- *Act 046 Implementation*
 - EOEL recently participated in the first of a series of meetings hosted by the Hawaii Department of Education’s Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID) around the Act 046 Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) project. EOEL’s collaboration with OCID centers on the planning and implementation of an assessment model that will be used for all kindergarteners entering Hawaii public schools. The planning and process determination of the KEA is currently in its first phase of work, scheduled for completion by June 2021.
 - EOEL and DHS continue to meet monthly to discuss data-related and reporting provisions of Act 046.

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 should contact Alohi Maiava at alohilani.maiava@eoel.hawaii.gov. The plans can also be viewed on www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com.
 - **Champion reengagement.** EOEL continues to support the Champion reengagement process for six SIPs and will continue through to phase 4 by June 2021. The process will include a review of the Program Performance Evaluation (PPE) Plan components.
 - One plan is in phase 2: In this phase, champion groups are reviewing and prioritizing plan actions.
 - Five plans are in Phase 3: In this phase, champion groups have completed review and prioritization of plan, having engagements to share and discuss a variety of items with other champions, such as implementation realities of actions, other partners needed, and building general group processes for the champion group to move forward.
- *Improving Overall Quality (Activity 5)*
 - Please visit and share the link to the new website with partners, stakeholders and families. www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com
 - *Steps Into Kindergarten Transition Toolkit* is live on the website.
 - The next resource that will be uploaded is the *Your Child's First Teacher Family Guide* with accompanying Family Workshops. These training modules were created by Family Hui within activity 3 of PDG B-5. When it is uploaded, it will be accompanied with a request form and for organizations interested in using this training, they may fill out the request form. This will allow interested organizations to connect with Family Hui and ensure proper usage and fidelity for implementation purposes.
 - We are currently using Google Analytics to obtain information regarding the site which include: visits per page, country location of user, type of device user is using, length of time on site, and document download count.
- [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](#).
- Champions received the PPE and have been asked to review logic models and submit a questionnaire per plan to share feedback with EOEL regarding plan outcomes and measurements.

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. The goal is to get the Head Start Association of Hawaii Board to review and approve the MOU at its April meeting.
- *Grant Activities*
 - Contracted for a third-party evaluation of the HHSSCO and a needs assessment of local HS/EHS grantees. Data was collected in February to help inform a new 5-year refunding application and work plan for the HHSSCO. A final report with recommendations is due mid-March.
- *Miscellaneous*
 - Assisted in the development of an “Integrated Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health Plan” in partnership with the Department of Health, Early Childhood Action Strategy, Hawaii Community Foundation and Association of Infant Mental Health Hawaii. The plan was reviewed by several focus groups and key stakeholders, including Bob Peters and Lauren Moriguchi. The anticipated launch date for the IECBH plan is April, 2021.
 - Coordinated a 4-part “Lunch and Learn” session in February on early childhood programs and services for Partners in Care (coalition of service providers addressing homelessness).
 - Coordinated procurement activities for new Pre-Plus Child Development Services contracts.

EOEL Miscellaneous Updates

- *Community Newsletter*
 - EOEL has re-launched our monthly e-newsletter “Little Ones.” The latest email went out last week. If you need to register another email or want to encourage others to sign-up, you can do so [online here](#). We will continue to send these out monthly, and if you have events, resources to share or other pertinent announcements, please send them to our Communication Specialist keopu.reelitz@eoel.hawaii.gov.