

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, January 13, 2022

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), Ben Naki, Matt Shim (for Dir. Char), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Bob Peters (for Exec. Director Bossert), Melodie Vega, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Kerrie Urosevich, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Ka’iulani Laeha, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Mari Uehara, Leilani Au, Bob Davis (for Acting Superintendent Hayashi)

**Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance:** Coleen Momohara, Alohilani Maiava, Chris Jackson, Keli Houston, Jeff Larson, Jordana Ferreira, Keopu Reelitz, Ashley Miura

**Public in Attendance:** Anne Horiuchi, Brandon Lee, Carol Wear, Cheri Nakamura, Cassia Simms, Danny Cup Choy, Deanne Goya, Helen Au, Kaina Bonacorsi, Katherine Ozawa, Kim Guieb, Mary Ann Nemoto, Michael Azuma, Nadine Nakamura, Terry Lock, Vivian Eto, Dawn Kurisu, Mel Horikami, Deborah Zysman, Ka’ano’i Walk, Jordan Smith, Moevanu Jameson

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:31 PM. Roll call was taken and quorum was established.  Bob announced that Anne Horiuchi, the Deputy Attorney General assigned to advise ELB, will no longer be an advisor to ELB due to a reshuffling of the Education Division within the Attorney General’s Office. Chair Peters thanked Anne for her service and announced that Michael Azuma will be the new representative from the AG’s office serving ELB starting with the February 2022 meeting.	

Early Learning Board

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

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<b>Review and Approve 11/18/21 Meeting Minutes</b> —Bob Peters	The 11/18/21 meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Bob/Kerrie: Y--11; N--0)	
<b>Public Comment</b> —Bob Peters	No public comment.	
<b>Kauai Early Childhood Strategic Framework Pilot</b> — Nadine Nakamura, Cheri Nakamura, and Mel Horikami	<p>Representative Nadine Nakamura of District 14 on Kauai began the presentation on the Kauai Early Childhood Strategic Framework Pilot. She shared that when she was elected in 2016, her priority was to increase the number of 3- and 4-year olds served in early childhood programs on Kauai. Since then, she has sought to increase capacity for Kauai Island’s early childhood sector and improve accessibility for families. She connected with Mel Horikami and Cheri Nakamura, who assisted with developing a framework that outlined how to improve capacity and accessibility on Kauai based on community input. Mel and Cheri then shared data they collected on Kauai Island’s specific early childhood needs and provided an update on their current efforts with the project. They will share more information with the Board as this project continues to progress.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More data needs to be collected to assess workforce capacity and needs. Providers are able to maintain their workforce at current rates, but in terms of growing the workforce to address expansion goals or improve accessibility, more data is needed to determine how to support workforce expansion efforts.</li> <li>• Mel and Cheri conducted interviews, which revealed that some families who wanted to access early learning programs and services decided not to as the process was too complicated. Things like that would constitute “process fixes.” A bridge program or support service may help families navigate the process, connecting them with desired early learning programs and services.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As more interviews are conducted and the team gains more insight, they hope that the model will improve itself. Asking the community is a way they have already checked current data.</li> <li>• Mel and Cheri are looking for private funding to create a Kauai Coordinator position to continue this community-based work that has been started, and to look at collaborative efforts between this person and the Act 46 Coordinator.</li> <li>• Currently, Mel and Cheri are working with Senator Decoite, representing District 7 on Maui, to expand the framework initiative to various communities on Maui.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates—</b> Coleen Momohara</p>	<p>Interim Director Coleen Momohara asked Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, to provide legislative updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>EOEL’s Legislative Priorities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Governor did not approve EOEL’s request for 2.0 FTE position counts and did approve the \$100,000 appropriation ceiling request for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program.</li> <li>○ Our priorities for this legislative session are to maintain EOEL’s current budget to ensure continuity of existing programs and to expand programs and services, such as FCIL programs and early childhood workforce supports.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Legislative Briefings</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The joint Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Education Informational Briefing on EOEL’s budget is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 9:30am.</li> <li>○ The House Committee on Finance Informational Briefing on EOEL’s budget is scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2022 at 1:30pm.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The House Committee on Education Informational Briefing for EOEL is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 2:00pm.</li> <li>● <i>2022 Legislative Session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Opening day is Wednesday, January 19, 2022.</li> <li>○ Bill introduction deadline is January 26, 2022. EOEL will review all bills introduced and will extrapolate and track any that pertain to the Office or the early learning field at large.</li> <li>○ EOEL will work with other departments and stakeholders, as appropriate, to coordinate testimony in alignment with the Office’s mission, vision, and statutory responsibilities.</li> <li>○ EOEL will keep ELB abreast of pertinent bills throughout the session.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Chair Peters reminded the Board that ELB collaborates with EOEL on testimony provided.</p> <p>Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s PDG B-5 Program Specialist, provided updates on the PDG B-5 grant-funded work. She shared that the <a href="http://earlychildhoodhawaii.com">earlychildhoodhawaii.com</a> website now contains new pages related to early childhood workforce, which are geared towards individuals entering or currently working in the early childhood field. Additional time is required to explore opportunities, like developing pages that are more effective for the intended audience.</p> <p>Finally, Interim Director Coleen Momohara provided office updates for EOEL. Plans have been initiated for a State Early Literacy Plan. A while ago, the State Literacy Plan was presented to the Board, which shed light on a very important issue. Because early education is a very</p>	<p><b>The Board will keep implementation of Acts 46 and 210 as legislative priorities.</b></p>
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	<p>specialized field, EOEL hopes to create a literacy plan framework specifically for professionals working with children, birth to age 8.</p> <p>In the past, EOEL has always done a Summer Institute with the University of Hawaii (UH) College of Education. In order to expand professional learning across sectors, EOEL plans to continue building on those opportunities and to establish an Early Childhood Professional Institute with UH. The focus is pedagogical leadership, and EOEL will update ELB as more details are developed.</p> <p>EOEL has developed a Request for Information (RFI) for FCIL school-based programs in order to gather more information to craft a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFI will be posted soon, and the deadline to submit comments is January 28<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>EOEL submitted a grant request to the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation for the Early Childhood Stipend Program and is currently developing an MOA with UH for implementation of the program.</p> <p>Next year marks the start of the new biennium, and in light of Act 46, the Office has begun to assess expansion requirements. EOEL has begun conversations with DOE and is revising school applications that will go out to solicit interest in establishing EOEL pre-k programs. EOEL will be working with school administrators to determine needs for the next biennium and funding requests for the next legislative session. EOEL will share information and recommendations with ELB.</p>	
<p><b>Subcommittee Reports—</b> Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Stephen Schatz, Chair of the Director Search Subcommittee, informed the Board that the Subcommittee has found qualified candidates and is planning on moving forward determining who will be interviewed by the Board. Stephen said he cannot reveal more at this time in order to protect the confidentiality of the applicants and the integrity of the search process.</p> <p>Kerrie Urosevich, Chair of the Systems Mapping Subcommittee (SMS), shared that the Subcommittee continues to work with AUW</p>	

	<p>211 Keiki Central, and the Department of Human Services (DHS), in order to use existing data to create the map instead of creating something new. SMS has already met with AUW, and still has to meet with DHS, to determine a timeline, capabilities, and functionalities of this map.</p> <p>Justina Acevedo-Cross, Chair of the Workforce Equity Subcommittee, asked Terry Lock, a member of the subcommittee, to provide updates on the Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity (ECE3) project, and the 2022 legislative session as it relates to the early childhood workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hawaii is slowly progressing with regard to having qualified educators but is also unfortunately stalled in the areas of financial resources, workforce data, and compensation. Meanwhile, there is no available data on work environments.</li> <li>• Currently, the ECE3 project (which originally began on April 1, 2021 and will continue until September 30, 2023) is working on an Early Childhood Educator Compensation Equity Study. RAND Corporation was selected as the contractor to conduct this study. The study began on November 1, 2021 and will end on July 30, 2023. The goal is to increase understanding that high-quality early care and education (ECE) requires a diverse, well-prepared, supported, and compensated workforce.</li> <li>• With regard to the 2022 legislative session, Terry reported that Kathleen Algire of Hawaii Children’s Action Network (HCAN) has been working with legislators to draft three early childhood workforce bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Because of the ongoing issue of a lack of relevant workforce data collection, a bill has been introduced that would make improvements to the early childhood workforce registry. This bill will require all staff to meet the staff-child ratio in licensed and registered programs t</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>There are three draft bills in progress that the Board will want to track.</b></p>
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	<p>provision of information about demographic data, compensation and benefits, and professional development on an annual basis. It would appropriate funds to DHS to make upgrades to the registry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The second bill to be introduced aims to increase the retention and recruitment of the early child care and learning workforce by establishing a child care worker wage program. This program would be a pilot program designed to increase wages of child care workers for 1 year. The bill also includes an appropriation of \$1M to the Early Childhood Educator Special Fund.</li> <li>○ The third bill to be introduced includes appropriations to the Preschool Open Doors Special Fund and for early childhood apprenticeship programs. The bill would also increase the conveyance tax on sale of properties valued at over \$1M and dedicate some of the moneys collected from this tax to be paid into the Early Learning Special Fund.</li> </ul> <p>Cherilyn Shiinoki, Chair of the Capacity and Resources Subcommittee (C&amp;R), provided updates on behalf of the Subcommittee. Exactly one year ago, C&amp;R provided recommendations to the Board around annual reporting. Objective 1 was to do a reporting on achievements and lessons learned, and Objective 2 was to have a place for discussion with the Board about challenges and emerging opportunities and setting annual milestones within the 5-year length of time for collective action. Cherilyn asked Alohi to give a presentation providing some of this data. Alohi provided an overview of the Strategic Implementation Plans (SIPs), as well as the phased approach to re-engagement and the overall progress that has been made with regard to the SIPs of the Early Childhood State Plan.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p>	<p><b>The Board heard the Early Childhood State Plan SIP</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C&amp;R continually connects with Alohi to make sure the Subcommittee is supporting EOEL’s work. EOEL is also a major source of support and resources.</li> <li>• The amount of information Alohi has gathered to date is very detailed. The Subcommittee has considered asking that the gathering of information come directly from communities, ideally by island to ensure neighbor islands are represented.</li> <li>• It was suggested that partners could also share their end-of-year reports with Alohi and EOEL, so that partner information can be sifted through to determine SIP-aligned progress.</li> </ul>	<p><b>progress report, thanks to C&amp;R and Alohi, and suggestions were made on how ELB members can continue to support this work</b></p>
<p><b>ELB Leadership Update—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Chair Peters provided a brief update on the Institutional Analyst II position (formerly the Act 046 Coordinator). The position description was approved at the November ELB meeting and the DOE’s Office of Talent Management (OTM) posted the position internally on December 15, 2021. The closing date was January 3, 2022. Chair Peters is waiting to hear back from OTM to determine if anything further needs to be completed in order to move forward to review applications and schedule interviews with candidates.</p> <p>HECAA hosted a December 6, 2021 Legislative Panel. Chair Peters shared with the legislators the Act 46 Coordinator’s position description and ELB’s plans moving forward, as well as updates regarding the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program. Chair Peters highlighted the importance of workforce capacity-building not only to meet the demands of Act 046, but also as an ongoing issue to attract and retain qualified providers. Chair Peters also emphasized support for the ECE3 project.</p> <p>Next, Chair Peters shared that the Board of Education (BOE) has created an Advisory Board for the search for a new Superintendent and has invited ELB to send a representative to this Advisory Board. When asked if any ELB member might be interested, Cherilyn Shiinoki volunteered. A motion was made to approve Cherilyn Shiinoki as the</p>	<p><b>Board approved Cherilyn</b></p>

	<p>BOE Superintendent Search Advisory Board ELB representative. The motion passed. (Bob/Leilani: Y—11; N—0.)</p> <p>Finally, Chair Peters sought approval for the 2021-2022 ELB Leadership Priorities. The priorities, with highlighted changes, were previously sent to Board members. A motion was made to approve the finalized priorities as presented. The motion passed. (Bob/Justina: Y—11; N—0.)</p>	<p><b>Shiinoki as the ELB representative to the BOE Superintendent Search Advisory Board.</b></p> <p><b>Board approved the 2021-2022 ELB Leadership Priorities.</b></p>
<p><b>Public Comment—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>No public comment.</p>	
<p><b>Member Updates—Bob Peters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Cherilyn Shiinoki</i> reported that Family Hui Hawaii (FHH) is sponsoring a family wellness drive-thru at the KROC Center from 9am-11am on Saturday, February 5, 2021. FHH will be providing books and activities for keiki, as well as masks and other wellness items like fresh fruit, menstrual kits, dental kits, etc. If anyone has any items they'd like to donate, please contact Cherilyn. The event is first-come, first-served for the first 100 people.</li> <li>• <i>Erin Henderson-Lacerdo</i> reported that she is resigning from her position at Keiki O Ka Aina at the end of January and will be assuming the Executive Director position of the Association for Infant Mental Health Hawaii. She will send an email with her updated contact information. Erin will continue serving on the Board.</li> <li>• <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> reported on behalf of the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC). She shared that the Early Intervention Section had their annual stakeholder meeting at the end of last year and suggested that the feedback and culmination of data and information could be helpful for the State Plan. Kerrie then announced that the ECAS All Network meeting will be held from 9am-12:30 pm on March 8, 2022. It will be virtual, and will focus on early literacy and</li> </ul>	

	<p>family engagement, with Kristie Yamaguchi as one of the guest speakers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Dayna Luka</i> provided DHS updates, upon request, of DHS' guidance related to COVID-19 for child care providers. With regard to any changes to the early childcare and pre-kindergarten guidelines from DHS, Dayna explained that the only immediate clarification is that staff and children who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing any symptoms should not return to the childcare facility for 10 days. Day 0 is the day of a positive test, or onset of symptoms. When the staff and child return to the child care facility, they have to have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. This information will go out to providers soon. Further clarification may be forthcoming as DHS still needs to have discussion with the Department of Health. In response to a question about ARPA stabilization grant funds, Dayna explained that family childcare providers have received their share of the funding, but center-based programs have not yet received funding because DHS is currently working through some technical issues around staff retention bonuses. DHS will be sending an email to providers to inform them about what to do -- how to go into the application and make the revisions to the application for staff they may want to include in the retention bonus. If the application has already been submitted, the email will explain how to change that, as well.</li><li>• <i>Melodie Vega</i> reported that KOKA received additional funding to serve an additional 500 families through the HIPPY Parent Education Program. She thanked Coleen for connecting KOKA to the EOEL pre-k programs, as many families have gotten enrolled that way. There will be three cohorts of new families, one in March, one in May, and one in October. The program is a new HIPPY program and will include STEM curriculum and</li></ul>	
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	materials/supplies. Families on neighbor islands will have their packets mailed to them, while Oahu families can pick theirs up. Any interested parties should contact Melodie.	
<b>Executive Session</b>	No items from the AG.	
<b>Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board will keep implementation of Acts 46 and 210 as priorities for legislative action</li> <li>• There are 3 draft workforce bills in progress that the Board needs to keep on its radar – the ELB will need to determine how to support or not as the measures move forward.</li> <li>• The Board heard the first Early Childhood State Plan progress report, thanks to C&amp;R and Alohi, and suggestions were made about how ELB members can continue to support this work</li> <li>• The Board approved Cherilyn Shiinoki as the ELB representative to the BOE Superintendent Search Advisory Board</li> <li>• The Board approved the 2021-2022 ELB Priorities</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	None.	
<b>Closing—Kerrie Urosevich</b>	“We will open the book. Its pages are blank. We are going to put words on them ourselves. The book is called ‘Opportunity’ and its first chapter is New Year’s Day.” –Edith Lovejoy Pierce	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson