

**EOEL Updates - for the Early Learning Board Meeting, February 10, 2022**  
(as of February 4, 2022)

**Legislative Updates**

- *EOEL's Legislative Priorities*
  - 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.
- *ELB Bills to Consider*
  - The "ELB Bills to Consider" document contains legislative bills introduced in the 2022 session that may be pertinent for ELB to consider for tracking or testimony purposes.
- *2022 Legislative Session*
  - Opening day is Wednesday January 19, 2022.
  - The bill introduction deadline has passed. The Resolution deadline is March 11, 2022. At that time, EOEL will review all resolutions introduced and extrapolate and track any that pertain to the Office or the early learning field at large.
  - We continue to work with other departments and stakeholders as appropriate to coordinate testimony in alignment with the Office's mission, vision, and statutory responsibilities.
  - EOEL will keep ELB abreast of pertinent bills throughout the session.

**EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program**

- [Applications for SY 2022-23](#) are available. Schools will begin accepting applications from families beginning March 1, 2022. Children need to be 4 years old on or before July 31, 2022. Information regarding priority for enrollment and COVID-19's impact on enrollment is included on our website.

**Early Childhood State Plan and Sustaining PDG Activities**

- *Hawai'i PDG TA Plan:*
  - The TA Plan consist of 4 goals to outline how the PDG B-5 TA center will work with Hawai'i to support sustainability of resources created by the PDG B-5 grant in 2019.
    - PDG B-5 TA Center will
      - assist Hawai'i to determine the dissemination channels and activities needed for the "Embracing Your Journey" resource;
      - help identify programs to coordinate with to disseminate the transitions toolkit and promote its availability;
      - support in identifying the dissemination channels and activities needed to share the new Early Childhood Hawai'i website; and
      - will provide Hawai'i's B-5 team and partners a training on systems building to improve their coordination efforts.
  - We have started goal 1 of the PDG TA Plan and will be reaching out to partners related to this resource for feedback.

- *Earlychildhoodhawaii.com*
  - A new homepage will be created for the website in an effort to provide more effective navigation of the website as a whole.
- *SIP Champion Engagement*
  - Project team is reviewing next steps and developing a plan for how EOEL can support and coordinate champion engagement opportunities this year. Activities will include: assessing champion needs and ongoing work, engaging partners, researching policy and funding request, champion communication, reading for sharing information and sustainability planning.
- *General Alignment Activities*

Much focus of the project management team has been geared towards working with various external groups and related stakeholders in order to support alignment of variety of initiatives with the Early Childhood State Plan. Some examples include but not limited to are ECCS HIPP advisory group, HCYC Workgroups, and Healthy Keiki Action plan workgroups.

### **Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)**

- *Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) Grantee Updates*
  - **Vaccination Mandates:** 25 states have filed preliminary injunctions regarding the enforcement of the Interim Final Rule posted in November in the Federal Register. Grant recipients in those states are not required to comply with the Rule regarding mandated vaccines and mask-wearing, pending results of the litigation, although they can establish their own procedures should they wish their programs to comply with the Rule.
  - **Early Head Start (EHS) Rising! Campaign:** The Head Start Association of Hawaii (HSAH) is currently developing an EHS policy agenda, designed to elevate the critical need for EHS services and infant/toddler care in Hawaii, including addressing some of the issues that are currently serving as barriers to access and availability of seats. The desired outcome is to create potential policy changes through administrative rules or legislative action. A communications and action plan will be developed to support messaging around the policy agenda.
  - **Ongoing challenges:** All of the HS/EHS programs are experiencing recruitment and staffing issues, and have had to close classrooms temporarily several times on all islands due to COVID exposures or infections of staff, children or parents. Comprehensive services continue to be provided, both in-person or virtually, despite the ongoing challenges.