

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

**Legislative Updates**

- *2022 Bill Updates*

- H.B. No. 1562 H.D. 1 (Adds Director of P-20 to ELB)—The House Committee on Finance recommended its passage on 3/3/2022.
- H.B. No. 1939 H.D. 1 (2 FTE positions to build EOEL capacity)—Passed out of the House Committee on Finance and transmitted to the Senate on 3/4/2022.
- H.B. No. 2000 H.D. 1 (Appropriates funds to the SFA for construction of preschool facilities)—Passed out of the House Committee on Finance on 3/4/2022.
- S.B. No. 2819 S.D. 2 (Teacher compensation)—Passed out of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on 3/4/2022.
- S.B. No. 2701 S.D. 2 (subsidy pilot program and appropriations to Early Learning Special Fund)—Passed out of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on 3/3/2022.
- S.B. No. 2700 S.D. 2 (require staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the DHS)—Passed out of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on 3/4/2022.
- S.B. No. 3110 S.D. 2 (renames the preschool grant program and authorizes the child care grant program special fund to be used to give grants to child care facilities)—Passed out of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on 3/4/2022.
- H.B. No. 1999 H.D. 1 (Appropriates funds for POD)—Passed out of the House Committee on Finance and transmitted to the Senate on 3/4/2022.
- S.B. No. 2634 S.D. 1 (extends Medicaid postpartum coverage)—the Senate Committee on Ways and Means recommended its passage on 3/4/2022.
- S.B. No. 2024 S.D. 2 (Requires audiological evaluation results of newborn hearing screening evaluations be provided to DOH)—The Senate Committee on Ways and Means recommended its passage on 3/3/2022.
- S.B. No. 2482 S.D. 1 (Establishes a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience)—The Senate Committee on Ways and Means recommended its passage on 3/3/2022.
- H.B. No. 1600 / S.B. No 2176 (supplemental State budget)—the bills have yet to be heard.

\*all bills not listed that were included in the “*ELB Bills to Consider*” Document disseminated to ELB members at the February 2022 ELB meeting have not moved forward.

- *2022 Legislative Deadlines to Note*

- First Crossover is March 10, 2022.
- The Resolution deadline is March 11, 2022. At that time, EOEL will review all resolutions introduced and track any that pertain to the Office or the early learning field at large. For now, there are 3 concurrent resolutions to consider:

- HCR 19/ HR 17: Urges the HIDOE to report to the Legislature regarding the amount of public school space available to be used for preschool classrooms and number of public school teachers certified to teach early childhood education;
- A resolution requesting ELB to evaluate its current board composition and charter and develop a strategic plan will likely be introduced; and
- A resolution that would urge the ELB to formulate a roadmap and policy to implement the roadmap, for the implementation of Act 046, and report its progress through a working group and at regular board meetings will likely be introduced.
- 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 Public Prekindergarten Program**

- Application Information
  - As of February 28, 2022:
    - Total applications received: 602 applications
    - Total applications approved: 508 applications
    - Maximum enrollment: 405 seats
    - Total Enrollment (as of end of Quarter 2): 336 seats filled
  - Comparison to previous years

<b>SY 18-19</b>	<b>SY 19-20</b>	<b>SY 20-21</b>	<b>SY 21-22</b>
As of 01/31/19 <b>647</b>	As of 1/31/20 <b>649</b>	As of 1/31/21 <b>554</b>	As of 1/31/22 <b>597</b>
As of 2/28/19 <b>648</b>	As of 2/29/20 <b>651</b>	As of 2/28/21 <b>563</b>	As of 2/28/22 <b>602</b>

- [Applications for SY 2022-23](#) are available for families. Schools began accepting applications from families on March 1, 2022.
- The application process for DOE schools to host an EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program classroom is now open. The announcement went out to Complex Area Superintendents and Principals of elementary and elementary/secondary schools in February. EOEL is accepting applications for an Induction Program in SY2022-2023 with Classroom Opening in SY2023-2024. All applications must be received by the close of business on March 15, 2022.

**Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program**

- EOEL received \$100,000 from The Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation for the Early Childhood Stipend Program. We are most grateful for the Foundation’s support for early childhood educators as they continue their professional courses of study. The Foundation’s belief in the importance of the early childhood workforce moves us further in our efforts to provide quality early learning experiences for young children.

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

- *Hawai’i PDG TA Plan:*

- The TA Plan consist of 4 goals outlining 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. We are currently working to support the first goal of the PDG TA Plan and connecting partners to TA specialists as well as readying ourselves for the second goal by discussing capacity and practical actions to support the goal.
- There is also opportunity to support the last goal by joining a workshop hosted by the PDG B-5 National TA Center. It is a series designed to support state teams by strengthening knowledge on comprehensive systems building, including the development of a visual to enhance communications about the state's systems building progress for external stakeholders. Each workshop session will introduce new comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Education systems building content and provide time for state teams to collaborate. It is recommended that interested participants attend every workshop session in the workshop as the content and activities will build on each other. If any interested ELB members or other state plan and SIP stakeholders would like to join our states team, please email [alohilani.maiava@eoel.hawaii.gov](mailto:alohilani.maiava@eoel.hawaii.gov) for registration information. The workshop sessions will take place from 12-4 PM Eastern/9 AM-1 PM Pacific on the following dates.
  - **Workshop 1: Comprehensive ECCE System Visualization Overview-** Wednesday, March 23
  - **Workshop 2: A Framework for Visualizing your Comprehensive ECCE System-** Tuesday, May 17
  - **Workshop 3: Developing your Comprehensive ECCE System Visualization-** Thursday, July 21
  - **Workshop 4: Communicating your ECCE System Using the Developed Visualization-** Thursday, September 22
- *SIP Champion Engagement*
  - The Project team is finalizing 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, developing policy and funding requests; and determining information sharing and sustainability planning.
  - Project team has begun preliminary meetings with champions from three plans to discuss next steps, assess champion needs, ongoing work, alignment with existing work, and ways to engage new partners. We will also begin discussing policy and funding requests.

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

- In lieu of the new CDC guidance around masks announced late last week, the Office of Head Start (OHS) has announced the enforcement of mask wearing in HS/EHS programs will be paused during federal reviews this school year. The CDC guidance does not affect vaccine mandates. OHS continues to encourage the use of masks indoors, handwashing, physical distancing and sanitizing as effective mitigation strategies to protect HS/EHS children, families and staff.

- Despite on-going challenges with recruitment and staffing across all HS/EHS programs in Hawaii, comprehensive services continue to be provided to enrolled families. Ninety percent of grantees, nationwide, are reporting that they are providing in-person services.
- The HSSCO Director is facilitating recruitment activities to increase enrollment in HS/EHS programs through efforts with the Department of Human Services/Child Care Program Office and through new partnerships with community agencies whose clients are vulnerable families with young children (e.g., Infant and Toddler Safe Court, Salvation Army Family Treatment Services, and Child Welfare Services).
- Four of the six HS/EHS grantees have recently gone through federal reviews. All have reported successful experiences and have acknowledged the valuable engagement of their families in the process.

### **Communications**

- *COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children Under 5*
  - EOEL has been working with the Department of Health (DOH) communications team to solicit information from parents and guardians of children under 5. In collaboration with DOH, EOEL worked with early childhood community stakeholders to disseminate the DOH survey soliciting feedback on vaccine preferences directly from parents. Mahalo to HCAN, DHS, PATCH, HAIS and HIDEOE for their assistance in getting the survey to parents and guardians who will help inform DOH's vaccine rollout strategy.
  - DOH has also asked for EOEL's assistance in gathering families willing to be featured in videos encouraging parents to get vaccinated and are looking for families who look forward to getting their young children vaccinated. Please contact Communication Specialist Ke'ōpū Reelitz if you have any suggestions.