

ELB Bills to Consider for 2022 Legislative Session

State Budget Bills (H.B. No. 1600 / S.B. No. 2176)

- This supplemental budget, submitted by the Governor, maintains EOEL's base budget of \$7.1 million.
- It includes an appropriation ceiling request of \$100,000 for the Early Childhood Educator Special fund.

Appropriations to EOEL (H.B. No. 1939)

- Appropriates funding and 2 FTE permanent position counts for a business management officer and a contract specialist within the EOEL.
- The positions would expand EOEL's internal capacity and would be responsible for facilitating, coordinating, and monitoring budgets and fiscal processes; and facilitating and coordinating contracts and the procurement process related to the implementation of early learning programs and services.

Teacher Compensation (H.B. No. 1510; H.B. No. 1511 / S.B. No. 2819; S.B. No. 2820)

- These bills aims to address teacher shortages by appropriating funds for teacher differentials or to fund an experimental modernization project to make salary adjustments for certain teachers.
- These bills may include EOEL Public Prekindergarten teachers, and could aid retention and recruitment areas, particularly in remote and rural areas.

Child Care and Early Learning Support (H.B. No. 1582; H.B. No. 1940; H.B. No. 1999 / S.B. No. 2701; S.B. No. 2700; S.B. No. 2702; S.B. No. 2699)

- H.B. No. 1940, H.B. No. 1582 and S.B. No. 2701 would establish and appropriate funds for an early child care worker subsidy pilot program. It also makes an appropriation to the Hawaii Early Childhood Educator Stipend fund for the purpose of the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program.
- H.B. No. 2193 and S.B. No. 2700 would require staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the DHS Early Childhood Workforce Registry.
- S.B. No. 2702 increases the conveyance tax on real property valued at \$2 million or higher and requires certain moneys from the collection of the tax to be paid into the Early Learning Special Fund. It also would appropriate funds to the Preschool Open Doors Special Fund and for early childhood apprenticeship programs.
- H.B. No. 2142 and S.B. No. 3110 would rename the Preschool Grant Program Special Fund to the Child Care Grant Program Special Fund and authorizes the special fund to be used to give grants to child care facilities.
- H.B. No. 1999 would appropriate funds to DHS for the Preschool Open Doors program.
- S.B. No. 2699 would require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study on the feasibility of the State establishing a universal, no-cost pre-kindergarten program.

School Facilities Authority

- H.B. No. 2000 would appropriate funds to the School Facilities Authority for construction of preschool facilities.

On-Site Early Childhood Tax Credits (H.B. No. 2215; H.B. No. 514 H.D. 1)

- These bills would establish an income tax credit for employers who create onsite group child care centers. It also would appropriate funds for 1.0 FTE on-site group child care center position within the EOEL.

Prenatal to Age 5 Related Bills (H.B. No. 1773; H.B. No. 2149; H.B. No. 1970 / S.B. No. 2634; S.B. No. 3117; S.B. No. 2022; S.B. No. 2024; S.B. No. 2482)

- H.B. No. 1773 and S.B. No. 2634 would extend Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months following the end of pregnancy.
- H.B. No. 2149 and S.B. No. 3117 amends the newborn hearing screening statute to mandate reporting of diagnostic audiologic evaluation results to improve hearing follow-up of infants.
- S.B. No. 2022 would amend the hearing and vision program statute to increase the early identification of children with hearing or vision loss.
- S.B. No. 2024 would require diagnostic audiologic evaluation results of newborn hearing screening evaluations, or infants whose hearing status changes, to be provided to the DOH.
- H.B. No. 1970 and S.B. No. 2482 would establish a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience within the Governor's office to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including those identified by the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force. EOEL is a member of the Trauma-Informed Care Task Force.

ELB Related (H.B. No. 1562 / S.B. No. 2827; S.B. No. 2038)

- H.B. No. 1562 and S.B. No. 2827 would add the director of Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education as an ex officio member to ELB.
- S.B. no. 2038 would require representation from each neighbor island county on ELB without term limits.