

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, February 10, 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, Melodie Vega, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Kerrie Urosevich, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Ka’iulani Laeha, Leilani Au

**Absent:** Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Mari Uehara

**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:** Michael Azuma, Cassia Simms, Danny Cup Choy, Helen Au, Keith Hayashi, Esther Tokihiro, Jordan Smith, Kaina Bonacorsi, Linda Elento, Mary Ann Nemoto, Misti Pali-Oriol, Robyn Chun, Ted Burke, Terry Lock, Kevin Costa, Vivian Eto, Alaina Visi, Deborah Zysman, Deanne Goya, Kim Guieb, Jana Smith, Camille Masutomi, Brian Ito, Carol Wear, Scott Fuji, Angela Thomas, Moevanu Jameson, Hulali

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:32 PM and asked Erin Henderson-Lacerdo to read the mission statement. Bob then welcomed and introduced two guests to the meeting.  First, Chair Peters introduced Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi to the ELB and asked him to say a few words. Interim Superintendent Hayashi reiterated his commitment to working with the early learning sector to ensure quality	

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

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	<p>education for all of Hawaii’s children, including its youngest, not only to minimize the gap some children may experience in their education levels relative to their peers, but to erase that gap entirely. He also announced that Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area Superintendent (CAS) Rochelle Mahoe would be replacing CAS Bob Davis as the DOE representative on the Early Learning Board, and thanked Bob for his service on the ELB.</p> <p>Next, Chair Peters introduced Michael Azuma as the new deputy Attorney General (AG) from the AG’s office overseeing ELB activities, replacing Anne Horiuchi. Michael provided a brief overview of his background. In addition to his work as a special needs instructor for children with autism, Michael also served in the prosecutor’s office prior to joining the AG’s office.</p> <p>Roll call was taken, and Keopu Reelitz, EOEL’s Communications Specialist, provided a few Zoom etiquette reminders. Chair Peters announced that there was no dedicated time for member updates on the agenda because it was so full, and that if Board members did have updates, they should write them in the chat during the closing portion of the meeting. Bob also announced that an Executive Session would be convened at 3 p.m.</p>	
<p><b>Review and Approve 1/13/22 Meeting Minutes</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>The 1/13/22 meeting minutes were approved with the following amendments on page 6 received from Terry Lock:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ECE3 stands for “Early Childhood Educator, Excellence, and Equity” not “Early Childhood Educator Equity and Excellence”</li> <li>• The ECE3 project began on April 1, 2021 and will conclude on September 30, 2023. The Early Childhood Educator Compensation Equity Study began on November 1, 2021 and will conclude on July 30, 2022.</li> <li>• The final proposed change was to edit “to draft three bills” to “to draft three early childhood workforce bills.”</li> </ul>	

	(Bob/Kerrie: Y--9; N--0).	
<b>Public Comment</b> —Bob Peters	<p>Kaina Bonacorsi provided public comment supporting SB2038, which would require representation from each neighbor island county on the ELB without term limits in order to increase equity and ensure representation from across the state. Per Kaina, county representation on the ELB would make it easier to gather and distribute information statewide; would increase the capacity of subcommittees to do their work with additional members; and is critical in recognizing each county’s unique needs. Kaina acknowledged the reservations some Board members might have regarding an increase in membership on the Board should this bill pass, but stressed that allowing county representation would provide the Board with a crucial link to neighbor island local government and neighbor island early childcare systems.</p> <p>Linda Elento provided public comment supporting SB2748/HB2498, which would allow parents of children with disabilities to continue receiving early intervention services beyond three years of age and until the child enters kindergarten. Linda explained that children with disabilities may still need early intervention after the age of three, and currently their choices are limited. She also commented that while inclusion should be a priority for the early learning community, not enough inclusion programs exist for children with disabilities.</p>	
<b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates</b> —Coleen Momohara	<p>Coleen asked Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, to provide legislative updates. Jordana offered suggested bills that may be of interest for ELB to track or support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Budget Bills (H.B. No. 1600 / S.B. No. 2176) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The supplemental budget, submitted by the Governor, maintains EOEL’s base budget of \$7.1 million.</li> <li>○ It includes an appropriation ceiling request of \$100,000 for the Early Childhood Educator Special Fund.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Appropriations to EOEL (H.B. No. 1939) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Appropriates funding and 2 FTE permanent position</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>counts for a business management officer and a contract specialist within the EOEL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>● Teacher Compensation (H.B. No. 1510; H.B. No. 1511 / S.B. No. 2819; S.B. No. 2820) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These bills aim to address teacher shortages by appropriating funds for teacher differentials or to fund an experimental modernization project to make salary adjustments for certain teachers.</li> <li>○ These bills may include EOEL Public Prekindergarten teachers and could aid retention and recruitment efforts, particularly in remote and rural areas.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ S.B. No. 2702 increases the conveyance tax on real property valued at \$2 million or higher and requires</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ H.B. No. 1999 would appropriate funds to DHS for the Preschool Open Doors program.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Facilities Authority: H.B. No. 2000 would appropriate funds to the School Facilities Authority for construction of preschool facilities.</li> <li>● On-Site Early Childhood Tax Credits (H.B. No. 2215; H.B. No. 514 H.D. 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These bills would establish an income tax credit for employers who create onsite group child care centers.</li> <li>○ It also would appropriate funds for 1.0 FTE on-site group child care center position within the EOEL.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● 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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ H.B. No. 1773 and S.B. No 2634 would extend Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months following the end of pregnancy.</li> <li>○ H.B. No. 2149 and S.B. No. 3117 amends the newborn hearing screening statute to mandate reporting of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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	<p>diagnostic audiologic evaluation results to improve hearing follow-up of infants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ S.B. No. 2022 would amend the hearing and vision program statute to increase the early identification of children with hearing or vision loss.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>● ELB Related (H.B. No. 1562 / S.B. No. 2827; S.B. No. 2038) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ S.B. no. 2038 would require representation from each neighbor island county on ELB without term limits.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In regard to determining whether EOEL public pre-k teachers would be included in the teacher compensation bills, the teachers affected are specified in the bills. For example, one bill specifically lists Bargaining Unit 05, which would include EOEL public pre-k teachers.</li> <li>● A question was raised about whether S.B. No. 2702 would restrict the usage of the early learning special funds or allow EOEL to make that determination. Jordana responded that</li> </ul>	
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	<p>while she cannot speak to specific legal implications, the funds need to go directly to programs and services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding how EOEL decides which bills to track, Jordana informed the board it was based on EOEL’s statutory obligations.</li> <li>• More information is needed on whether H.B. No. 2000, would be only restricted to public preschool.</li> <li>• Because DHS will be tasked with handling the information collection mandated by H.B. No. 2193/S.B. No. 2700, EOEL’s testimony deferred to DHS.</li> </ul> <p>Bob suggested that the Board go into further discussion on the two bills that will most affect the ELB itself - H.B.No.1562/S.B. No. 2827 and S.B. No. 2038. These are particularly pertinent because in recent Board meetings, the question of Board composition has come up frequently. It was suggested that the Board hold a special meeting to look at its composition more deeply and to decide how it wants to move forward regarding member representation and organization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen explained that regarding H.B. No. 1562/S.B. No. 2827, he cannot always speak on behalf of the University of Hawaii as well as he could for Hawaii P-20. From his perspective, creating a seat for P-20 alongside the UH seat would be helpful. UH President Lassner has already submitted testimony in support of the bill.</li> <li>• Stephen stated that it is not uncommon for entities under UH (e.g., the College of Education) to serve on the same advisory group as their parent organization. In P-20’s case, P-20 and UH both serve on the Teacher Education Coordinating Council as separate entities.</li> <li>• In regards to the county representation described in S.B. No. 2038, some Board members wondered whether counties could be adequately represented by current members whose agencies</li> </ul>	<p><b>There is interest from Board members to convene a special meeting to discuss ELB membership-related</b></p>
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	<p>serve more than one county or statewide. Other Board members expressed that there should be someone specifically linked to the mayor’s offices and local government. Because the Board is focused on the early child care system, county representation is important since it impacts the wider system based on how counties make decisions.</p> <p>Chair Peters felt that this was a good start to the conversations around both H.B. No. 1562/S.B. No. 2827 and S.B. No. 2038, and that such conversations need to continue, not just because of the bills that are being considered for passage right now, but also because they are both related to ELB priorities. He noted that the Board should keep in mind that they should take the lead on these conversations and give direction, or else others who are not as familiar with the early learning community will do so instead.</p>	<p><b>bills.</b></p> <p><b>The Board needs to review ELB’s composition and organization.</b></p> <p><b>There is a commitment to spending some time to revisiting ELB’s legislative advocacy approach to determine what may be most effective, and to put any necessary protocol in place before the next legislative session.</b></p>
<p><b>Subcommittee Reports—</b> Subcommittee Chairs</p>	<p>Cherilyn Shiinoki provided updates on behalf of the Capacity and Resources (C&amp;R) Subcommittee. At the last ELB meeting, Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist, updated the Board on her work with the PDG B-5 grant and the different strategic implementation plans (SIPs) developed to support the Early Childhood State Plan. One of the takeaways from that presentation was that because of the amount of information shared and the challenge of processing it all twice a year, a subcommittee should act as a liaison with the ELB to make tracking and monitoring progress on the EC State Plan and SIPs easier to comprehend and process over time. Last year, the Board approved the formation of a SI Subcommittee for which there has been no action to date. The C&amp;R Subcommittee is, therefore, requesting that the Board stand up the SI Subcommittee to help Alohi/EOEL move forward on the SIPs, to ensure accountability that the ELB is supporting EOEL in implementing SIP objectives, and to enable the C&amp;R Subcommittee to focus on its goals outlined in its charter, including supporting capacity and resources for prenatal to 3 programs</p>	<p><b>The Capacity and Resources Subcommittee made a recommendation that the ELB revisit standing up the SI Subcommittee. Board members should consider this and take action on it at the next meeting. Bob will send the scope of the SI</b></p>



	<p>and services and early learning outside of the public pre-k program. The C&amp;R Subcommittee could “hold the space” for supporting the SIP work that Alohi is doing until the SIP Subcommittee is operational.</p> <p>Kerrie Urosevich gave a brief presentation on the Systems Mapping Subcommittee’s (SMS) proposal for a Mapping Strategy for 2022, and reported that \$40K has already been committed from private funders. (See handout provided). Kerrie made a motion to approve the proposal, and Leilani seconded it. The Board expressed some reservations regarding the section of the proposal that revolved around the budget to develop the Keiki Central platform and maps, including a monthly cost to AUW/211’s database, a .5 FTE position, and marketing and outreach expenses. Leilani explained that the SMS cannot move forward without Board approval. Chair Peters clarified that while there are no issues with anything in the proposal, the plan is missing crucial numbers for the Keiki Central platform budget before the Board can give approval to that specific portion of the proposal. The original motion was withdrawn and replaced with a motion that the Board approve the first five bullets of the proposal. The motion was approved (Kerrie/Justina: Y—9; N—0).</p>	<p><b>Subcommittee developed by the Governance SS out to ELB members.</b></p> <p><b>SMS received approval from the Board for five of the six bullets in its proposal, and will bring back to the Board a more concrete budget in order to have the sixth and final bullet be approved.</b></p>
<p><b>Institutional Analyst II Position (Act 046/210 Coordinator) Update—</b> Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters announced that interviews for the Institutional Analyst II position (the position established by Act 210, SLH 2021) will be conducted on Monday, February 14, 2022. Members of the interview panel include Coleen Momohara, Ben Naki, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona, Stacie Tanouchi from DHS (for Dayna Luka), Kerrie Urosevich, and Bob Peters.</p>	
<p><b>Executive Session—</b>Bob Peters</p>	<p>The ELB moved into an Executive Session at 3:05 PM to discuss the candidates for the EOEL Director position and returned to the public meeting at 3:55 PM.</p>	<p><b>The Board will canvass members to find a time to set up a public forum to hear the Director candidates’ presentations.</b></p>
<p><b>Review Agenda</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is interest among Board members to convene a special</li> </ul>	

<b>Outcomes</b> —Bob Peters	<p>meeting to discuss ELB membership-related bills that were shared at today’s meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a commitment to spending some time to revisiting ELB’s legislative advocacy approach to determine what may be most effective, and to put any necessary protocol in place before the next legislative session.</li> <li>• The Board needs to review its composition and organization.</li> <li>• The Capacity and Resources Subcommittee made a recommendation to revisit establishing the SI Subcommittee. Board members should consider this and take action on it at the next meeting.</li> <li>• The Systems Mapping Subcommittee received approval from the Board for five of the six bullets on its proposal, and it will bring back to the Board a more concrete budget in order to get the sixth and final bullet approved.</li> <li>• The Board will be canvassed to find a time to schedule a public forum to hear the Director candidates’ presentations.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>	
<b>Closing</b> —Kerrie Urosevich	<p>“Political and social change is always a stagger-step process - one step forward, two steps back. They want you to give up.” –Hal Sparks</p>	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson