

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, March 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, Keiko Nitta (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, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Mari Uehara, Rochelle Mahoe (for Acting Superintendent Keith Hayashi)

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

Public in Attendance: Michael Azuma, Caliste Chong, Cassia Simms, Dayna Teves, Doug Imig, Helen Au, Kim Guieb, Mary Ann Nemoto, Mei Ou, Misti Pali-Oriol, Moevanu Jameson, Nahelani Webster Parsons, Ted Burke, Terry Lock, Vivian Eto, Jordan Smith, Kathleen Algire, Deborah Zysman, Scott Fuji, Megan McCorriston

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Action |
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| MINUTES: | | |
| Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters | Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:31 PM and asked Ka’iulani Laeha to read the mission statement. Bob then introduced Rochelle Mahoe, Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area Superintendent, as the new Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) representative, replacing Bob Davis. Roll call was taken verbally, and Keopu Reelitz, EOEL’s Communications Specialist, was asked to provide a few Zoom etiquette reminders. | |

Early Learning Board

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

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| | Bob announced that although it was on the agenda, there was no need for an Executive Session today as there are no changes to the Executive Session minutes.. | |
| Review and Approve 2/10/22 Meeting Minutes and 2/10/22 Executive Session Minutes—Bob Peters | <p>The 2/10/22 public meeting minutes were approved as distributed (Bob/Justina: Y—11, N—0).</p> <p>The 2/10/22 Executive Session minutes were approved as distributed (Bob/Kerrie: Y—11, N—0).</p> | |
| Public Comment—Bob Peters | No public comments were provided. | |
| Executive Office on Early Learning Updates— EOEL Staff | <p>Bob noted that Coleen Momohara, EOEL’s Acting Director, was unavailable for today’s meeting because both she and Matt Shim were attending a legislative Finance Committee hearing. EOEL staff provided EOEL updates.</p> <p>Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, provided legislative updates. She explained that many bills that were on the “ELB Bills to Consider” document disseminated to ELB members at the February 2022 ELB meeting have not moved forward; they are not included in the March 2022 EOEL updates.</p> <p><i>2022 Bill Updates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p><i>2022 Legislative Deadlines to Note</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | |
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| | <p>are 3 concurrent resolutions to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HCR 19/ HR 17: Urges the HODOE 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● EOEL will continue to work with other departments and stakeholders as appropriate to coordinate testimony in alignment with the Office’s mission, vision, and statutory responsibilities. <p>Keopu Reelitz, EOEL’s Communications Specialist, provided an update to the Board on EOEL’s Act 46 efforts to date. The presentation covered four areas: community engagement; integrated interagency data work; workforce and program support efforts; and ongoing networking, planning, and coordinating. Keopu provided timelines for the planned work in each area, updated the Board on current efforts, and outlined goals and desired outcomes.</p> <p>Keopu provided two additional updates: (1) The RFP for Family-Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) Programs at 2 DOE campuses has been posted; and (2) the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program received 100K dollars from the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation, with MOU development in process between the EOEL and</p> | |
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| | <p>the University of Hawaii College of Education. Keopu included a link to the RFP for the FCIL contract in the chat: https://hands.ehawaii.gov/hands/opportunities/opportunity-details/21107</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of new classrooms that EOEL would like to see opened next year would depend upon the number of applications received from interested school principals, along with Board approval as to the number of classrooms EOEL would request for in the biennium. • During the discussion of expansion of classrooms, the question of workforce capacity was raised. EOEL staff reiterated that they have been, and will continue to work on increasing workforce capacity in order to create more seats. • EOEL staff clarified that the RFP for FCIL school-based services is not for additional programs, but to replace programs that were closed last year due to funding. Contracts were only for a two-year period. | <p>The Board will keep in mind whether the early learning sector has the capacity to follow through on expansion plans as outlined by Acts 46 and 210.</p> |
| <p>ECAS Network Projects Update—Doug Imig</p> | <p>Doug Imig of Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) provided an update. ECAS' 2021 priorities centered around the following: sustaining and strengthening child care and early learning programs; preventing family violence; and reaching hard-to-reach families. He then provided examples of strategies undertaken to address these priorities: addressing disparities in access and outcomes; increasing investments, such as the Early Childhood Funders' Hui; aligning and supporting cross-sector leadership and long-term planning efforts, (e.g., the Integrated Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health (IIECBH) Plan); and strengthening shared understanding, utilizing community profiles and a Child Care Provider tracker (dashboard) that tracks the capacity of the child care industry in Hawaii.</p> | |

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| | <p>In the discussion that followed, Doug explained that the data for the number of children who need child care is based on 2019 data. 2020 data would be preferable but is currently unavailable. When it is available, statistics will be updated. The number of available seats, meanwhile, is based on PATCH data, which reflects what is in their system.</p> | |
| <p>Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures Nemours Children’s Health Grant—Keiko Nitta</p> | <p>Keiko Nitta introduced Jordan Smith, a Children and Youth Specialist from the DOH Chronic Disease Prevention and Public Health Promotion Division, and explained that the purpose of this presentation was to update the Board on DOH’s efforts to keep children and youth healthy.</p> <p>Jordan briefly reviewed DOH’s efforts in chronic disease prevention and health promotion in ECE settings, including embedding physical activity and nutrition best practices into the ECE system and settings. She then introduced the “Healthy Kids, Healthy Future Technical Assistance Program (HKHF TAP)”. Hawaii has become the latest participant in the TAP program and will be participating in Years 4 and 5 of the project. Jordan provided details about projected plans and concluded her presentation with calls to action: (1) ELB members and the public attend, or designate someone to attend, the ECAS “On-Track Health and Development” team meetings scheduled on the second Friday of the month (10am – 11:30 am); (2) anyone interested in discussing health issues schedule a meeting with her; (3) encouraged informing her about community organizations’ ongoing efforts on early childhood health promotion.</p> | <p>Jordan Smith presented three different calls to action: join the ECAS Team Three “On-Track Health and Development” meetings, meet with her to discuss health issues in young children, and educate her on how the early learning community is already addressing and combating these issues.</p> |
| <p>Subcommittee Reports— Subcommittee Heads</p> | <p>Bob reminded the Board that the <i>Capacity and Resources Subcommittee</i> had presented a proposal at the last ELB meeting for Board members to review and take action on at today’s March meeting. Erin Henderson-Lacerdo and Cherilyn Shiinoki facilitated this portion of the agenda and requested that a Strategic Implementation (SI) Subcommittee be established, as it was approved last year. The purpose</p> | |

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| | <p>of this Subcommittee would be to provide EOEL with a venue to discuss challenges to implementation of the various EC strategic implementation plans (SIPs). The Subcommittee could also serve as the Champion to the “Access to More Resources” SIP. This Subcommittee is important because it provides long-term sustainability.</p> <p>A motion was made for the ELB to move forward with standing up the SI Subcommittee, and to fill the membership with a mixture of ELB members and community partners. (Cherilyn/Erin.)</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of the Act 46 Coordinator is to support one of the SIPs (Access to More Resources). While the Board had discussed how the Act 46 Coordinator could help lead the SIP work in general at the last meeting, the Coordinator would really only be focused on one plan. The SI Subcommittee would not be duplicating the work of the Act 46 Coordinator but would be looking more broadly at all of the SIPs. • The Coordinator cannot serve as the Subcommittee Chair, as this must be a Board member. However, the Coordinator would be welcomed and encouraged to sit on the Subcommittee as a participating member. • If the Board approves standing up this Subcommittee, it would be worth getting more clarity about what the SI Subcommittee’s work would be and what the scope of authority would be. Bob suggested that perhaps there needs to be a second look at the SI Subcommittee Charter by the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS). <p>The original motion was removed, and a second motion was made to approve the constitution of an SI Subcommittee, with a request for the GSS to review the SI Subcommittee responsibilities and report back to</p> | <p>The Board approved the C&R Subcommittee’s motion to stand up the Strategic Implementation (SI) Subcommittee. The SI Subcommittee will be stood</p> |
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| | <p>the Board. (Bob/Cherilyn: Y—11; N—0)</p> <p>Justina Acevedo-Cross provided updates on the <i>Workforce Equity Subcommittee</i>. She brought to the Board’s attention to the memo that was distributed with the meeting materials. Justina first focused on the two pieces of legislation related to workforce capacity: S.B. 2701, which would establish and make an appropriation for an Early Childcare Worker Subsidy Pilot Program; and S.B. 2700, which would require the staff of licensed and registered early childhood programs to annually provide specific information to the DHS Early Childhood Workforce Registry. She outlined the main points of each bill and highlighted things for the Board’s consideration. The second item Justina brought to the Board’s attention was the Workforce Compensation Study. She asked that the ELB support it and provide outreach to colleagues in the Early Childhood field to encourage participation in the survey so that as much information as possible can be gathered on compensation issues in the field.</p> <p>A motion was made for the Board to affirmatively support S.B. 2701 and S.B. 2700, and for individual Board members to provide testimony.</p> <p>Key takeaways during the brief discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justina clarified that licensed and registered early childhood programs are already providing information to DHS, but the bill, if passed, will update the questions so that these programs can provide more relevant information. • Further discussion can be arranged at the next ELB meeting around the specific language in the bill, particularly where it talks about how DHS is the identified party/agency in charge of the subsidy pilot program. <p>The motion was approved. (Justina/Ben: Y—11; N—0)</p> | <p>up, and the GSS has been asked to review the responsibilities of this new Subcommittee, including support for Act 46.</p> <p>The Board approved a motion to affirmatively support S.B. 2701 and S.B. 2700, and for individual Board members to provide</p> |
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| | <p>A motion was made for the Board to support the workforce compensation study that is currently under way, which includes participating in and informing the study if invited to join and informing other stakeholders and partners about the study and encouraging them to participate. The motion was approved. (Justina/Ben: Y—11; N—0)</p> | <p>testimony supporting the bills.</p> <p>The Board approved a motion to support the workforce compensation study.</p> |
| <p>Leadership Update—Bob Peters</p> | <p>Bob provided an update to the Board on the Institutional Analyst (Act 46/210 Coordinator) position. He thanked the panel of six people who joined him for the interviews: Coleen Momohara, Ben Naki, Wai’ale’ale Sarsona, Kerrie Urosevich, and Stacey Tonouchi, DHS administrator of the childcare subsidy program. Out of the pool of applicants, two candidates were found to be qualified and were interviewed. After references checks were completed, an offer was made to one of the candidates, who accepted. The anticipated start date of the Coordinator is the first week of April.</p> <p>Bob then brought three (3) Resolutions that affect ELB to the Board’s attention. The first one is related to Act 46 which proposes that a workgroup be established to assist ELB in the creation of a road map for Act 46 implementation, with possible legislation, in order to keep the momentum moving forward. The intent behind this Reso is to make the Act 46 implementation workload a little easier on ELB members, as well as to bring some focus with respect to legislation, so that the Board can ask the legislature not just for financial support, but also for needed policy changes. Bob explained that this resolution is not a mandate but is what the legislators would like to see happen.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some parts of the resolution, the language can sound a little bit like a mandate, rather than a request. If the Board submits | <p>The Board interview panel has made an offer and received an acceptance for the Institutional Analyst position (Acts 46 and 210 Coordinator). The anticipated start date is the first week of April.</p> |

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| | <p>testimony in support of this resolution, perhaps it should address removing this language in favor of language that sounds less like a mandate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The language in the current draft is not the final language which will be determined when the resolution is introduced. • The Resolution language is also vague enough that it leaves it up to the Board whether or not to stand up a new work group or integrate the work into an existing Subcommittee. <p>The second Resolution is anticipated to come out of the Senate and will be asking the Board to evaluate its composition and its charter, and to develop a strategic plan.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wai’ale’ale reminded the Board that prior to the pandemic, the GSS had actually requested grant funds to evaluate the Board’s composition and charter. While funding was never received, the Board has kept in mind that these conversations needed to happen, but no action has been taken to date due to the impact of the pandemic. • Some Board members felt that the resolution was redundant as this goal is reflected in ELB priorities. However, supporting the resolution may be a good thing in order to be held more accountable. Board members felt that the ELB testimony should reiterate that the Board already has this as part of their plan priorities. • Also mentioned was that future discussions about Board composition should include turnover and the process of finding replacements for soon-to-be-vacant seats. <p>The third Resolution tasks the DOE with identifying the number of facilities available for the expansion of public pre-k, as well as the</p> | |
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| | <p>number of early childhood certified teachers for Act 46 implementation. There were no objections to supporting this resolution, nor any discussion.</p> | |
| <p>Member Updates—Bob Peters</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Keiko Nitta</i> reported that February has seen a dramatic drop in daily COVID-19 cases, and vaccination rates have been high. From now on, DOH will focus on metrics based on hospitalization, not on positive tests. The Safe Travels restrictions will end on March 25, 2022, along with the indoor mask mandate. Businesses and private companies are still allowed to implement mask mandates and other guidelines if they feel they are necessary, and masks are highly recommended for high-risk groups. Keiko also reported that the Pentagon has announced the closure of the contaminated water facility in Red Hill., and that the DOH will continue to monitor the water quality in the affected areas. She reported that the FDA is investigating contamination found in baby formula and is advising consumers not to use certain brands. For more information, members were advised to check the FDA website. Finally, Keiko reported that many DOH programs such as home visiting and early intervention are looking at the return of in-person and face-to-face visits, as well as bringing back neighbor island clinics. Telehealth services will still be an option if families prefer it. • <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> reported that the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC) is supporting HB1600, which includes more than \$3.6 million dollars to meet the DOH/Early Intervention federal mandates and to fill in gaps in their service delivery, as well as \$1 million in restoration funding for prenatal and family planning support services. • <i>Cherilyn Shiinoki</i> reported that the Board of Education Superintendent Search Advisory Committee finalized a job description. Specific to the early learning community, under | |

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| | <p>“communication and community,” the job description specifies that the Superintendent must work with the early learning sector to ensure K-12 school readiness and student success. The Search Advisory Committee is continuing to have multiple discussions on what the candidates should be asked during the interview process. She put a link to the job description in the chat box: https://www.nasbe.org/state-superintendent-of-education-hawaii-state-board-of-education/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Erin Henderson-Lacerdo</i> reported that there are numerous slots available for families who want to engage in home-visiting services. She put a link to the DOH home visiting program in the chat box, to help spread the word and to recruit families who have children in the prenatal to age 5 group: https://www.yourohana.org/ • <i>Wai’ale’ale Sarsona</i> reported that a new Kamehameha preschool site opened in Kaneohe where St. Ann’s used to operate. The preschool is starting with 40 students in 2 classrooms (20 per classroom). In Honaunau in west Hawaii, Kamehameha Schools recently purchased a facility and intends on using it to expand early learning seats in that community. Initial pre-development work will take some time, including the design of the facility, as well as creating partnerships. This is Kamehameha Schools’ way of contributing to the ultimate goal of Act 46. They hope to add more seats as much as they can. • <i>Dayna Luka</i> reported that DHS updated its guidelines on March 2, 2022, in consultation with DOH. The guidelines focus on isolation policies. DHS plans on mailing out a copy of the updated guidelines to all DHS-licensed and registered early childhood providers. In a second piece of news, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Child Care Stabilization Grant Program application period closed on February 15, 2022. Of the 475 invitations to providers to apply to the program, 371 | |
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| | <p>responded. DHS is trying to get through final reviews of all applications by March 31, 2022. To date, 30% of the applications have been reviewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Justina Acevedo-Cross</i> reported that Hawaii Community Foundation is partnering with the DOH Home Visiting Program to support the two-day, virtual Kahewai Summit. This will be a good professional development opportunity for providers in all early childhood settings and will run from April 21 to 22. Registration is already open. Justina also provided an overview of S.B. 2482 relating to the Office of Wellness and Resilience. There are many ways in this bill that the early learning community can support Hawaii’s youngest children and their families who have been impacted by trauma from the pandemic. Justina included a link to the Kahewai Summit in the chat box: https://www.hais.us/RelId/766721/ISvars/default/Kahewai_Summit.htm • <i>Melodie Vega</i> reported that as of February 28, 2022, all Keiki O Ka Aina sites are now open. While they may be serving a smaller number of families than they were pre-pandemic, Melodie reported that staff are very excited to see all the happy children and their parents. | |
| <p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p> | <p>No public comment was given.</p> | |
| <p>Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will keep in mind whether the early learning sector has the capacity to follow through on expansion plans as outlined by Acts 46 and 210. • Jordan Smith presented three calls to action: join the ECAS Team Three “On-Track Health and Development” meetings, meet with her to discuss health issues in young children, and educate her on how the early learning community is already addressing and combating these issues. • The Board approved the C&R Subcommittee’s motion to stand | |

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| | <p>up the Strategic Implementation (SI) Subcommittee. The SI Subcommittee will be stood up, and the GSS has been asked to review the responsibilities of this new Subcommittee, including support for Act 46.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board approved a motion to affirmatively support S.B. 2701 and S.B. 2700, and for individual Board members to provide testimony supporting them. • The Board interview panel has made an offer and received an acceptance for the Institutional Analyst position (Acts 46 and 210 Coordinator), with an anticipated start date as the first week of April. | |
| Announcements | <p>Bob reminded everyone that ELB will hold a special meeting on Thursday, March 24, 2022 from 9am to 11am. At this meeting, the Board will approve a recommendation to the Interim Superintendent of a final candidate for the position of EOEL Director.</p> | |
| Closing —Kerrie Urosevich | <p>“Once social change begins, it cannot be reversed. You cannot un-educate the person who has learned to read. You cannot humiliate the person who feels pride. You cannot oppress the people who are not afraid anymore.” – Cesar Chavez</p> | |

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson