

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, May 12, 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), Keiko Nitta (for Dir. Char), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Bob Peters (for Executive Director Bossert), Melodie Vega, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Ka‘iulani Laeha, Leilani Au, Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Mari Uehara, Rochelle Mahoe (for Acting Superintendent Keith Hayashi), Kerrie Urosevich

Absent: Ben Naki

Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Alohilani Maiava, Chris Jackson, Keli Houston, Jeff Larson, Jordana Ferreira, Kevin Kabasawa, Lane Tsuchiyama, Ashley Miura

Public in Attendance: Michael Azuma, Lynette Kamekona, Christina Cox, Charis Sole, Danny Cup Choy, Deanne Goya, Deborah Zysman, Helen Au, Kevin Costa, Kim Guieb, Mary Stone, Mei Ou, Moevanu Jameson, Robyn Chun, Scott Fuji, Terry Lock, Vivian Eto, Carol Wear, Jordan Smith, Cheri Nakamura

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:33 PM and asked Matt Shim to read the ELB mission statement. He briefly introduced Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, the new EOEL Director, and welcomed her to her first ELB meeting. He also gave a brief “farewell” to Coleen Momohara as she steps aside as Interim Director. Coleen will resume her work in the EOEL full-time as Educational Specialist. Bob announced that regardless of in-person attendance, protocols	

Early Learning Board

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

Thursday, May 12, 2022

	would proceed as usual with attendance and votes being done by roll call. As roll call for attendance was taken, members were asked to introduce themselves to Yuuko and state what constituency they represented. Quorum was established at 1:40 pm.	
Review and Approve 4/14/2022 Meeting Minutes —Bob Peters	The 4/14/22 meeting minutes were approved as presented (Ka’iulani/Justina: Y—9, N—0).	
Public Comment —Bob Peters	No public comments were given.	
Executive Office on Early Learning Updates —Coleen Momohara	<p>Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, was unable to join the meeting, so Coleen provided the legislative updates.</p> <p><i>2022 Bill Updates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.B. No. 986 H.D. 1 S.D. 2: Requires diagnostic audiological evaluation of newborn hearing and screening evaluations, or infants whose hearing status changes, to be provided to the DOH. • H.B. No. 987 H.D. 1 S.D. 1: Amends the hearing and vision program statute to increase the early identification of children with hearing or vision loss, by establishing consistent protocols for hearing and vision screening and follow-up, screener training, and data collection for quality improvement. • H.B. No. 2000 H.D. 1 S.D. 1 C.D. 1: Appropriates \$200 million to the School Facilities Authority to expand access to pre-kindergarten to eligible children of the State. • S.B. No. 2819 S.D. 2 H.D. 2 C.D. 1: Repeals section 302A-624(c) and section 302A-627(a) to promote equitable teacher compensation. • S.B. No. 2700 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 C.D. 1: Allows the DHS to require all staff in licensed and registered child care programs in the State to annually update their information in the early childhood registry, which may include: gender, race, age, paid years of 	

	<p>experience, preferred learning languages, languages spoken with children, median hourly wage, paid planning time, health insurance, paid sick leave, paid vacation, retirement benefits, participation in an apprenticeship program, level of education, and training hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.B. No. 3110 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 C.D. 1: Renames the preschool grant program and authorizes the child care grant program special fund to be used to give grants to child care facilities. • S.B. No. 2482 S.D. 1 H.D. 1 C.D. 1: Appropriates \$894,528 to establish a temporary Office of Wellness and Resilience and authorizes the office to address issues and implement solutions to improve wellness and resilience, including those identified by the trauma-informed care taskforce, established pursuant to Act 209, SLH 2021. • H.B. No. 1600 H.D. 1 S.D. 2 C.D. 1: Adjusts appropriations for fiscal biennium 2021-2023. EOEL’s budget remains intact, and adds a \$100,000 ceiling appropriation for the Early Childhood Educator Special Fund. <p>*All bills not listed that were included in the “<i>ELB Bills to Consider</i>” document disseminated to ELB members at the February 2022 ELB meeting have not moved forward.</p> <p><i>2022 Resolution Updates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR 62: designates September as child care provider appreciation month • SR 210 / HR 93: Requests the ELB to prepare a report containing a road map for the implementation of Act 046, SLH 2020, 20 days prior to the 2023 session. • SR 7: Requests the LRB to conduct a feasibility study on universal pre-k program. • SR 30: Requests the ELB to evaluate and report to the 	
--	---	--

	<p>Legislature regarding the Board’s composition and charter and to develop a strategic plan.</p> <p>Coleen also provided personnel updates. She extended a warm welcome to Yuuko Arikawa-Cross as the new Director of EOEL, and thanked ELB and Bob for their support to her and the EOEL during this transition period. Coleen also announced the departure of Ke‘ōpū Reelitz as EOEL’s Communications Specialist. K‘ōpū will end her employment with EOEL in June. Bob acknowledged Coleen’s leadership and her maintaining the stability of the Office, all during this time of COVID. There were no questions of Coleen regarding the EOEL Updates.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Reports— Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona provided an update on the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS). She reminded the Board that due to feedback GSS received at the March ELB meeting, changes were made to the proposed Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS) charter. In “appointment and composition,” the maximum number of members in the SIS was changed to 5, and an opportunity to invite non-Board members onto the Subcommittee was added. There was also a slight change in nuance to numbers 6 and 7 of the “Responsibilities of the Subcommittee” section. A motion was made to approve the proposed revisions to the SIS charter. During the discussion, there was some confusion around the language of “Appointments and Composition,” where it states that members of the SIS must be approved by the Board. The motion was then amended to approve the proposed revisions to the SIS charter, with the exception of the “Appointments and Composition” section. The motion passed (Wai‘ale‘ale/Kerrie: Y—9; N—0).</p> <p>A second motion was made to change the language in the “Appointments and Composition” section. The motion was passed (Wai‘ale‘ale/Justina: Y—9; N—0).</p>	<p>The Board has stood up the SIS, thanks to the work of Wai‘ale‘ale and the GSS. It now has four Board members, a Chair, and a</p>

	<p>A third motion was made to approve Bob Peters, Cheryl Shiinoki, and Ka'iulani Laeha as members of the SIS. The motion passed (Wai'ale'ale/Erin: Y—9; N—0).</p> <p>A final motion was made to approve Ben Naki as the SIS Chair. The motion passed (Wai'ale'ale/Bob: Y—9; N—0).</p>	<p>revised charter, so it is ready to be launched.</p> <p>The Board Chair will contact Ben Naki and will work together with him to convene the SIS.</p>
<p>EOEL Director Report— Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Yuuko provided a presentation which included an overview of her 90-Day Plan. She also shared what she has accomplished so far in her first nine (9) days in the Office, and what her more immediate goals are for the following weeks.</p> <p>After her presentation, various Board members gave Yuuko a warm welcome. Bob suggested that each of the Board members should schedule individual meetings with Yuuko in order to get to know her, to share with her more information about their sector (constituency) of the early childhood system, as well as connect her to some of the key community members they feel she should know. Yuuko also expressed her interest in personally visiting communities and specific settings so she can get a better sense of the larger early childhood system.</p>	<p>Yuuko Arikawa-Cross was introduced as the new EOEL Director.</p> <p>The Board was charged with setting up individual meetings with Yuuko to support the orientation process and so that Yuuko can get to know the different early learning sectors.</p>
<p>Act 046 Updates—Lane Tsuchiyama</p>	<p>Lane Tsuchiyama, the Institutional Analyst hired by the Board to fill the Act 46 Coordinator position, provided updates on his work relating to pre-k expansion and some of his observations to date. Through conversations with staff at PACT, Hawaii Children's Action Network, the Center on the Family, and the Hawaii Data Exchange Partnership, Lane was able to get a better understanding of how these entities work and a high level picture of the state of the early learning sphere. He observed that because some people who operate outside of the ECE space may view things differently from those within, that there cannot be a "one size fits all" strategy for expansion of the system. Conversations with policy makers are needed in order to raise their awareness of how diverse ECE programs can be, and he suggested that</p>	<p>Lane Tsuchiyama provided ELB with two things they need to keep in mind as they look ahead: firstly, a lack of understanding around the variety of early learning care that decision makers need to take into consideration; and secondly, the challenge in spending down the \$200 million the SFA has, which</p>

	<p>a “portfolio strategy” will be needed to support/enhance the work of providers.</p> <p>Lane then brought a possible future action item to the Board’s attention, relating to the \$200 million dollars appropriated to the School Facilities Authority (SFA) fund when HB 2000 was passed. The bill requires the SFA to follow the procurement code, which requires spending the allocated funds by FY 23, with the option to extend to FY 24. Lane commented that spending down \$200 million will be difficult. In the next few weeks, Lane will have a discussion with the newly appointed Executive Director of the SFA to help determine how to spend the funds. If the funds are not expended, the funds will be lost and many opportunities along with it.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The \$200 million from HB 2000 is intended to be for construction of new facilities, repair and renovation of existing facilities, and a catch-all: “anything else the school authorities thought was necessary and would fit into those first 2 categories.” The language in the bill has been left open to interpretation. • The purchase, leasing or renting of land is also included as a possible use of the funds, but the SFA is a very new agency so it does not have an existing track record. The new Executive Director of the SFA has a background in the DOE, however, so he may be open to having a conversation with EOEL and ELB as to how to work collaboratively and cooperatively in order to follow what has been set forth in Act 46. • The original intent in HB 2000 was to ensure that spaces were being created for 3- and 4-year-olds in a mixed delivery model. It is uncertain whether community-based programs can operate on DOE campuses or to access facilities on state property. 	<p>the Board should pay attention to.</p> <p>ELB has charged the Finance Committee with addressing the need for a policy recommendation for funding efforts the Board takes on.</p> <p>ELB members asked that EOEL and Lane report back when they have</p>
--	---	---

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It became apparent through the Board’s discussion that there needs to be people in these spaces in order to be able to do the early care and education work that needs to be done, so workforce capacity needs to be addressed simultaneously. 	<p>connected with the SFA Executive Director to share what the plans are moving forward.</p>
<p>Leadership Update—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Bob began this agenda item by bringing to the Board’s attention legislation they should have their eyes on leading up to the next session.</p> <p>The first is the report requested by the legislature (SCR 210/HB 93) to provide a roadmap for Act 46. The Board needs to figure out how to address that particular report and the information they are required to provide. Bob’s request to the legislature to change the due date was unsuccessful; so, this report should be a high priority of the SIS. Lane can also provide guidance on how to handle the request.</p> <p>The second is SR 30 asking the ELB to evaluate and report about the Board’s composition, charter and to develop a strategic plan which the Governance Standing Subcommittee is asked to include on its agenda.</p> <p>The workforce stipend bill didn’t pass this session. EOEL is working with UH on an MOU to set up a stipend program using Castle Foundation funds, following last year’s passage of an unfunded stipend bill. Introduction of a bill this next session to appropriate funds for a stipend should be considered.</p>	<p>The Board asked the SIS to help shepherd the road map for Act 46 implementation, and the GSS to move forward with exploring the Board composition and its charter. Both subcommittees are requested to come back to the Board with their recommendations.</p>
<p>Member Updates—Bob Peters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> asked Matt Shim if the \$3.6 million request by the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC) was included in the State budget. Matt responded that the general funds summary numbers would suggest this, but that the budget sheets have not yet been received. <i>Cherilyn Shiinoki</i> reported an update on the DOE Superintendent search. The Board of Education’s Search Subcommittee asked the advisory group to comment on four 	

	<p>semi-finalists, which they will then use to recommend a finalist to the BOE. She put the following link in the chat box: Meetings/Notices/Meeting%20Material%20Library/GBM_2020505_Report%20on%20Superintendent%20Search%20findings%20and%20recommendations%20on%20finalists.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bob Peters</i> reminded the Board to file their annual financial disclosure statements by May 31st to the Hawaii State Ethics Commission. The Ethics Commission is also providing some ethics training classes, and Bob will send out information as to when they are being held. Online versions can be found at ethics.hawaii.gov. These thirty-minute interactive training sessions provide basic information that could be particularly helpful for Board members who come from the private or non-profit sectors in their understanding of public and state systems. 	
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Christina Cox announced that KCAA was one of 160 group childcare centers awarded a child care stabilization grant through ARPA funding. 74 KCAA employees will be receiving a \$2,500 retention award. Christina expressed her appreciation to DHS for their help in acquiring these funds for staff retention which is a huge workforce issue.</p>	
<p>Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yuuko Arikawa-Cross was introduced as the new EOEL Director, and the Board has been charged with setting up individual meetings with Yuuko to help orient her to the different early learning sectors. • The Board has stood up the SIS, thanks to the work of Wai‘ale‘ale and the GSS. It now has four Board members, a Chair, and a revised charter, so it is ready to be launched. The Board Chair will contact Ben Naki and will work together with him to convene the SIS. • Lane Tsuchiyama provided the ELB with two things they need to keep in mind as they look ahead: (1) there is a lack of understanding of the variety of early care and learning options that decision makers need to know about and take into 	

	<p>consideration for expansion purposes; and (2) the challenge of spending down the \$200 million that the SFA has been allotted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELB has charged the Finance Committee with addressing funding efforts the Board takes on. • ELB has asked that EOEL and Lane to report back to the Board when they have connected with the SFA Executive Director as to what the plans are moving forward. • Based on the two resolutions that passed this legislative session, the Board has asked the SIS to help shepherd the road map regarding the implementation of Act 46, and the GSS to move forward exploring Board composition and its charter. Both subcommittees have been asked to come back to the Board with their recommendations. 	
Announcements	None provided.	
Closing—Kerrie Urosevich	“You cannot have maternal health without reproductive health, and reproductive health includes contraception and family planning, and access to legal, safe abortions.” – Hillary Clinton	
	•	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson