

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, June 9, 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), Matt Shim (for Dir. Char), Bob Peters, Melodie Vega, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Ka'iulani Laeha, Leilani Au, Kerrie Urosevich

**Absent:** Wai'ale'ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Cherilyn Shiinoki, Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Mari Uehara, Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi)

**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, Terry Lock, Danny Cup Choy, Dayna Luka, Kim Guieb, Moevanu Jameson, Vivian Eto, Kevin Costa, Carol Wear, Keopu Reelitz, Ted Burke, Caroline Soga, Cassia Simms, Deanne Goya, Mary Ann Nemoto, Mei Ou, Elaine Yamashita

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:31 p.m., and asked Melodie Vega to read the mission statement. He reminded everyone that regardless of in-person attendance, protocols would proceed as usual, with attendance and votes conducted by roll call. Quorum was established.	
<b>Review and Approve</b> <b>5/12/2022 Meeting</b> <b>Minutes—</b> Bob Peters	The 5/12/22 meeting minutes were approved (Ben/Ka'iulani: Y—8, N—0).	
<b>Public Comment—</b> Bob Peters	No public comments were provided.	

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Early Learning Board

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

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<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates—</b> Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, provided legislative updates. Departments are currently meeting with the Governor and his team to review bills. Bills sent to the Governor after April 19 become law if he signs or neither signs nor vetoes by July 12, 2022. If the Governor intends to veto a bill, he must inform the legislature by June 27, and deliver the veto by July 12. If a bill is vetoed, it does not become law unless the legislature successfully overrides the veto in a special session by a 2/3 vote in each chamber. EOEL has already had their meeting with the Governor. There were no bills related to early learning specifically this session, so EOEL shared with the Governor their support for other bills related to partner agencies. There is currently no indication from the Governor on what decisions he is likely to make.</p> <p>Yuuko provided some updates on the EOEL public pre-k program because Coleen Momohara, the EOEL Educational Specialist in charge of the program, was unable to join the meeting. Yuuko shared updated data on the total applications received and approved, as well as maximum enrollment versus total enrollment.</p> <p>Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist in charge of coordinating the implementation of the Early Childhood State Plan, provided updates on the Early Childhood State Plan and PDG B-5 grant-funded work. Alohi reminded the Board about the 2022 PDG B-5 Renewal Grant funding opportunity. EOEL is awaiting an official announcement regarding the funding opportunity from the Administration for Children and Families for some time between August and September 2022.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start State Collaboration Director, provided updates on her work with Head Start. Head Start and Early Head Start programs are currently actively recruiting for eligible pregnant women and children ages birth through five years old for</p>	
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	<p>enrollment in the upcoming school year. Families eligible for SNAP benefits are now automatically eligible for Head Start as of April 2022. HS and EHS directors held a “meet and greet” with the EOEL Director on June 8, 2022 at their monthly meeting. The <i>Hawaii Early Head Start State Policy Agenda</i> is now finalized and in the process of being printed for distribution. The HSSCO Director has been conducting ongoing 1:1 check-ins with HS/EHS directors to identify issues and concerns to discuss with state partners to promote better communication and improve partnerships.</p> <p>Yuuko thanked Board members who have been able to meet with her individually to date, and then proceeded to provide information on EOEL’s Strategic Planning Strategies. Yuuko hopes to orient the office’s work around the EOEL mission. Yuuko brought to the Board’s attention the EOEL strategic plan that had been created in 2020, and how it may need to be updated and/or revised entirely. She invited Board members to share with her what priorities they might have for EOEL to consider. Board members provided the following priorities: workforce development; understanding community and family needs; a prenatal-to-age-3 focus; and sharper clarity on the role of the EC state plan, and the supports required to carry out the state plan.</p> <p>Yuuko also provided a few position updates, announcing that the Communications Specialist II position, previously occupied by Keopu Reelitz, has been posted and will be open until June 30, 2022. The Business Manager and Administrative Services Assistant positions will be posted on June 15, 2022. Yuuko showed the Board the changes and updates that have been made to the EOEL website and how the website is now structured to better focus on highlighting the diversity of EOEL’s work.</p> <p>Finally, Yuuko concluded her portion of the EOEL updates by</p>	<p><b>Board members are invited to contribute any other suggestions for the office to prioritize in its work besides the ones put forward today.</b></p>
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	<p>reiterating her goals and the ideal impact she wants EOEL’s work to have. In response to a question about what the Board can do to support the transition/onboarding period, Yuuko explained that she is interested in learning more about each sector of the early learning system. There are a few Board members with whom she has not met. Yuuko would love to meet with them and their teams, and to see the work they do.</p>	
<p><b>Subcommittee Reports—</b> Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Kerrie Urosevich provided updates on the work of the Systems Mapping Subcommittee (SMS). There will be four maps, housed in four different locations: PATCH, Keiki Central, AUW/211, and UH Center on the Family. The maps will be linked to one another.</p> <p>Kerrie shared the Subcommittee’s proposed budget and explained the costs, noting that SMS and their partners are looking to keep the costs as minimal as possible. As PATCH does not require any financial assistance, the budget mainly includes funding for Keiki Central, AUW/211, and Center on the Family’s map projects, as well as a Mapping Coordinator position, which would be a contracted position. A mapping software is included in the budget, as well as marketing and outreach costs.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) will handle all of the administration on the contracts, including for the Mapping Coordinator. Funds raised for this project will only go to the contractors, not to ECAS staff.</li> <li>• SMS hopes to mobilize philanthropic dollars for the first year because those funds can be obtained more quickly, and then look for opportunities for matching amounts from public sources for the second year.</li> <li>• The maps will include every type of setting of care, and later in the process, SMS hopes to discuss with the Board the matter of public pre-k seats and charter school seats, and how those will</li> </ul>	

	<p>be counted and where the data for both should be located.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The search for the Mapping Coordinator is included in the timeline, so the projects will end in December/January.</li> <li>• The budget proposed is for the overall project cost, but the Subcommittee is not asking for that total amount. The Center on the Family is still operating off of their current grant, and Barbara DeBaryshe is trying to lower the indirect cost that UH charges, so SMS will not be requesting the indirect costs from the Board at this time.</li> <li>• Currently, SMS already has \$100,000 committed, so ELB would need to raise the rest of the funds. The Finance Committee will need to convene and discuss this.</li> <li>• FCIL and Home Visiting agencies are included in the Keiki Central map.</li> </ul> <p>A motion was made to approve the proposed budget, including AUW/Keiki Central and the UH Center on the Family proposed budgets for two years. The motion passed (Kerrie/Melodie: Y—8; N—0).</p> <p>A motion was made to allow SMS to seek private funding to move the Early Childhood Map Project forward, with the intent that ELB and SMS will partner with public entities to help co-fund the project later. The motion passed (Kerrie/Lani: Y—8; N—0).</p> <p>As a final remark, Kerrie presented a flowchart to the Board and explained that PATCH and DHS collect all of the community-based childcare data regarding where seats are located. EOEL collects public pre-k data and Charter School Commission collects charter school pre-k data. Kerrie asked Yuuko whether there was a way that public pre-k and charter programs could share that data with PATCH so there is only one dataset in the state in terms of where seats are located.</p>	<p><b>The Early Childhood Mapping Project budget was approved.</b></p> <p><b>The SMS plan to raise private funds to support the budget was approved.</b></p> <p><b>The Board should come back to the discussion concerning the flowchart that SMS presented and the type of data it would reflect.</b></p>
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	<p>Justina Acevedo-Cross asked Terry Lock to give a presentation on behalf of the Workforce Subcommittee. Terry provided updates on the Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity (ECE3) project, focusing in particular on the apprenticeship program. ECE3’s main objectives are to improve career pathways, provide professional development opportunities, and increase compensation and working conditions. Terry reviewed a few of the key programs ECE3 has created or is sponsoring in order to achieve these goals, including the ECE Student Ambassador Program, a Bachelor’s Degree program in ECE (birth through age 8), plans to create Competency-Based B-8 ECE Teacher Preparation programs, and articulation agreements between UH community colleges and UH Manoa College of Education.</p> <p>Terry also provided updates on the Early Childhood Educator Compensation Equity Study and Roadmap, reminding the Board that UH had commissioned RAND Corporation, who started their work on November 1, 2021, to complete this work. RAND has been collecting and finalizing existing data, creating focus groups for study, conducting interviews with expert informants, and collecting data through an online survey. The final report is due on July 30, 2022.</p> <p>To discuss the apprenticeship program more in-depth, Terry asked Caroline Soga, the ECE Program Coordinator at Honolulu Community College (HonCC), to continue the presentation. The apprenticeship program is a residency ECE training program, pairing on-the-job learning with coaching, mentoring, and related technical instruction. Apprentices move along a career pathway as they earn credentials and degrees, earning higher pay at each step. Melodie Vega at this point was asked to provide a brief description of the relationship between Keiki O Ka Aina (KOKA) and the apprenticeship program, which could possibly serve as a model in the future. HonCC is the instruction</p>	<p><b>Terry Lock, Caroline Soga, and Melodie Vega shared information about the ECE3 apprenticeship program with the Board.</b></p>
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	<p>provider, while KOKA is the sponsor and employer for the students. Other organizations do not have to be both, but can be one or the other.</p> <p>If any programs or organizations are interested in becoming sponsor agencies or are interested in participating in any way, contact Caroline Soga and she can include them in their pre-requisites for apprenticeship orientation. There is a new accelerated PACE class that is being paid for entirely by grant funds. The class prepares students for higher level courses on an accelerated basis through the summer. The application process is intensive and not yet finished, but the Workforce Subcommittee hopes to have it completed by the end of the month.</p> <p>Finally, Ben Naki provided very brief Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS) updates. SIS had its first meeting last week Thursday. Currently Subcommittee members are working on orienting themselves and reaching out to other agencies for more representation on the Subcommittee. They have another meeting next Thursday to determine when their monthly meetings will be. The current size of the Subcommittee is twelve members, so it may decide to break into smaller work groups depending on how discussions evolve.</p>	<p><b>Members are invited to contact Terry, Caroline, or Melodie if they are interested in becoming part of the apprenticeship program.</b></p>
<p><b>Act 046 Updates</b>—Lane Tsuchiyama</p>	<p>Lane Tsuchiyama, the Institutional Analyst hired by the Board to coordinate Act 046 implementation, provided updates on his work relating to pre-k expansion. He met with the Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority (SFA), Chad Keone Farias, and discussed HB 2000 funds which provide \$200 million to the SFA for expanding access to pre-k to eligible students in the state over the next fiscal year (until June 30, 2023). The language in HB 2000 indicates funds unencumbered as of June 30, 2024 will lapse into the General Fund. Director Farias shared he is working closely with the SFA Board to determine a plan on expending the money and intends for the SFA to be in close contact with both EOEL and ELB so that both entities can provide feedback on how funds may be allocated. Lane recommends</p>	<p><b>Lane encouraged the Board to consider providing feedback on HB 2000 as an opportunity to advocate for and leverage future requests for pre-K expansion and other</b></p>

	<p>that EOEL and ELB actively engage in these conversations.</p> <p>Lane has also met with the newly appointed Superintendent of the Department of Education, Keith Hayashi. This conversation was focused on relationship-building and familiarizing Lane with the DOE team. The Superintendent has communicated that he is open to working with EOEL and ELB collaboratively, and welcomes any discussion.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The intention of the Executive Director of SFA is to expand access to pre-k, this may include both public and private settings.</li> <li>○ One model being considered is a public private partnership.</li> <li>● There is no specific target for the desired number of seats that the SFA wants to create with the \$200 million. They want to be cost-effective, and are conscious of spending state resources, so they want to get the best value for the \$200 million they have. As a result, they will push the number of seats as high as they can.</li> <li>● At this point, there are competing limitations (time, locations, how many contractors are available to do x amount of work, etc.). Trying to layer all of that out will allow this work to be as efficient as possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>efforts.</b></p>
<p><b>Leadership Update</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Bob reminded the Board that the Commit to Keiki forums are still ongoing. The next one is on June 13, 2022 with the gubernatorial candidate Lynn Mariano. There will also be a second forum with Mrs. Cayetano. Information on the forums can be found at <a href="http://committokeiki.org">committokeiki.org</a>. Bob emphasized that these forums present the opportunity to both hear from the gubernatorial candidates, as well as to inform and educate them.</p>	

	<p>Bob also reminded the Board of tasks requiring the attention of different subcommittees. The Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS) needs to address the concurrent resolution related to the Board composition. The SIS needs to look at the concurrent resolution related to the road map for moving forward with Act 46 and 210. The Finance Standing Subcommittee (FSS) needs to have a conversation around the funding requests for the different subcommittees and moving forward with the state plan.</p> <p>Finally, Bob thanked Leilani Au and Cherilyn Shiinoki for their years of service on the Early Learning Board, as their terms come to an end on June 30th.</p>	<p><b>Action was taken regarding the concurrent resolution looking at requirements of the legislature.</b></p>
<p><b>Member Updates—Bob Peters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Matt Shim</i> reported that he will be absent for the July ELB meeting, and that Keiko Nitta will attend in his stead.</li> <li>• <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> reported that Early Intervention Services received some money but had positions cut. She wanted to remind everyone that when thinking about workforce expansion, what is already in place should not be lost. Matt Shim briefly explained that the Department of Health is submitting budget requests to re-instate the positions that had been cut.</li> <li>• <i>Ka'iulani Laeha</i> reported that families interested in raising children in the Hawaiian language should check out the Aha Punana Leo website. They have started to release video lessons for families centered around raising children in the Hawaiian language, and more will be forthcoming. She provided the following link in the chat box: <a href="https://www.ahapunanaleo.org/resources-1">https://www.ahapunanaleo.org/resources-1</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Public Comment—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>No public comments were provided.</p>	
<p><b>Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yuuko has shared her plans to begin to clarify her priorities for EOEL, and has invited Board members to contribute any other</li> </ul>	

	<p>suggestions than the ones already put forth today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed budget for the Early Childhood Mapping Project was approved.</li> <li>• The SMS plan to raise private funds to support the mapping budget was also approved.</li> <li>• The Board should come back to the discussion concerning the flowchart that SMS presented and the type of data it would reflect.</li> <li>• Terry Lock, Caroline Soga, and Melodie Vega shared information about the ECE3 apprenticeship program with the Board. Members are invited to contact Terry, Caroline, or Melodie if they are interested in becoming part of the apprenticeship program.</li> <li>• Lane reminded the Board that the SFA funding from Act 2000 is an opportunity that the Board should consider as a way to leverage future requests for expansion and other efforts around the effective use of legislative funding.</li> <li>• Action was taken regarding the concurrent resolution looking at requirements of the legislature.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	None given.	
<b>Closing</b> —Bob Peters	“We are all ancestors in the making. Be the best person you can be.” –Kealoha Wong, MIT graduation address	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson