

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, July 14, 2022

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

*The public may attend the meeting in any of the locations specified below:*

**Meeting Chair will preside at CEED Center, KCAA  
2707 South King Street, Honolulu, HI 96826  
Or Via the Zoom Link**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Justina Acevedo-Cross, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Ka‘iulani Laehā, Megan McCorriston, Ben Naki, Mei Ou, Robert Peters (for Director Bossert), Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Mari Uehara, Kerrie Urosevich, Melodie Vega, Dayna Luka (for Director Betts), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Keiko Nitta (for Director Char)

**Absent:** Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi)

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

**Public in Attendance:** Michael Azuma, David Seegal, James Raymond, Jeffrey Brock, Chad Keone Farias, Cindy Barley, Jana Smith, Dana Vela, Danny Cup Choy, Mary Ann Nemoto, Julie Kalakau, Kevin Costa, Ke‘ōpū Reelitz, Moevanu Jameson, Terry Lock, Christina Cox, Ted Burke, Deanne Goya, Katie Danner-Demmin

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:31 PM and asked Stephen Schatz 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. Attendance was taken, and quorum was established.	

	<p>Bob introduced two new Board members - Megan McCorrison, serving as the Center-Based Provider Representative from Seagull Schools and Mei Ou, serving as the Parent Representative from Family Hui Hawaii – and asked them to share a bit about themselves.</p> <p>Megan’s background started in public education, overseeing pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> grade charter schools. In 2018, she began as the Executive Director of Seagull Schools, a private non-profit organization which provides early education and kupuna care for almost one thousand families. She hopes to bring her private and public experience to the table, and wants to contribute to the conversation and to the Board’s strategic goals.</p> <p>Mei has worked in pre-k and infant-toddler classroom settings for over fourteen years, and currently has a six-year-old child. She managed the USDA food program for family child care providers for eight years prior to starting work with Family Hui, coaching preschool teachers and family child care providers. She has admired the work that the Early Learning Board has been doing and is excited to be a part of it.</p> <p>Board members were asked to introduce themselves individually to Megan and Mei, indicating where they are employed and what constituent group they represent on the Board.</p> <p>Bob then announced that Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, EOEL’s Director, would be absent from the meeting due to illness, and Jordana Ferreira would be providing the EOEL updates on Yuuko’s behalf.</p> <p>Bob also announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session towards the end of the meeting; at that time public attendees will have to leave the room either on Zoom or physically. Once the Executive Session has concluded, the public meeting will be reopened</p>	
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	to the public, and the Board will conclude any remaining items on the agenda.	
<b>Review and Approve 6/9/2022 Meeting Minutes</b> —Bob Peters	The Chair entertained a motion to approve the 6/9/22 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as disseminated (Kerrie/Ka'iulani: Y—8, N—0).	
<b>Public Comment</b> —Bob Peters	No public comments were provided.	
<b>HB 2000</b> —Keone Farias, Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority	<p>Lane Tsuchiyama, Institutional Analyst and Act 46 Coordinator welcomed and introduced Chad Keone Farias, Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority (SFA). Lane explained that the SFA started as an agency to build schools for the DOE through Act 72 during the 2020 legislative session, and was rebranded as the SFA through Act 217 during the 2021 legislative session. H.B. 2000 was passed by the 2022 legislature, and the bill was signed by the Governor last week and is now Act 257. \$200 million was appropriated to the SFA for the current fiscal year to use for the expansion of preschool facilities, with an option to extend through July 2024.</p> <p>Keone introduced himself and provided some information on his background. He was a Complex Area Superintendent (CAS) for the Hawai'i Department of Education until he was recently confirmed as the Executive Director of the SFA on May 5, 2022. Keone provided the Board with an overview of the SFA, explaining that the SFA is neither a department nor an agency, and that currently he is the only staff person, with a 5-member Board. His task is to spend down a large sum of money wisely and quickly. Keone shared that he appreciates the advice and support he has been provided, especially from ELB and EOEL. As someone with lived experience on Hawai'i Island, he understands the need to consider the lack of facilities, transportation, early learning opportunities and workforce as he sets out to accomplish his work. The SFA is trying to stand itself up as an authority and trying to find its role vis-à-vis the HIDOE. Keone's priorities include taking</p>	

	<p>over “stalled projects” in terms of building K-12 schools, building teacher housing, and now, building facilities for pre-k, especially in locations that have a high need but where it has been difficult to set anything up.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Because there are only eleven months to spend down the funds, the priority is on “low-hanging fruit” projects that have the fewest legal opinions needed, such as working with DOE and Charter Schools to establish pre-K classrooms, supporting stalled projects, and establishing partnerships with counties.</li><li>● There is currently no formal process for organizations or programs to submit proposals for consideration. Keone hopes to change that by hiring staff to create a process. For now, he is meeting with many individuals to get an understanding of community need.</li><li>● The appropriated funds can be used to build new facilities as well as to renovate existing ones. The Board encouraged Keone to consider the refurbishing of existing facilities in his plan.</li><li>● There is advocacy for community-based hub models with wraparound services and multiple classrooms.</li><li>● Keone is not certain whether the \$200 million can be used for community-based providers and private preschools. However, he welcomes all ideas.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ There is precedent for private providers using part of DOE campuses or county facilities, so it may be possible for private providers to rent or lease facilities created by the SFA. However, that language would be relevant in the rent or lease, not necessarily in the creation of the facility itself.</li><li>○ While much of the language in the bill is broad or vague, Act 257 makes it very clear that increasing the</li></ul></li></ul>	
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	<p>number of seats should be a priority. Right now, the DOE has more than thirty classrooms they want to open next year, but the cost for this is still nowhere near the total of \$200 million that needs to be expended.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keone is exploring possibilities at the City and County level and their partners. He also hopes to use existing schools with a lot of services such as Linapuni as models, along with partnering with low-rise housing.</li> <li>• Keone wants classrooms to be appropriately-designed for three- and four-year-olds, and ideally wants them to even have their own age-appropriate playgrounds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ELB has a better understanding of the SFA and Act 257, as well as Keone’s request for everyone to join him in a partnership to work together towards the realization of Act 257 expenditure.</b></p>
<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates—</b> Jordana Ferreira</p>	<p>Jordana Ferreira provided the EOEL updates. Jordana began with the legislative updates, starting with the bills related to the early learning sector that were enacted. H.B. 986 relating to newborn hearing screening was enacted on 6/16/22 as Act 36. H.B. 987, which amends the hearing and vision program statute to increase the early identification of children with hearing or vision loss, was enacted on 6/16/22 as Act 37. S.B. 3110, which renames the Preschool Grant Program Special Fund to Child Care Grant Program Special Fund and authorizes the special fund to be used to give grants to child care facilities was enacted on 6/27/22 as Act 128. H.B. 2000, which appropriates \$200 million to the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to expand access to pre-k was enacted on 7/7/22 as Act 257. Jordana also had a Biennium Request Development Update: EOEL is currently working on developing budget and legislative requests in anticipation for the next Biennium. EOEL will provide a presentation to the Board at the August ELB meeting for review and approval.</p> <p>Jordana asked Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist in charge of coordinating the implementation of the Early Childhood State Plan, to provide PDG B-5 grant updates. Alohi explained that more information has been shared via Grants.gov regarding the forecasting of the PDG</p>	

	<p>B-5 Renewal Grant Funding Opportunity. EOEL is still awaiting an official announcement from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) which is expected to be made in September. The application will be due in November, and awards will be announced in December. Hawaii is eligible to apply. EOEL is monitoring the announcement and plans to play a coordinating role in applying on behalf of Hawaii. The intention is to first seek essential feedback from government agencies and community partners for the administration and implementation of the grant. Right now, there is still very little information on the renewal grant, so EOEL is waiting for the official announcement to get a better idea of what is required to secure funding.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start State Collaboration Office Director, provided Head Start updates. Two of the Head Start grantees have extended their school year to include summer programming – one program ran a virtual program for the month of June, and the other is doing in-person programming at several sites through mid-July. Both summer programs targeted children transitioning on to Kindergarten. All Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) grantees are actively recruiting children (B-5) for enrollment in the upcoming school year, with different start dates for services in the month of August. The federal Office of Head Start (OHS) will be monitoring grantees for full enrollment and in-person services this fall. There are several barriers for programs to meet the full enrollment requirements, including the ongoing workforce shortage across the early learning sector. Finally, the Head Start Association of Hawaii (HSAH) will convene a quarterly Board meeting in mid-July. A rollout plan for the newly published <i>Early Head Start State Policy Agenda</i> will be vetted and, hopefully, approved for a coordinated and intentional approach to elevate issues and recommendations to support Hawaii’s EHS programs, as well as infant/toddler programs in general.</p>	<p><b>Alohi indicated that PDG B-5 grant renewal information will be available in September, and ELB will want to pursue a grant application at that time.</b></p>
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	<p>Jordana concluded this portion of the agenda by reminding the Board about the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program, which provides funds up front for eligible students in the UH system who are taking early childhood education course work. This program will be administered in collaboration with UH, and a Memorandum of Agreement has been executed. Stipends will hopefully be available to students in the fall. Finally, Jordana announced that because of the funding that EOEL was able to maintain despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office was able to contract two FCIL school-based programs at Nānākuli and Kailua Elementary schools.</p>	
<p><b>Subcommittee Reports—</b> Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Ben Naki provided updates for the Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS). At their last meeting, they reviewed SCR 217 in depth, which urges the ELB to prepare a report that includes a roadmap to implement Act 46/210. The SIS has created a timeline that includes seeking board approval at the December ELB meeting. That leaves the SIS only a short period of time to create the roadmap, especially since the intent is to engage stakeholders in this conversation. Preliminary discussion identified possible elements to include: data collection, site enrichment and expansion, workforce enrichment and expansion, program quality, family engagement, and Hawaiian medium. Ben concluded by suggesting that the SIS may need some assistance in engaging stakeholders in this conversation.</p> <p>Erin Henderson-Lacerdo provided updates on the Capacity and Resources Subcommittee (C&amp;R). C&amp;R has been working diligently in the past year to determine how best to support EOEL based on their charter, which is to support the efforts outside of public pre-k and help realize the statutory obligation for the entire continuum of early childhood. C&amp;R will be more intentional this year around engaging the ELB in “beyond pre-K” conversations. At their most recent meeting, C&amp;R committee members identified two potential priorities:</p>	<p><b>There is a timeline for the report to the legislature mandated by SCR 217, which requests that the Board provide a roadmap for Act 46/210 implementation.</b></p>

	<p>(1) holding an annual orientation around the EC State Plan with the ELB to demonstrate all of the efforts going on outside of public pre-k; and (2) to help EOEL with increasing its capacity beyond public pre-K. Erin completed her updates by extending a warm mahalo to Cherilyn Shiinoki as outgoing co-chair of this subcommittee, and reminded the Board that C&amp;R is looking for a new co-chair. Anyone interested should contact either Erin or Bob.</p>	<p><b>Anyone interested in co-chairing the C&amp;R Subcommittee should contact Erin or Bob.</b></p>
<p><b>Act 046 Updates</b>—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. He and Yuuko have met with the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission (HSPCSC) to coordinate efforts. Lane shared information about the SFA and H.B. 2000, and the HSPCSC indicated there may be two schools ready in the near future to present some expansion plans for the SFA to consider.</p> <p>Lane and Yuuko also reached out to the Work Hawai‘i Community Services Division of the City and County. Yuuko and Lane were informed that the City and County offers a program where they can provide paid internships that serve as introductory opportunities for private businesses through a U.S. Department of Labor federal grant. Private businesses can sign up with the Work Hawaii Division to support entry-level internships for up to 20-30 hours a week, with pay slightly higher than minimum wage. Currently, Lane is looking into this to see if it is possible to create opportunities for the early learning sector. In response to a clarification question, Lane reiterated that the funding for this comes from grants from the U.S. Department of Labor, not from state funds.</p> <p>Aside from this work, Lane has been helping to stand up the SFA, and helping the SIS create the SCR 217 road map by the deadline. In response to a question about any resources the SFA or EOEL may need for pre-k expansion, Lane suggested that the most helpful thing for the</p>	<p><b>Lane will support the SIS and help outline the SCR 217 report.</b></p>



	SFA right now would be to help develop a screening process that would help the SFA understand and organize all the various ideas that may be submitted.	
<b>Public Comment</b> —Bob Peters	No public comments were provided.	
<b>Executive Session</b> —Bob Peters	Chair Peters entertained a motion to move into Executive Session. The motion was approved (Wai‘ale‘ale/Melodie: Y—11; N—0). The Board went into Executive Session at 2:58 p.m. to seek the Attorney General’s counsel regarding Board/Subcommittee fundraising.	
<b>Review Agenda Outcomes</b> —Bob Peters	<p>The public meeting resumed at 3:50 p.m., and Chair Peters reviewed the following agenda outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELB has a better understanding of the SFA and Act 257, as well as Keone’s request for everyone to join him in a partnership to work together towards the realization of Act 257 expenditures.</li> <li>• Alohi indicated that PDG B-5 renewal grant information will be available in September, and ELB will want to pursue a grant application at that time.</li> <li>• There is a timeline for a report to the legislature mandated by SCR 217, which requests that the Board provide a roadmap for Act 46/210 implementation.</li> <li>• Lane will support the SIS and outline the SCR 217 report moving forward.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	None provided .	
<b>Closing</b> —Kerrie Urosevich	“We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour. But within it we found the power to author a new chapter, to offer hope and laughter to ourselves.” –Amanda Gorman	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson