

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, August 11, 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), Mari Uehara, Melodie Vega, Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Keiko Nitta (for Director Char)

Absent: Wai’ale’ale Sarsona (for Jack Wong), Kerrie Urosevich, Dayna Luka (for Director Betts)

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

Public in Attendance: Michael Azuma, Barbara DeBaryshe, Alanna Bauman, Carol Hayashida, Carol Wear, David Seegal, Deborah Zysman, Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, Elaine Yamashita, Emily Awaya Leong, Ka’ano’i Walk, Ke’opu Reelitz, Kim Guieb, Kiyo Noguchi, Leilani Au, Lauren Padesky, Pualani Kaho’ohanohano, Robyn Chun, Scott Fuji, Terry Lock, Vivian Eto, Cassia Simms, Jana Smith, Cheri Nakamura, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Nalani Mattox-Primacio, Lynette Kamekona, Christina Cox

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:31 PM and asked Matt Shim 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 at 1:34 PM.	

Early Learning Board

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

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	<p>Chair Peters also reminded the Board that they would be going into Executive Session toward the end of the meeting, at which time all public attendees, both physical and virtual, will need to enter a waiting room.</p> <p>A final reminder was about a scheduled special ELB meeting for August 25, 2022 from 1-3 PM. This hybrid meeting is being convened at the request of the Workforce Equity Subcommittee to share a pre-publication report about the RAND study that has been completed. The final publication will be out in September or October, but the Subcommittee is ready to share findings with the ELB so that Board members can begin thinking about possible implications for the upcoming legislative session.</p>	
<p>Review and Approve 7/14/2022 Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes—Bob Peters</p>	<p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the 7/14/22 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as disseminated (Melodie/Justina: Y—8, N—0).</p> <p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the 7/14/22 Executive Session minutes. The minutes were approved as disseminated (Megan/Ben: Y—8; N—0)</p>	
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Deborah Zysman provided written public testimony on the coordination by the Hawaii Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance (HECAA) for Child Care Provider Appreciation Month in September. It can be found on EOEL’s website: https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/early-learning-board-meeting-august-11-2022/</p>	
<p>P-20 Revised Attainment Goal and Early Learning Metrics—Stephen Schatz</p>	<p>Stephen Schatz gave a presentation to the Board on Hawaii P-20’s “Attainment Goal—Hawaii’s Graduates for Hawaii’s Future.” The state has had an attainment goal set in 2009 called “55 by ‘25”— that 55% of working age adults would have a 2- or 4-year degree by 2025. That goal was established by the P-20 Council which is an advisory</p>	

	<p>body consisting of education and union leadership, philanthropy and politicians. The Council is now a Board.</p> <p>There has been dialogue about whether a new attainment goal is needed for the state to address workforce needs as they currently exist and to develop innovative practices for new economic activity in the future. The original goal may have not accounted for the fact, for example that some sectors that do not require a college degree have more opportunity for employment in Hawaii than ones that do, or the impact of in- and out-migration affecting college graduate rates. Most relevant to the early learning sector is that early education was not one of the leading indicators originally tracked. P-20 wants a goal for the entire community, not just the education ecosystem. Stephen shared the approach P-20 hopes to take to set this new goal, as well as the five principles the P-20 Board is currently considering the new goal should be centered on.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The approach P-20 is taking is that it wants to align itself and its goals with what is already being measured and worked on.• P-20 is not currently looking at comparing the data collected with other states because it wants to focus on bettering Hawaii, not comparing it to other states. Other states may have attainment goals, but they only include higher education, so Hawaii has a good opportunity to try something new.• There was a lot of attention given to Principle #1, “improve and increase early education participation.”<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Stephen assured the Board that “improve and increase” also refers to quality.○ FCILs are included—the language is broad in order to include all programs within the prenatal to age 5 bracket, not just center-based ones.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob asked Stephen if there was a way to view the draft of the Attainment Goal before it is voted on by the P-20 Board in order to potentially provide input. Stephen said he would ask for permission for the Board to see the draft Attainment Goal before P-20 Board takes a vote. 	<p>The Board has asked to see the P-20 attainment goal and metrics before it moves for approval by the P-20 Board.</p>
<p>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates— Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Yuuko asked Coleen Momohara, EOEL’s Educational Specialist in charge of the EOEL Public Pre-K program, to share updates. Coleen shared that 23 elementary schools have applied to participate in the EOEL public pre-k program, so Yuuko, Coleen, and her team will be conducting site visits and going through the established process required to determine eligibility. The Memorandum of Agreement between the EOEL and the State of Hawai‘i Department of Education to “Implement a High-Quality Prekindergarten Program for FY 21-22” is extended for two (2) more state fiscal years. The new termination date is June 30, 2024.</p> <p>Coleen reported that principals hosting existing EOEL pre-K program classrooms currently have some flexibility regarding how they will determine capacity for the new school year because of the optional mask mandate in place now. They have the choice of returning to the 20-seat maximum or remain at the current 10-seat maximum. In response to a question posed, Coleen reminded the Board that there is a waitlist system in place for schools that have more than ten approved applicants. Meanwhile, other schools have attendance on the lower side with vacant seats. If a school decides they want to take on more students or increase the capacity from ten to twenty, they will have a waitlist to pull from.</p> <p>Yuuko asked Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Early Childhood State Plan, to provide PDG B-5 grant updates. Alohi began by reminding the Board about the 2022 PDG B-5 Renewal Funding Opportunity. EOEL</p>	

	<p>has drafted a work plan in order to prepare for an application on behalf of Hawai'i. As an initial step of their work plan, Alohi will invite the early childhood community, especially those who have been connected to past PDG B-5 work and the Early Childhood State Plan, to submit ideas and information via a google form within the next few days. EOEL plans to use this information to inform Hawai'i's proposal.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, EOEL's Head Start State Collaboration Office Director, provided Head Start updates. Head Start (HS)/Early Head Start (EHS) programs brought staff back from summer break for pre-service training, initial home visits with families, and classroom preparations during the last two weeks in July. The first day of the new school year occurred on different days for programs in August. HS and EHS are still recruiting, and nearing full capacity. The Office of Head Start (OHS) is strongly encouraging local grantees to implement workforce development strategies, including developing incentive and retention plans, policies and practices; examining budget and funding available to increase staff wages; exploring improved benefit packages; updating wage comparability studies to include comparison with elementary school staff; and conducting frequent staff "stay surveys". Workforce shortages are one of the biggest challenges currently for local programs to be at full enrollment this fall. At least one HS grantee has indicated that fewer classrooms will open this fall due to staffing shortages. Finally, HS is still requiring its staff and children to wear masks for now, despite DHS and DOE making their mask mandate optional.</p> <p>Jordana Ferreira is temporarily handling communications work previously done by Ke'opu Reelitz, EOEL's former Communications Specialist, until that vacancy is filled. The EOEL Act 46 stakeholder engagement team has begun hosting stakeholder meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to review provisions of Act 46, and subsequent amendments to the Act, and explain some of its implications that</p>	<p>Alohi will send out invitations to the early childhood community to submit ideas and information.</p>
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	<p>pertain to providers, as well as for information gathering. The team wants to know of any concerns, barriers, and general feedback from providers, as well as what types of supports may be helpful to them as they try to meet the provisions and expansion goals set forth in Act 46. The engagement team is scheduling sessions with providers, including family child care providers, throughout the next two months. Jordana invited interested providers to contact her if they would like to attend a session.</p> <p>Yuuko provided personnel updates. At the end of August, interviews will be conducted for the Communication Specialist position, while interviews for the Educational Specialist II position for workforce development are currently being conducted. For the Business Management Officer I and Administrative Services Assistant positions, EOEL is awaiting confirmation of a panel participant, and hopes to complete interviews for these two positions by the end of August. A selection was made for the Educational Specialist II position for EOEL public pre-k program, and the Office is waiting for the candidate’s response.</p> <p>EOEL’s Research Statistician, Jeff Larson, shared with the Board the web-based tool created by EOEL and Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) to help people conceptualize a way of measuring and talking about how to prioritize communities for early learning expansion. The website includes an access index, showing nearby seats, affordability, and quality; as well as a child opportunity index that shows education, health and environment, and social and economic statuses. The access index is building upon work produced by the UH Center on the Family, and the child opportunity index is building on work produced by Brandeis University (DiversityDataKids.org). Jeff gave a brief demonstration about how the web-based tool works.</p>	<p>The Board received information about an “access and opportunity” tool that would be useful when considering pre-K expansion.</p>
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	<p>Keli Houston, EOEL’s Institutional Analyst, provided the Board with updates on EOEL’s Memorandum of Understanding with DOE’s Education of Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY). The purpose of the MOU is to increase coordination of services for Hawaii’s children experiencing homelessness, ages birth through five, and their families. EOEL plans to support EHCY’s Early Childhood Navigator position, identify which communities could benefit from FCILs and expand those services, share data, and increase professional development.</p> <p>Yuuko then shared the following travel updates with the Board: Yuuko plans to attend the Hunt Institute’s Early Childhood Leadership Summit, which will connect leaders in early childhood fields nationwide with elected officials. Several of Hawaii’s elected leaders will be attending, along with Dayna Luka from DHS and Deputy Superintendent Heidi Armstrong from DOE. Yuuko also plans to attend the National P3 Center’s “Bridging ECE and PreK-12 Systems”, along with leadership from Hawaii’s Charter School Commission (CSC) and DOE. The purpose of this trip is to build and sustain better connections and working relationships with one other, as well as critically analyze where Hawaii’s early learning system is with regard to the state plan, where it should go, and how to progress.</p> <p>EOEL shared its Biennium Request with the Board and asked for approval. All of the funding requests are connected to EOEL’s strategic priorities and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to expand EOEL Public Pre-K Classrooms (\$1.2 million and 5 FTE positions counts for FY 24; \$3.2 million and 52 position counts for FY 25); • 3 position count and subsequent funding for positions related to systems building efforts; 	<p>The Board learned about the Memorandum of Understanding with the DOE on homelessness.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to update the Early Childhood State Plan and to engage in external contracts to update assessments (\$545k for FY 24; \$65k for FY 25); • Funding to expand FCIL programs (\$600k for FY 24 and FY 25); • Funding for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program (\$600k for FY 24 and FY 25); • Funding to enhance ELB’s systems-building capacity and for 1 FTE position count and subsequent funding for the Institutional Analyst (\$123k for FY 24 and FY 25). <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reference to the Hawaiian medium part of the budget, one of the schools applying for an EOEL pre-k classroom wants to open a Hawaiian medium classroom, which would be a first for EOEL. • Whether the schools that have applied to host an EOEL public pre-k classroom will be able to operate is contingent on funding from the Legislature. • Currently, there are two EOEL-funded, school-based FCIL programs, so if the budget request is approved by the legislature, that number can increase to up to 9 FCIL sites. <p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the EOEL Budget Biennium Request. The motion passed (Justina/Mari: Y—8; N—0).</p>	<p>The Board approved the budget biennium requests for FY24 and FY25.</p>
<p>Subcommittee Reports— Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Justina Acevedo-Cross provided Workforce Equity Subcommittee (WES) updates. Legislators passed a resolution creating a “Child Care Appreciation Month” in September 2022. WES wants Board members to think of ways to support or encourage the work of child care staff, so that providers know how appreciated they are in the community. Justina provided some suggestions, such as expressing gratitude publicly, or on a more personal level, delivering handwritten notes. On</p>	

	<p>the systems coordination side, the Hawaii Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance (HECAA) is planning activities. Individuals are invited to join the HECAA ad hoc planning committee.</p> <p>Ben Naki provided Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS) updates. The SIS has developed a template for the roadmap requested via SCR 217, so their next step is to begin adding content to that roadmap. To do this, they are currently highlighting areas within Act 46, such as site enrichment and expansion, workforce development, program quality, expansion of quality data sharing, family engagement, and Hawaiian medium. The SIS is also getting more into the role originally intended for them, which is to support the EC State Plan. They are also trying to support the PDG B-5 grant opportunity that will come out in September (previously covered by Alohi).</p> <p>Bob Peters made a motion to rescind the action taken on June 9, 2022 regarding the funding of the mapping project, after the AG ruled that neither the Board nor its Subcommittees have the authority to fundraise. The motion passed (Bob/Ben: Y—8; N—0).</p>	
Act 046 Updates —Lane Tsuchiyama	Lane Tsuchiyama, the Institutional Analyst hired by the Board pursuant to Act 210, SLH 2021, provided an update on his work relating to pre-k expansion. He explained that most of his work has been overlapping with the SIS, including working on the SCR 217 road map and continuing to work with the SFA to implement Act 257, SLH 2021.	
Public Comment —Bob Peters	No public comments were provided.	
Member Updates —Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ben Naki</i> reported that in June, the National Head Start Association recognized thirteen programs of excellence across the nation, and Maui Family Support Services was one of them. In June, the Fourth Annual Hawaii Fatherhood Conference took place via Zoom. A Head Start father from Maui Economic Opportunity Head Start was named Father of the Year. Maui 	

	<p>Economic Opportunity Head Start was also awarded the Parent-Friendly Business Award. Finally, Hawaii Head Start has released a new policy agenda. The issues they are focusing on are workforce shortage, limited access to care, and quality and affordability of care. HS is working with their partner agencies to get the word out about this agenda. If anyone needs more information, please contact Ben Naki or Chris Jackson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mei Ou</i> reported that Family Hui is having a music event with Molly Whuppie Music and Hawaii Parent at Ho’omaluhia Botanical Gardens on Saturday, August 27, from 9 – 11 a.m. Families with young keiki are welcome to participate, sing, and have fun. • <i>Justina Acevedo-Cross</i> reported that the Hawaii Community Foundation has recently helped to stand up the “Every Keiki Fund,” which includes funding from philanthropists in the community who want to align themselves with preschool expansion and the SFA. They have been working with Lane and Yuuko to get an idea of how to make this work. 	
<p>Executive Session—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters entertained a motion to move into Executive Session. The motion was approved (Bob/Mei: Y—11; N—0). The Board went into Executive Session at 3:05 p.m.</p>	
<p>Review Agenda Outcomes—Bob Peters</p>	<p>The public meeting resumed at 3:26 p.m., and Chair Peters reviewed the following agenda outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a special ELB meeting to hear the pre-publication of the RAND workforce study report on August 25, 2022 from 1 - 3 p.m. • The Board has asked to see the P-20 attainment goal and metrics before it goes to the P-20 Board for approval. • Alohi will send out invitations to the early childhood community to submit ideas and information for the PDG B-5 Renewal Grant. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board received information about an “access and opportunity” tool that would be useful for pre-K expansion efforts. • The Board learned about the Memorandum of Understanding between EOEL and the DOE on homelessness. • The Board approved the budget biennium requests for FY24 and FY25. 	
Announcements	None provided.	
Closing —Bob Peters	Kerrie Urosevich was absent and not available to provide a closing for the meeting. Instead, Bob thanked the Board for the good work they do every day on behalf of the keiki in the state of Hawaii. He also added that he is always impressed by the dedication ELB members have and the time and energy given to the Board itself and to its subcommittees.	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson