

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, September 8, 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, Jeff Larson, Jordana Ferreira, Kevin Kabasawa, Lane Tsuchiyama, Ashley Miura

**Public in Attendance:** Michael Azuma, Lynette Kamekona, Christina Cox, Ted Burke, Karen Shore, Danny Cup Choy, Gabriel Lo, Raya Esteban, Vivian Eto, David Seegal, Ka’ina Bonacorsi, Kevin Costa, Napua Rosehill, Ke’opu Reelitz, Deborah Zysman, Ka’ano’i Walk, Kim Guieb, Alanna Bauman, Terry Lock, Cheri Nakamura, Edeluisa Baguio-Larena, JoAnn Farnsworth, Linda Elento, Carol Wear, Scott Fuji, Deanne Goya

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:32 PM and read the mission statement. He reminded everyone that regardless of in-person attendance, protocols would proceed as usual, with votes conducted by roll call. Bob announced that wearing masks at the CEED upstairs conference room was now optional. He also announced that there was no need for an Executive Session today.	

Early Learning Board

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

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Page 1

	<p>Attendance was then taken, and quorum was established.</p> <p>Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona announced that she would be stepping down as ELB representative for Kamehameha Schools as she has taken on other responsibilities and her workload now requires her to shift roles. Because she feels that she will not be able to continue adequately serving the Board with her new responsibilities, Napua Rosehill, who was also in attendance at this meeting, will be taking her place. Napua has a long background in early learning as an educator, having oversight in program development, and strategic oversight in Wai‘ale‘ale office.</p> <p>Bob acknowledged Wai‘ale‘ale contribution to the ELB over the years, especially in her role as the Governance Standing Subcommittee Chair. Matt Shim has volunteered to chair the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS), going forward.</p>	<p><b>Napua Rosehill will be replacing Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona on the Board as the Kamehameha Schools representative.</b></p> <p><b>Matt Shim will be assuming the role of convener of GSS. Its next meeting will be held on 9/16 at 11 AM on Zoom.</b></p>
<p><b>Review and Approve 8/11/2022 Meeting Minutes and Executive Session Minutes—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the 8/11/22 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as disseminated (Justina/Mari: Y—10, N—0).</p> <p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the 8/11/22 Executive Session minutes. The minutes were approved as disseminated (Kerrie/Wai‘ale‘ale: Y—10; N—0).</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Linda Elento provided public comment related to three items she wanted to discuss. The first was related to the Board’s composition, and she suggested that parents be represented in some way. The second comment was for the Board to consider granting child care subsidy if one parent works and the other either home schools a child or has to care for a child if they need to engage in online learning. In her experience, DHS does not provide financial support for these kinds of families. This is unfair not only for parents who have to homeschool their children, but for parents who want to homeschool their children.</p>	

	<p>Linda believes that parents should be able to have that choice without worrying about financial costs. Finally, as a parent of a child with special needs, Linda wanted to remind the Board about the early intervention services bill discussed in the legislature during the last session, designed to extend early intervention IDEA Part C services to children even after they turn three years old, based on their lifestyle and needs. She hopes that if a bill is introduced in the future, that the Board will support it.</p>	
<p><b>Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health (IECBH) Plan Update</b>—Karen Shore, IECBH Plan Coordinator, introduced by Justina Acevedo-Cross</p>	<p>Justina Acevedo-Cross introduced Karen Shore, Coordinator for the Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health (IECBH) Plan, who has been working with the IECBH Advisory Group since November 2021 to help support implementation priorities. Karen provided some background, as well as an overview of the plan components, 2021 critical first steps, key accomplishments to date, and 2022-23 priority areas. Priority areas include expanding IECMH consultation services, growing the IECMH workforce through partnerships, and identifying how Medicaid and other potential funding sources can be used to reimburse for IECMH services. A cover letter, as well as the 2.0 version of the plan, is posted on the EOEL website.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently no plans for new legislation this upcoming session due to uncertainty with the climate around policy and funding, but anything could change.</li> <li>• IECMH is a priority of Commit to Keiki, with the goal of increasing IECMH opportunities for children through the Governor’s Office.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Board heard a report about the IECBH Plan and have a better sense of how implementation efforts are going.</b></p>
<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates</b>—Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Yuuko asked Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, to provide the first updates. Jordana explained that in the coming months, departments will be meeting with the Governor’s Office to discuss legislative proposals and fiscal requests. EOEL will keep the Board updated as decisions are made.</p>	

	<p>Coleen Momohara, the Educational Specialist responsible for the administration of the EOEL Public Pre-K Program, announced that Professional Community Days for administrators, teachers, and partners will be held on the following dates: September 9, 2022; October 28, 2022; February 24, 2023; and April 6, 2023.</p> <p>Alohi Maiava, the Program Specialist responsible for coordinating the Early Childhood State Plan work, updated the Board on the status of the PDG B-5 Renewal Grant funding opportunity. She explained that while no announcement has been released to date regarding the renewal grant, despite an anticipated release date of September 4, 2022, the announcement could come at any time, and the Board will be notified immediately when it does. Alohi also announced that the 2022 PDG B-5 Annual Convening will be held virtually December 6 –8, 2022 rather than in-person in November. The Convening will focus on three topic areas: workforce; diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); and sustainability. Part of each day of the Convening will include state panels where states and territories can share their work in one of these topic areas with the larger PDG B-5 community. There will be more information on this in the future, and if anyone would like to present or share at the Annual Convening, please contact Alohi. Alohi’s final update was that she has been continuing ongoing work with the Systems Visualization Workshop with the National PDG B-5 Technical Assistance Center. A Hawaii team of interested partners has completed 3 out of the 4 workshops. The fourth and final workshop will be held on September 22.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, from EOEL’s Head Start State Collaboration Office, provided the Board with Head Start updates. First, Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) Directors participated on August 31 in an Act 46 focus group convened by EOEL and DHS to provide feedback</p>	
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	<p>about implications the Act will have and possible recommendations to consider. Second, the annual Office of Head Start Region 9 “Family Engagement and Cultural Responsiveness” Conference will be held in Kona from October 18-21. Chris asked those interested in attending to contact her or Board member Ben Naki. Finally, the Head Start Association of Hawaii’s Board of Directors will be conducting their Annual Retreat on the 18<sup>th</sup> in person in Kona.</p> <p>Jordana, who is still temporarily taking on the role of Communications Specialist until the existing vacancy is filled, provided the Board with Communications updates. The EOEL Act 046 stakeholder engagement team has completed the first phase of stakeholder engagement focus groups with providers. The engagement team will review feedback received and will report their findings to the Board at the next meeting.</p> <p>Finally, Yuuko shared with the Board some updates about her own work, including her site visit to Aha Punana Leo on the Big Island, her experience at the Hunt Institute Early Childhood Leadership Summit, and her meeting with the Board of Education (BOE) Legislative Committee (accompanied by Chair Peters and Jordana). The BOE is in the process of developing a new strategic plan, and will be creating a survey that includes questions about pre-k that will be open to the public.</p> <p>Yuuko also provided a status update on current personnel hiring, and updated the ELB on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between EOEL, the School Facilities Authority (SFA), Hawaii Public Charter School Commission (HPCSC), and HODOE. The MOA will establish roles and responsibilities of the different entities, and how they will work together to accomplish goals that support children and the greater community.</p>	<p><b>BOE has a survey and is seeking public input on its website.</b></p>
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	<p>Yuuko asked the Board to approve EOEL’s request to the legislature for a 3 million dollar appropriation ceiling for the Early Learning Special Fund. Act 46 amended the Early Learning Trust Fund to become a Special Fund. This request is not an appropriation request, but an appropriation ceiling request, that would allow for the expenditure of funds in the special fund. Currently, because the special fund has no ceiling appropriation, any funds in the special fund would not be able to be expended. The purpose of the special fund is to be support the Early Learning system. While a ceiling fund can be requested for special funds, an actual appropriation of dollars cannot, because State-appropriated funds do not go into a Special Fund. A Special Fund can take money like donations, that are not general funds. Should an appropriation ceiling be granted, any donations could go into the special fund, such as donations for the Early Educator Stipend Program. A motion was made to approve EOEL’s request. A vote was taken, and the motion passed. (Bob/Justina: Y—11; N—0.)</p>	<p><b>The Board approved EOEL’s \$3 million ceiling fund request for the Early Learning Special Fund.</b></p>
<p><b>September: Provider Appreciation Month, HECAA Update—</b> Deborah Zysman</p>	<p>Deborah Zysman provided updates on Hawaii Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance’s (HECAA) efforts to support and promote Child Care Provider Appreciation Month. She began with a brief history of how September came to be recognized as Provider Appreciation Month by the State of Hawaii and added that HECAA had started planning for it back in the early summer of 2022. Ongoing efforts have included developing neutrally-branded social media graphics for people to use and share on various platforms; proclamations from the mayors of Honolulu and Kauai - the former covered by KITV; and an op-ed from Carol Wear at PATCH in the Star Advertiser. In the future, the DHS Director’s office is planning on sending an acknowledgement to providers; another op-ed is likely to run next week in Civil Beat; and Representative Kai Kahele is planning to visit a childcare provider, while Governor Ige is considering doing a proclamation. Deb</p>	

	<p>encouraged everyone to join in the social media campaign, use the kudo board set up by HECAA, and appreciate providers personally if they are in a position to do so. She also suggested that everyone in the early learning system should be pushing for better wages and benefits for the workforce—truly showing appreciation often requires action. Deb gave words of appreciation to Carol Wear and her team at PATCH, Vivian Eto, Ted Burke, Terry Lock, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Ke‘opu Reelitz, and Kauai Child and Family Services for their help in raising awareness about Provider Appreciation Month.</p>	
<p><b>Subcommittee Reports—</b> Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Bob began this agenda item on behalf of the Systems Mapping Subcommittee (SMS). He explained the origins of SMS and how it was established with the intention of creating a system-wide map. The Attorney General’s Office has ruled that ELB does not have the authority to fundraise to sustain the mapping work. Because other organizations are creating maps, housing them, and linking them to each other (thanks to the efforts of SMS), Bob suggested that a motion be made to sunset the Systems Mapping Subcommittee as it currently exists, since they have accomplished all that they can do at this time. Ensuing discussion indicated that most Board members felt that the SMS has accomplished its goals and has fulfilled the original charter. The motion passed. (Y:10; N:0). Mapping will now live outside of the ELB itself through the DHS Consumer Education website, PATCH, UH Center on the Family and AUW/Keiki Central.</p>	<p><b>The Board approved sunsetting the SMS, with a request to continue our connection with regard to the maps currently being linked together by external partners.</b></p>
<p><b>Leadership Updates—</b> Bob Peters</p>	<p>Bob began this agenda item by discussing SCR 34, a Senate Resolution that requests the Board provide information about its composition. He asked Board members to identify what topics they feel should be discussed or researched in order to provide guidance to the Governance Subcommittee in order to meet the requirements of the request. He also mentioned three tasks to complete: (1) make a recommendation (including legislation if needed) around Board composition; (2) propose amendments to the Board charter, as needed; and (3) recommend a Board Strategic Plan. Bob asked that the Governance</p>	

	<p>Subcommittee begin looking at this, but with the recent change in leadership of this subcommittee, wanted to begin the conversation with the full Board.</p> <p>A few questions/considerations were posed to begin the conversation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What should the ideal composition look like to be most effective</li> <li>• What should the size of the Board be?</li> <li>• How does the Board membership reflect strategic priorities?</li> <li>• Are we set up in the best possible way to be successful for the current work in front of us? And ahead of us?</li> </ul> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELB started out as an advisory board (the Early Learning Advisory Board), and then evolved into a governing board. It may be best to go back and look at what factors were considered in deciding the kind of representation desired on the advisory board, in order to figure out if the present representative makeup is appropriate or optimal for a governing board, and what the ELB could look like in the future.</li> <li>• With 17 members, the ELB is considered a large body, especially among legislators. However, the ELAB originally had 19 members. Because of the current size of the Board, legislators tend to feel that the speed at which ELB can make decisions is impacted, especially regarding preschool expansion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A few Board members pointed out that action around expansion cannot happen more quickly because of issues of a lack of workforce and the Board not having any power or means to do implementation work themselves.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>The Board has generated some content for GSS’s work to investigate Board composition as requested by the Senate in their resolution.</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This issue might be resolved by taking a closer look at the relationship the Board has with EOEL.</li> <li>● There is an issue with frequent turnover, with most members being able to serve only 2-4 years. It often feels like once a person filling a representative or voting role feels comfortable, their term expires, and they have to scramble to find a successor.</li> <li>● A past question about Board composition was brought up again, as to whether a person can fill more than one role simultaneously.</li> <li>● What is the role of the Board, and what do we want it to accomplish?</li> <li>● There needs to be more clarity about the scope of work of the EOEL and where it needs support from the Board. The relationship of the Board with EOEL is key.</li> <li>● Which entity gets a permanent seat – how is this determined?</li> <li>● What is the role of public agencies on the Board?</li> </ul> <p>In conclusion, it is a struggle for the Board to balance trying to be inclusive with working efficiently to streamline pre-k expansion and make other decisions, as needed. Bob asked the Board to keep all of these issues in mind while considering the topic of Board composition and the recommendations we will need to make to the legislature.</p>	
<b>Public Comment</b> —Bob Peters	No public comments were provided.	
<b>Member Updates</b> —Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Matt Shim</i> reported that the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Grant, a project to create a referral warm line for pediatricians in primary care, has made two job offers - one for a program grant coordinator and one for a grant specialist. Staff will be starting October 1<sup>st</sup>. Matt also reminded everyone that we are coming up on flu season and that shots are available at local drugstores, which should have also received new COVID-</li> </ul>	

	<p>19 boosters for both the original strain and also for the omicron variants. It is possible to get both immunizations at the same time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Kerrie Urosevich</i> reported that Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council had two key national conferences in August: A Comprehensive System of Personal Development (CSPD) Summit in Connecticut, and the Office of Special Education/DaSy Conference on Data and Outcomes in Washington, D.C. The big takeaway from both was that the workforce is struggling due to vacancies in the Early Intervention sector, and that big and bold solutions are needed for workforce recruitment and retention. Kerrie also announced that Hawaii’s DOH Part C will be applying for technical assistance to integrate IECMH into Part C services. She also announced that the ECAS All Network Meeting – ECAS’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration – will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> from 8-4 at the Ko‘olau Ballrooms in person.</li> </ul>	
<b>Executive Session</b> —Bob Peters	No Executive Session was convened for this meeting.	
<b>Review Agenda Outcomes</b> —Bob Peters	<p>Chair Peters reviewed the following agenda outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Napua Rosehill will be taking Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona’s seat on the Board as the Kamehameha Schools representative.</li> <li>• Matt Shim will be assuming the convener role for the GSS. The next meeting will be held on 9/16 at 11 AM on Zoom.</li> <li>• The Board has generated some content for the GSS’s work to investigate Board composition, as requested by the Senate through SCR 30.</li> <li>• The Board heard a report from the IECBH Plan Coordinator and has a better sense of how planning efforts are going.</li> <li>• The Board approved EOEL’s \$3 million ceiling fund request.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board approved sun-setting the SMS with a request to continue our connection with regard to the maps currently being linked together.</li> <li>• The BOE Strategic Planning survey is seeking public input and is posted on its website.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	None provided.	
<b>Closing—Kerrie Urosevich</b>	“Change is almost impossible without ....	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson