

**REPORT TO THE THIRTY- SECOND LEGISLATURE**

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

**2023**

**PURSUANT TO  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION S.C.R. 34 S.D.1 H.D.1 (2022)**

**REQUESTING THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD TO  
EVALUATE AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING  
THE BOARD'S COMPOSITION AND CHARTER  
AND TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN**

**PREPARED BY:**

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I  
EARLY LEARNING BOARD**

**DECEMBER 2022**

## **Introduction:**

The Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, with the House of Representatives concurring, requested the Early Learning Board to *conduct an evaluation of its current composition and charter, in relation to the development of a strategic plan; and that the Early Learning Board is requested to develop a five-year strategic plan, propose amendments to its charter, or both, to guide the Early Learning Board going forward and help develop any improvements; and that the Early Learning Board is requested to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2023 that includes the following:*

- (1) Findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, related to the Board's composition.
- (2) Findings and recommendations, including any proposed amendments, related to the Board's charter.
- (3) Findings and recommendations related to the development and implementation of a five-year strategic plan for the Board, if any.

## **Background:**

In 2012, Act 178 established the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) and the Early Learning Advisory Board responsible for: 1) advising the EOEL on how best to meet the educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry to kindergarten; 2) providing recommendations to the EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early childhood care and education programs; 3) promoting collaboration across agencies and stake holders serving young children; and 4) being an independent voice for children's health, safety, development, and learning.

In 2017, Act 202 expanded the function of the Early Learning Advisory Board beyond an advisory capacity and amended the composition and powers of some board members. Act 202 also allowed the Early Learning Board (ELB) to appoint and evaluate the director of the EOEL.

As the ELB grew into its current governing board role since Act 202 in 2017, the ELB explored several bills to change/add permanent members to the ELB, to change term limits for current ELB members, and to add new members to the board. These requests led the Board to charge its Governance Subcommittee to consider its purpose and the appropriate composition to satisfy that purpose. At the same time, the Legislature raised questions about the ELB's size, composition and strategic plan.

### Activities:

The ELB assigned the response to SCR 34 to the ELB Governance Subcommittee. The Governance Subcommittee met several times between July 1 and November 30, 2022 to discuss SCR 34. It was decided that there was insufficient time to fully respond to SCR 34 including this report and any proposed legislation for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislature to change the ELB size, composition, and term limits.

As part of this year's legislative report, the Governance Subcommittee developed an action plan (see below) for calendar year 2023 to fully explore and respond to SCR 34, complete a report for the 2024 Legislature, and develop/propose legislation to change the ELB size, composition, and term limits.

The Governance Subcommittee agreed on the following three items:

1. For third resolution request – *Findings and recommendations related to the development and implementation of a five-year strategic plan for the Board*: The EOEL State Strategic Plan is the ELB Strategic Plan. There is no intention to convene the ELB to develop a separate strategic plan.
2. Governing board members should have well defined roles and focused duties while keeping an early learning systems perspective.
3. While Broad representation of early learning partners is desirable, a question to be resolved is whether it is most effective in a governing vs. advisory capacity.

The ELB Governance Committee action plan for the next year (2023) to fully respond to the SCR 34 requests will focus on the following:

1. What is the purpose (charge/charter) of the ELB and its value? (Act 202, on 07/11/2017; Gov. Msg. No. 1316)
  - a. Given the purpose, what type of board is best suited (representative/governing)?
2. Once type of board is determined (representative/governing), decide size and composition of the board.
3. Determine term limits for board members.
4. Crafting legislation to propose for the 2024 Legislative Session.

The following is the Draft Action Plan/Timeline to determine changes to the ELB composition and charter.

**Draft Action Plan/Timeline to determine changes to ELB composition and charter**

| <b>Month 2023</b> | <b>Milestone(s)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Who is responsible</b> |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jan               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review Act 202 (2017) ELB from Advisory to Governing; Act 178 (2012) Establishment of EOEL</li> <li>2. Review <a href="#">HRS §302L-1.6 Early learning board</a> and related HRS §302L sections</li> <li>3. Outline the board’s purpose and value</li> </ol>                                                               | Subcommittee              |
| Feb               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review board creation/type/size best practices and early learning-type boards examples from other states</li> <li>2. Given purpose, what type of board is best suited advisory or governing / representative or experience and skill set</li> </ol>                                                                        | Subcommittee              |
| Mar               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review board creation/type/size best practices and other state’s early learning-type boards</li> <li>2. Once type of board is determined, decide size and composition of the board</li> </ol>                                                                                                                              | Subcommittee              |
| Apr               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Review board creation/type/size best practices and other state’s early learning-type boards</li> <li>2. Determine term limits for board members</li> <li>3. Draft subcommittee recommendation for HRS changes</li> <li>4. Present recommendation to Early Learning Board in April or May 2023 (decision making)</li> </ol> | Subcommittee              |
| May               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Present recommendation to Early Learning Board in May 2023 (decision making)</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Subcommittee              |
| Jun               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin developing the Legislative Proposal to change HRS §302L-1.6 to ensure deadlines are met to submit to the Governor for review.</li> <li>2. Begin routing the Legislative Proposal to ELB, EOEL, and other pertinent entities</li> </ol>                                                                               | Subcommittee              |
| Jul               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Present Legislative Proposal concept to ELB (decision-making)</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Subcommittee              |
| Aug               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Present draft bill to ELB (decision making)</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Subcommittee              |
| Sep               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin drafting legislative report</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Subcommittee              |
| Oct               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submit final draft of Legislative Proposal to Governor’s policy team.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Subcommittee              |
| Nov               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submit draft report and draft legislation (if applicable) to ELB for approval</li> <li>2. Finalize Legislative Package with Governor’s policy team.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                             | Subcommittee              |
| Dec               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submit report to Legislature for SCR 34 (2022)</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | ELB                       |
| Jan/Feb 2024      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the Legislative Package is included in the Governor’s admin package, develop advocacy strategies to support the bill.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                        | ELB                       |