

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, January 12, 2023

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, Ben Naki, Mei Ou, Robert Peters (for Director Bossert), Mari Uehara, Megan McCorrison, Melodie Vega, Napua Rosehill (for Jack Wong), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Matt Shim (for Director Fink), Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), Kerrie Urosevich, Dayna Luka (for Director Betts)

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

Public in Attendance: Anne Horiuchi, Emma Christopherson, Carol Wear, Cheri Nakamura, Deborah Zysman, Edel Baguio-Larena, Jared Kimura, Kaina Bonacorsi, Keli Houston, Kiyu Noguchi, Lindsey Heathcock, Mary Ann Nemoto, Kim Guieb, Robyn Chun, Stacie Tonouchi, Terry Lock, Toby Portner, Vivian Eto, David Seegal, Cassia Simms, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Ted Burke, Christina Cox

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:34 PM and asked Megan McCorrison to read the mission statement. He reminded everyone that regardless of in-person attendance, protocols would proceed as usual, with votes conducted by roll call. Attendance was taken, and quorum was established.	

Early Learning Board

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

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	<p>Chair Peters asked Emma Christopherson, the new Deputy Attorney General assigned to ELB meetings, to introduce herself. Emma expressed excitement at being able to work with the ELB and also explained that she will be receiving assistance temporarily from Anne Horiuchi who was formerly assigned to the ELB. Chair Peters welcomed her and thanked Michael Azuma, the previous Deputy Attorney General, for his guidance. Michael has been appointed to another role.</p>	
<p>Review and Approve 12/8/22 Minutes—Bob Peters</p>	<p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the 12/8/22 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as disseminated, with no discussion. (Kaiulani/Melodie: Y—11, N—0).</p>	
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comments provided.</p>	
<p>PDG-B5 Grant Award and Overview—Stephen Schatz, Hawaii P-20</p>	<p>Kim Guieb of Hawaii P-20 gave a presentation on the PDG B-5 Grant Renewal Award, standing in for Board member Stephen Schatz. Kim provided a brief history of PDG B-5 grant awards in Hawaii. In 2014, Hawaii was awarded a Legacy Grant which established the Charter School Public Prekindergarten Program. This was followed by a PDG B-5 Initial Grant (aka Planning Grant) in 2018 which enabled Hawaii to conduct a comprehensive statewide needs assessment, develop a strategic implementation plan, and establish the Hawaii Early Childhood website. In December 2022, the PDG B-5 Renewal Grant was awarded.</p> <p>With the renewal grant, Hawaii will receive \$6.6 million in each of 3 years to update the statewide needs assessment and SIP; strengthen career pathways; and expand infant and toddler care and family choices. EOEL and Hawaii P-20 will be the leads on this grant project, while participating partners include the Charter Schools Commission (HSCSC), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DOE), and University of Hawaii (UH). 67% of the proposed budget will be sub-awarded, to</p>	

	<p>strengthen and expand access and quality within the early learning system.</p> <p>There are six (6) required PDG B-5 Renewal Grant activities. These include: (1) update the state’s comprehensive statewide B-5 needs assessment; (2) update the state’s comprehensive statewide B-5 strategic plan; (3) maximize parent knowledge and family engagement in the B-5 system; (4) support the B-5 workforce and disseminate best practices; (5) support program quality improvement; and (6) enhance quality and expand access to existing and new programs. Kim reviewed how the grant project team hopes to complete these activities and provided more details for each activity. There are also optional activities, or “bonus options,” and Hawaii selected bonus option 2, “improving workforce compensation.” The grant project team hopes to develop, implement, and evaluate an ECE workforce wage stipend initiative targeting eligible infant and toddler caregivers, and early educators/caregivers enrolled in ECE college courses.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In response to a question about a sustainability plan, Kim mentioned that P-20, EOEL, ELB and partners will determine what components (having biggest impact) to sustain, and will request funding from the legislature and philanthropic organizations to support this. Data will be critical to make the case for policy development to support sustainability.• Activities 5 and 6 were initially restricted in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to begin after the needs assessment has been completed, but federal program officers have announced that, with approval, work can get started on them immediately. The Hawaii team has a meeting with their federal program officer in two weeks, so they will let them know what their priorities are at that time.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ELB Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS) will be involved in the support and oversight of the grant. • The \$6.6 million is an annual award for each of the three years of the grant period. There is a 30% match required from the State. • We want to ensure maximizing use of resources so that the grant does not supplant efforts that should be funded by the state. • Board members who have not received the grant application should let Kim know so she can send it to them. 	<p>Hawaii received the PDG B-5 Grant renewal award, and Board members will be able to see the details of the application. P-20 to send out.</p>
<p>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates— Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Yuuko began this agenda item by asking Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, to provide some legislative updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EOEL Legislative budget briefings have been scheduled: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The House Finance Committee is scheduled for January 10, 2023 at 9:00am ○ The Senate Ways and Means Committee is scheduled for January 13, 2023 at 9:30am • There will also be a House Education Committee briefing tentatively scheduled for January 13, 2023. • We anticipate the budget review process and subsequent meetings with the new administration will be scheduled soon. <p>Yuuko provided EOEL Pre-K Program updates. Quarter 2 enrollment was at 427 students, or 58% capacity, and the application process for SY 23-24 will begin on March 1, 2023. Some campuses still have smaller classroom sizes, while in other cases there simply may not have been enough applications.</p> <p>Alohi Maiava, EOEL’s Program Specialist in charge of work related to the PDG B-5 Grant, provided updates on the Early Childhood State Plan, and announced that Hawaii had received formal notification that we received the PDG B-5 Renewal Grant. Information collection</p>	

	<p>efforts on the progress of the Strategic Implementation Plans 2020-2023 will resume from Champions and partners using various forms. More information will be provided soon on collection methods.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start Collaboration Director, provided some HS updates. State-level MOUs are being reviewed/updated with State partners and will be vetted with HS/EHS directors prior to approval and obtaining of signatures. The next quarterly Head Start Association of Hawaii Board meeting is scheduled for January 11th. A “meet and greet” between OHS Region 9 Leadership Team, staff from the Hawaii DHS Child Care Program Office, Yuuko, and Chris, is being coordinated so that Region 9 can become more familiar with Hawaii’s licensing standards and personnel. The OHS issued a final ruling that, effective January 9th, the universal mask requirement has even removed for all, ages 2 and older, but all HS/EHS programs must have a COVID-19 mitigation policy in place, developed in consultation with their Health Services Advisory Committee. Finally, with the new fiscal 2022-2023 budget that is being proposed, there is an increase of \$960 million for HS nationally. It is not certain how much will go to Hawaii, but this increase is to help with providing a cost of living adjustment (COLA) of about 5.4% which is much higher than what is usually provided (1-2% is the typical amount) for all HS staff. The funding increase also includes supporting quality improvement activities, as well as expanding access to EHS/HS services. The folks who have been championing this hope that this increase will ease the immediate burdens of inflation, as well as help HS programs address the impact of childhood trauma and workforce recruitment and retention issues.</p> <p>Yuuko provided updates about her work as EOEL Director. She highlighted some parts of the PDG B-5 grant, giving more details on EOEL’s planned role and the kind of work she hopes to do with this</p>	
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	<p>grant project. She also shared personnel updates, including the Communications Specialist II position being closed with a list of eligible applicants received; the Secretary I and II positions recently closing, and plans to post the Institutional Analyst II position on January 15, 2023, with an updated position description.</p> <p>EOEL requested the board to consider amending EOEL’s budget request to include funding and subsequent positions for up to 37 additional classrooms. The total funds, if approved, would be an estimated \$4.4 million and 20 FTE in FY24 and \$9.3 million and 133 FTE for FY 25.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The schools in question have expressed interest in hosting an EOEL Public Pre-K classroom but have not yet been vetted or undergone review. • If the ask does not get approved right now and the current increase only includes the original ask for twenty-three classrooms, the new candidates will have to wait a whole year. • Some Board members expressed the importance of site location, which is why it is important to expand the numbers of classrooms to serve more 4-year-olds. • Some Board members shared concern about asking for funding for more classrooms when the current enrollment stands at only 58% capacity. <p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve EOEL’s new budget request for the biennium. The motion passed (Justina/Bob: Y—11; N—0)</p>	<p>The Board approved a budget request to add up to an additional 37 DOE classrooms to the original 23 that the Board had previously approved</p>
<p>Hawaii Business Collaboratory Presentation—Keiko Nitta, DOH</p>	<p>Keiko Nitta from DOH gave a presentation on the Hawaii Business Collaboratory. Hawaii was recently selected to be one of 16 states to work with the First Children’s Finance Project. These 16 states can now draft action plans and receive technical assistance, as well as learn from each other and share best practices for financing and working</p>	

	<p>with the business side of childcare. The Hawaii team identified five different action plans in alignment with ongoing activities—PDG B-5, ECE3, Act 46 and 210, etc. that includes: developing a comprehensive workforce registry; understanding the true cost of care; promoting interagency expansion and coordination; support for workforce compensation for sustained recruitment and retention; and addressing the business efficiency for child care providers. Hawaii team members include representatives from the DHS, DOH, EOEL, HCF, PATCH, HCAN and LTG.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Reports— Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Ben Naki provided Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS) updates. The final draft of the road map was submitted the week of December 19, 2022. There have been no responses or questions from the legislature to date, so SIS efforts will now refocus around the State EC Plan and PDG B-5 work. Their next meeting will occur within the next couple of weeks, before the February 2023 ELB meeting.</p> <p>Justina Acevedo-Cross provided Workforce Equity Subcommittee (WES) updates. She presented the WES proposed policy statement, a document titled “Policy 1-101, relating to Supports for On-Track Development, Care and Learning” that was sent out to all ELB members, and explained that because currently there is a major interest in early learning and childcare, there should be ELB guiding principles and policy statements in place to support this. Justina explained that adopting policy statements can help ELB and EOEL clarify positions and priorities, direct staff time and funding, and serve as guiding principles for decision-making. There have been two changes made from the version sent out in December: reference to the Power to the Profession as a Unifying Framework has been removed to avoid confusion; and clarifications made as to what is meant by “early childhood professional preparation and development programs.”</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the first policy statement the Board will be approving that is not one included in the testimony or legislative guidelines, but rather, for more policy statements to get approved in the future. Bob brought up the guidelines to creating policy that the GSS made, and said he would share this with the Board so that all committees can become familiar with it. • There was some concern that with only this one policy approved, people may think the Board is focused on one thing rather than the entire early learning continuum. Justina reminded everyone that she shared the Board of Education’s policy portion of their website at the December 2022 ELB meeting as an example. She hopes that ELB will someday have enough policies to divide into categories in a similar fashion. The policy on the table today is just the beginning. • There was some confusion around some of the language in the document relating to who this policy statement refers to. Justina and Melodie explained that the focus is on the “teacher role” across different early childhood settings that support on track development, care and learning for young children, even though the role may have different job titles. • There was some concern that the language in the policy was too broad in this case, but Justina explained that it was deliberately made broad to allow room for flexibility in the future. • Bob reminded the Board that voting “yes” means that the way ELB crafts testimony will be affected, but more than that, because ELB is in charge of building a system, it will affect system-building efforts as well. <p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve Policy 1-101. The motion passed (Kaiulani/Melodie: Y—9; N—2).</p>	<p>Chair Peters will send out information regarding the GSS approved process for policy development, so that all committees can become familiar with it.</p> <p>The Board approved WES policy statement.</p>
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Leadership Updates— Bob Peters	Bob reminded the Board that there is a new mandatory ethics training law which took effect on January 1, 2023. Board and staff members who have not already taken the ethics training can do so through a self-guided training, or they can attend a live webinar - one or the other is required. At the end, trainees will receive a certificate that is valid for four years.	ELB and EOEL staff who have not yet taken the ethics training should do so to be in compliance with the new state law.
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 Head Start Association had its quarterly Board meeting yesterday (January 11, 2023), and the six EHS/HS grantees in Hawaii provided updates on current enrollment. Programs are at approximately 80% capacity; some of them are full or close to full, while others are closer to 60% capacity. The main issue with capacity right now is that there are too many staffing vacancies, primarily for infants and toddlers, as well as in preschool settings. Getting applications to come in has also been problematic, which HS is currently trying to rectify by increasing outreach to families. • <i>Matt Shim</i> reported that there is a new Director at DOH, Dr. Kenny Fink. He also invited everyone to the next GSS meeting, which will be tomorrow, January 13, 2023, at 1PM. They will be discussing the EOEL Director Evaluation, as well as outlining the Board’s purpose. He will send the Zoom link to anyone who requests it; all are welcome. 	
Review Agenda Outcomes— Bob Peters	Chair Peters reviewed the following agenda outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawaii received the PDG B-5 Grant renewal award, and Board members will be able to see the details of the application • The Board approved a budget request to add 32 DOE classrooms to the original 23 that the Board had previously approved 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Peters will send out information regarding the GSS-approved process for policy development, so that all committees can become familiar with it • The Board approved the policy statement proposed by the WES 	
Announcements	None provided.	
Closing —Kerrie Urosevich	“In our perfect ways, in the ways we are beautiful, in the ways we are human, we are here. Happy New Year. Let’s make it ours.” –Beyonce	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson