

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, February 9, 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 the CEED Center, KCAA Location and 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, Nāpua 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), Lane Tsuchiyama (ELB Institutional Analyst)

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

Public in Attendance: Emma Christopherson, Kevin Costa, Christina Cox, Terry Lock, Ke‘ōpū Reelitz, Kim Guieb, Vivian Eto, Mary Ann Nemoto, Deborah Zysman, Angela Thomas, Ted Burke, Aldric Ulep, Elaine Yamashita, Keli Houston, Lindsay Heathcock, Edel Baguio-Larena, Lisa Martinez, Kate Ozawa, Barbara DeBaryshe, Kiyo Noguchi, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Keiko Nitta, Ka‘ano‘i Walk, Jared Kimura, Deanne Goya

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Chair Peters welcomed the group at 1:36 PM and asked Ben Naki to read the ELB mission statement. Chair Peters announced that the order of report updates at today’s meeting will be rearranged. For Section V, the subcommittee reports will be switched with the Governance Standing Subcommittee reporting first and the Strategic Implementation Subcommittee reporting second.	
Review and Approve 1/12/23 Minutes— Bob	The 1/12/23 meeting minutes were approved as distributed. (Kerrie/Mari: Y—9; N—0)	

Early Learning Board

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

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Peters		
Public Comment —Bob Peters	No public comments were provided.	
Executive Office on Early Learning Office Updates, Budget Request Status, Legislative Bill Tracking/testimony, PDG B-5 Renewal Grant — Director Arikawa-Cross & Staff	<p>Director Yuuko Arikawa-Cross shared that the Application Packet for EOEL Public Pre-K Program for SY 2023 to 2024 is now out.</p> <p>Alohilani Maiava Shigeta, EOEL’s Program Specialist, shared that for 2023, she will be starting a new collection cycle for updates on progress relating to the strategic implementation plans. To provide updates, please use the links located on the slide.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, Head Start State Collaboration Director, referred to her written updates sent to ELB members.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross shared additional systems updates. Relating to EOEL staff positions, there has been a request to repost the Workforce Specialist position, the Institutional Analyst posting has been closed, and the Secretary II interviews were conducted today.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross also spoke to Joint Venture Education Forum today (2/9/23) on current and future work of EOEL.</p> <p>On February 14, 2023, Director Arikawa-Cross will visit Kaua‘i and meet with Mayor Kawakami.</p> <p>Regarding the PDG B-5 Renewal grant, Director Arikawa-Cross informed the Board of a modification of the visual presented at the last Board meeting. Regarding the role of ELB, the visual originally indicated ELB’s roles would be assisting with the development of scope of services and selection of vendors and consultants. ELB will not be involved with, or be able to take official action on decisions relating to contracts. As such, the role of the Board has been amended to participate in the Strategic Plan update process and be informed of the grant implementation.</p> <p>Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, provided an</p>	<p>Director Yuuko Arikawa-Cross provided an amendment to ELB’s role regarding the PDG B-5 Renewal Grant to support grant efforts but not take official action.</p>

	<p>update on EOEL’s budget requests. The Governor’s amendments to the budget will be sent to the Legislature through GMs (Governors Messages). In addition to what is already included in the budget, Governor Green approved the full EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten expansion request for 55 new classrooms, and 2 additional positions and subsequent funding for a second Policy Analyst and another Program Specialist. Jordana then reviewed the Policy Framework document, and explained that the document contains a list of bills introduced in this session recommended for the ELB to track. The highlighted sections indicate recommended bills for which testimony should be submitted.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Report— Governance Standing Subcommittee—Matt Shim</p>	<p>Matt Shim, Chair of the Governance Standing Subcommittee, asked board members to review S.B. No. 1022, which was included in the email Chair Peters distributed to ELB members.</p> <p>S.B. No. 1022 had a hearing on Friday Feb 3, 2023, at which time the Senate Committee on Education deferred the bill to Monday, February 13, 2023 for decision-making. ELB was provided the opportunity to share recommendations to Senator Kidani after the Board meeting, prior to the February 13, 2023 hearing. Matt Shim asked board members to share thoughts. Discussion entailed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerrie Urosevich shared that she believed the language in the bill does not provide adequate justification for the proposed new structure and noted that she would prefer that ELB prioritize this and make a recommendation to the Legislature in the next few months. She also stated it feels like a gun-shot bill that didn’t have a lot of thought put into it. • Mari Uehara shared that the intention of the bill is not clear and that while it might be easier for the Board to operate with a smaller number of members, there are a lot of questions about who would serve on the Board. • Ka‘iulani Laehā shared that upon initial review of the bill, she 	

	<p>was shocked and disappointed as she believes the current representation allows the Board to work collaboratively and voice concerns from the diverse stakeholders in the field that the Board represents. Understanding that, she stated she recognizes there are concerns regarding ethical conflicts of interests due to the nature of the Board that may warrant urgent action. The urgency to make a decision about this bill seems apparent, and it would be wise for ELB to make a recommendation quickly rather than wait to have a decision made for the Board. She then explained that she appreciates the county representation aspect and recommends using the subcommittees to keep representative voices involved. A big concern she expressed was that S.B. No 1022 did not include any representation from Hawaiian Medium Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Schatz indicated that it appears this proposed board structure mimics the Board of Education composition. Stephen asked whether there were any boards whose structure aligned with ELB's or if ELB's composition is an anomaly.• Kerrie Urosevich shared that the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC) is more aligned with ELB's structure. Stephen Schatz pointed out the HEICC is not a governing board with authority to hire the Director and is inherently different from the ELB.• Kerrie also shared that the Board of Education is a closed system and functions differently from ELB or EOEL.• Erin Henderson-Lacerdo asked if the County Coordinators would be the selected County representatives should the bill move forward, and if so, would that pose an issue for County officials to have oversight over a State entity. She explained that there is value to having different sectors at the table and if there is an alternative mechanism to have a representative from each sector, that would be valuable.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stephen Schatz did not read the County representation as referring to the County Coordinators, but rather, understood the bill to read to mean someone from the County.• Ben Naki shared that the depth of the current structure of our members is prescribed, but captures the diversity within the early childhood sector, which allows for greater voice. He expressed concern that the proposed structure may exclude the voices that currently exist. Ben reiterated Ka‘iulani’s point that if Hawaiian Medium does not have representation on the Board, it will result in losing a voice for the Hawaiian culture. He also shared that it is unclear if the number of Board members is really the issue.• Melodie Vega shared that she is unclear why a recommendation is being made to change the composition and what ethical issues might exist. Matt Shim responded that discussion on the composition of the ELB has continued to come up each year. He reminded members of the Senate Resolution urging the ELB to reassess its structure. This has prompted the ELB to have these discussions and the ELB did submit a report to the Legislature. Regarding ethical concerns, Matt Shim shared that it stems from questions on whether vendors applying for resources or grant opportunities may pose conflict of interest issues if they are Board members.• Chair Peters shared that there is also a perception that effectiveness of Boards and the ability to get things done efficiently may be affected when you have a large Board. There have been requests for three (3) additional permanent seats on the Board in the last Legislative session, which raised the issue of the ELB’s size again. In initial discussion of the transition of ELB to a Governing Board, there was a desire to have a smaller Board. Chair Peters also shared there have been perceptions that ELB has not been able to move work forward quickly enough	
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	<p>and that Board members come to meetings with the perspective of their organizations, which may pose issues from a systems consideration that may not be present with a non-representative Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Justina Acevedo-Cross asked if we could have a timeline on when we can share recommendations to the Senate. Chair Peters clarified that Senator Kidani asked for the Board minutes prior to the hearing on Monday February 13, 2023. He also shared that he believes the bill will move forward, so this discussion will also help the ELB frame its testimony should that be the case.• Responding to Justina’s question, Matt Shim shared that the GSS reviewed the statutes and bills as the ELB transitioned from an Advisory Board to a Governing Board. This month, the GSS will review Board composition and best practices, including governing structure, qualifications, time limits, and skillsets. In March, the Subcommittee will determine a recommendation related to size and composition, and in April it will make recommendations to the full Board. In June, the GSS will work with the Government Affairs Specialist and EOEL to draft a legislative proposal to present to the ELB for approval. If approved, the legislative proposal will be presented to the Governor in time for it to be included in the Administrative Packet for the next Legislative session.• Nāpua Rosehill shared that the qualifications appear to indicate selecting someone who is very vested in early learning, and she is amenable to the qualifications listed in S.B. No. 1022. County representatives will be able to provide qualitative early learning data for each of their geographic regions to best inform EOEL on the learning issues affecting children, from prenatal care to kindergarten entry in their regions. In addition, they can provide insight to their regional private care providers to inform	
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	<p>EOEL and the State how to coordinate a high-quality early learning system. Nāpua shared that geographic representation needs to represent all opportunities available to families and that county level people will know each program and how it can work in concert to achieve access to affordable early learning programs. She noted she does not support the removal of a Hawaiian Medium Early Learning provider—the Hawaiian language is an official language of the State, and as such, it is imperative that a Hawaiian Medium Early Learning Provider remain on the Board to ensure their voice is heard for decisions regarding public pre-k in the Hawaiian medium. She would also propose that a Charter School representative be added to the ELB, even as a non-voting member, since Charter pre-k programs operate in Hawaii and a Charter School representative would be able to support the coordination of a high-quality early learning system from prenatal to kindergarten entry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ka‘ulani Laehā pointed out that the proposed plan is insufficient due to the length of time it is proposing to come up with recommendations, and asked if there was a way for the Board to fast-track this action. She mentioned she did not recall any instances when the ELB has not been able to make decisions on matters in a timely manner, and wondered if taking this position (of thoughtful planning) although this does not address the urgency of this matter. Ka‘iulani then asked the Board if anyone felt comfortable being on a subcommittee but not having a seat on the Governing Board, as a way to reduce the number of Board members.• Kerrie Urosevich attempted to look at other state structures and raised the question as to was why EOEL has a Governing Board and whether ELB might consider going back to being an Advisory Council instead.• Chair Bob Peters shared that we also have to consider a	
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	<p>structure conducive to governing EOEL, which has systems coordination obligations, whereas other Boards have program implementation obligations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Shim reiterated that the GSS does plan to assess various Board structures and composition that can hopefully be incorporated into their recommendations to the full Board. • Kerrie Urosevich shared that she believes the other issue complicating this discussion is where the Early Childhood State Plan (State Plan) sits. She does not feel comfortable that the state plan sits in ELB. Matt Shim responded that the ELB indicated that the Board supports the State Plan and would not put forth any resources to develop its own separate strategic plan. Kerrie responded that EOEL states that the EC State Plan is a community plan, but if expectations are tightened and the EC State Plan becomes an EOEL plan, that might address some of these issues. Matt shared that DOH had a similar plan with a similar structure in which it was a community plan, but DOH would take charge of implementation where it fell under the purview of DOH. Director Arikawa-Cross confirmed the State Plan is a community plan. • Matt Shim shared a cross-walk of provisions between S.B. No. 1022 and Act 202. Currently, there are 13 voting members and a total of 17 members, whereas there would be only 9 voting members and 15 total members in S.B. No. 1022. S.B. No. 1022 would also transition the Kamehameha Schools seat to an ex-officio non-voting member. <p>Matt Shim shared that one of things the ELB needs to consider is making recommendations regarding the Board size. It is very likely the model in S.B. No. 1022 will move forward to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, in which Senator Dela Cruz, the introducer of the bill, is the Chair. The ELB has a task today, as has been suggested by</p>	
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	<p>members previously, to fast-track this discourse and propose recommendations. These recommendations are not binding and will not change the law at this point, but are suggestions and a way forward. It is an opportunity for the ELB to provide input and help inform the Legislature rather than not have any input.</p> <p>The Governance Subcommittee had 4 recommendations to address composition and size.</p> <p>First, the ELB should maintain some type of Neighbor Island representation. It currently is applicable through the Hawaii County of Mayors but reflects only one member, not four, to represent all counties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Currently there is only one Board member located on Hawaii Island. If ELB were to propose an alternative to this bill, the Board would need to have good rationale. Kerrie Urosevich pointed out there is no County representative, but rather, a member that is located on each neighbor island representing a seat.• Kerrie Urosevich would like to see the Board have statewide representation from all islands. Chair Bob Peters pointed out that adding a representative from each County would add to the overall size of the board.• Melodie Vega shared that being a state board does require ELB to have County representation and that collectively the Board has always seemed to agree that that was something missing. However, the relationship the Board has with the EOEL should affect the composition. Originally the Board was an Advisory Board to EOEL and the Board composition did not change when it became a Governing Board. Knowing that the State Plan is not EOEL's Plan, programs do not need to be represented on a State Governing Board. As an Advisory	
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	<p>Board, it was helpful to have program settings representation to break down silos. State Boards require systems-thinking, and program reps should perhaps be available to advise EOEL, while ELB should perhaps be comprised of more county-level representation similar to those recommended in S.B. No. 1022. The confusion lies in the ELB’s relationship to the EOEL when it was an Advisory Board and is now a Governing Board, and what that shift should look like with the change in that relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerrie Urosevich shared that since ELB is supporting EOEL’s strategic plan, and if the Board’s work is not the State Plan and not focused on children birth to three, she would question why we have representation from HEICC on the Board. • Mei Ou shared that she also sees the importance of County representation and that maybe the ELB needs to reassess whether it is necessary to have each of the roles that currently sit on the Board and whether we are well aligned with EOEL’s efforts. Chair Bob Peters shared that the ELB can still recommend a County member selected by the Council of Mayors who could serve like a regional representative, rather than have representation from each island. Kerrie Urosevich responded by saying that she believes it would not be fair to have someone from one neighbor island represent all other neighbor islands. • Ka’iulani Laehā explained she did not see the way the language was written in S.B. No. 1022 to indicate County Coordinators would be the only individuals selected for County representation. She suggested the ELB look at it from the lens that as certain members implement statewide programs, they have a statewide lens encompassing all islands. • Melodie Vega shared that a Board position requires someone who has systems-level knowledge. which is the difference 	
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	<p>between what S.B. No. 1022 proposes and our current composition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Erin Henderson-Lacerdo added that as the home visiting representative, running a statewide contract provided her a lot of perspective across all islands and also wonders about the need to have specific County representation if members represent a statewide lens. Chair Peters shared that the intent of the bill is for the County representatives to represent geographic locations while still having the necessary skills sets—it’s not to be representative in the way that the Board is currently structured.• Kerrie Urosevich reiterated that if ELB is supposed to have a governing role with EOEL, the ELB needs to design a Governing Board that supports EOEL’s scope and current work. Chair Peters said ELB would have to look at it from a systems lens, to which Kerrie then responded that the State Plan should be an EOEL plan. Chair Peters reminded the ELB that components of the State Plan fall under the purview of many different entities over which EOEL has no authority.• Regarding County representation in S.B. No. 1022, the County representatives would need to meet the requirements outlined in the bill, and then be recommended by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Ka’iulani Laehā asked if ELB understands the County representation element in S.B. No. 1022 as an individual from the County who meets the qualifications. Melodie Vega clarified that she does not think it refers to any specific individual, but rather, that it is based on the qualifications outlined and allows someone from each County who meets the requirement to fill that seat. She believes that as a person representing a program, she could serve in an advisory capacity and confirmed that she liked the language of County representation in the bill.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerrie Urosevich added that if we stack the Board with state level representatives, we should have individuals from Counties on the Board as well. • A question was posed as to whether ELB could propose a reduction of two people. Matt Shim clarified there is no opportunity to submit testimony at this point but would like the notes to reflect the efforts of the Board to meet Senator Kidani’s request and be considered in future iterations of the bill. By Monday, ELB needs to have agreement of at least the beginnings of the reduction of size of the Board that can be included in testimony going forward. <p>Second, the ELB should eliminate hard-to-fill positions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Family Child Care seat has been vacant and difficult to fill for a significant amount of time now. There were questions of whether it makes sense to remove these positions assuming that filling the position would continue to be an issue – this might be one way to reduce the Board’s size. <p>Third, the ELB should address potential conflict of interest issues by reducing representative members, removing them as voting members, or removing them as members completely.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.B. No. 1022 changes the composition of the voting members of the Board and moves the Kamehameha Schools and HAIS representatives from voting members to non-voting members. If ELB will remain a representative Board, Chair Peters shared that he would like HAIS to remain a member; however, it would be a possibility to change HAIS to be a non-voting member. • Concerns about funders having voting authority where many members on the Board appeal to those voting members poses awkward relations. Having funders in a non-voting role may be 	
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	<p>cleaner and eliminate any perception of undue influence or conflicts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A question was posed as to whether ELB’s response could be that the Board would have something within a few weeks and have an emergency meeting where decisions are made with ELB’s recommendation. • A suggestion was offered that the ELB determine reducing the size to 9 by taking a look at whether each current representative has a nexus with EOEL and if not, eliminate that seat. • Chair Bob Peters shared he believes the ELB can recommend the creation of an advisory group and can also have subcommittees with representatives from the field. • Erin Henderson-Lacerdo shared that she believes it would be wise to look at term limits and staggering when people are rolling off to avoid a majority of Board members rolling off in the same year. Matt Shim assured the ELB that term limits are also in the Governance Subcommittee plan. • Ka‘iulani Laehā asked the ELB if anyone feels willing to give their seat up in order to reduce the Board size. Kerrie Urosevich responded that as a representative of HEICC, she would need to have a conversation with HEICC about that and would also like to know from EOEL’s perspective what would be helpful. • Melodie Vega shared that the Board needs to look differently at ELB composition to focus on systems lens rather than programmatic outlook. <p>Last, remove the officials that have representation through a public agency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Bob Peters suggested considering the Board’s position to be that ELB is continuing to look at how we might decrease the Board size, and that the Governance subcommittee will be meeting next Friday, February 17, 2023 and will propose 	<p>ELB approved a motion to incorporate two elements into ELB’s testimony regarding S.B. No. 1022. One related to maintaining Neighbor Island representation on the Board and second to</p>
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	<p>recommendations.</p> <p>It was moved and seconded to approve the following language to be incorporated into ELB’s testimony for S.B. No. 1022: “The ELB wishes to maintain Neighbor Island representation on the Board, and will continue its conversation to reduce the size of the Board by looking at the current voting members, who they represent, and how they match the specific goals and responsibilities of the Executive Office on Early Learning.” (Matt/Kerrie: Y—9; N—0)</p> <p>Chair Bob Peters indicated plans to hold a special meeting within the next two weeks to address the desire to fast-track the timeline for ELB to submit suggestions on the Board’s composition and reducing the size of the Board.</p>	<p>continue examining Board size by assessing members as they align with the obligations of EOEL.</p> <p>The ELB will hold a special meeting within two weeks to discuss testimony related to S.B. No. 1022.</p>
Public Comment —Bob Peters	No public comments were offered.	
Member Updates —Bob Peters	<p>Kerrie Urosevich reported that the HEICC continues to experience workforce challenges. The Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health program will assist with workforce development needs. ELB is requested to think about the significant workforce challenges affecting children with special needs.</p> <p>Ka‘iulani Laehā asked whether there would be time for ELB to discuss testimony regarding other bills. Chair Bob Peters suggested members answer any inquiries about ELB’s testimony by stating that ELB has not had a chance to discuss certain bills but will do its best to do so at subsequent meetings.</p>	
Review Agenda Outcomes —Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Yuuko Arikawa-Cross provided an amendment to ELB’s role regarding the PDG B-5 Renewal grant to support grant efforts but not take official action. • The Board approved incorporating two elements into ELB’s 	

	<p>testimony regarding S.B. No. 1022; one related to maintaining neighbor island representation on the board, and the second related to the continuation of examining Board size by assessing members as they align with the obligations of EOEL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ELB will hold a special meeting within two weeks to discuss testimony related to S.B. No. 1022. 	
Announcements	None.	
Closing —Kerrie Urosevich	“Simplicity boils down to two things: identify the essential, and eliminate the rest.” –Leo Babauta, author	

Submitted by Jordana Ferreira and Ashley Miura