

EOEL Updates for the Early Learning Board Meeting, March 9, 2023

Legislative Updates

- GM 1 contains the budget requests approved by Governor Green. The GM includes the following requests from EOEL:
 - Funding for expansion of 55 classrooms
 - This includes 13 FTE position counts and \$2.7 million for FY 24 and 126 FTE position counts and \$7.6 million for FY 25
 - 2 FTE position counts and subsequent funding for an Institutional Analyst and Program Specialist V for policy analysis and state plan renewal purposes respectively.
 - This includes 2 FTE position counts and \$177,257 for FY 24 and FY 25.
 - These requests are *in addition* to the previously approved requests in the state budget, which includes:
 - \$660,000 for the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program
 - \$3 million appropriation ceiling for the Early Learning Special Fund
 - 2 FTE position counts only for a Business Manager and Contracts Specialist
- Thus far, EOEL has submitted testimony in support of 30 bills. These bills include:
 - Expanding the Preschool Open Doors subsidy program and EOEL to 3 year olds;
 - Providing tax credits and other tax relief options for Hawaii residents, including child and dependent tax credits and teacher tax credits;
 - Compensation pilot programs for the early learning workforce, particularly those servicing infants and toddlers;
 - Accreditation program to support providers in obtaining and maintaining accreditation;
 - Support health initiatives for young children, including school-based health programs and Infant and early childhood mental health support;
 - Supporting school meal subsidies;
 - Building teacher housing;
 - Expanding food access through SNAP;
 - Expanding child care options via pilot programs in State buildings;
 - Supporting resources and capacity of governmental partners, such as DHS, the SFA, and the OWR.
- EOEL will prioritize submitting testimony on bills as it relates to EOEL's statutory obligations.
- Upcoming deadlines:
 - Thursday March 9, 2023 is the first crossover for bills.
 - Friday March 10, 2023 is the final day to file substantive resolutions.
 - The Government Affairs Specialist will review all resolutions introduced and inform the ELB of any pertinent bills related to the early learning field.

EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program

- Schools with pre-K classrooms are now accepting applications for SY 23-24. Applications may be accessed through this link: [SY 23-24 Applications](#).
- Ongoing Professional Learning Support
 - We have completed 3 of our 4 Professional Community Days for Administrators, Teachers, and Partners around this year's theme of *Celebrating Children and Childhood*. Specific topics of focus have included: 1) children's executive function and self-regulation; 2) children's representation and how they make their thinking visible; and 3) children's use of play and play as a central teaching strategy. Our last session will focus on re-framing how we think as educators and engage with young children.
 - Professional learning communities continue for pre-K classroom teacher work groups, while professional learning sessions continue for pre-K classroom educational assistants.
 - Coaching, consultation, and mentoring continue as part of our professional learning support for schools.
 - In addition to the foundational knowledge of ECE, the science of child development and learning, continuous quality improvement, and relevant research and lived experiences, we have been using and continue to use the *Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators* to inform and guide our work in providing ongoing professional learning support and to guide our own learning as well.

Early Childhood State Plan, Strategic Implementation Plans and PDG B-5

- As a reminder to keep sharing, EOEL will resume information collection efforts on the progress of the Strategic Implementation Plans (SIP) 2020-2023 from Champions and partners using various forms. For partners and champions, please use this form to share information on progress of SIP objectives <https://forms.gle/6RWFrCTCxcgk4Qb29>. You can also find this form on www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com on the side navigation tab. Please feel free to share with those in your organization and organization partners. Please contact EOEL if you have any questions or would like to share information that the form cannot capture.

Head Start State Collaboration Office (HSSCO)

- State-level MOUs continue to be reviewed/updated with State partners and will be vetted with HS/EHSD directors prior to approval and obtaining of signatures. 8 state-level MOUs are in place to enhance communication, cross-referrals, shared resources and coordination of service delivery. These include MOUs with: DOH (WIC, PHN Branch, EIS, and Newborn Hearing Screening Program); DOE (SPED, Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program, and EOEL); and DHS (CWS).
- A Program Instruction for FY 2023 funding was issued on 2.21.23 to HS/EHS grant recipients by the Office of Head Start. The FY 2023 funding level reflects an increase of \$960 million over FY 2022, including a 5.6% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), \$262

million for quality improvement (QI), and \$100 million for the expansion of programs. COLA/QI funding guidance letters will go out to recipients in early March, with an application deadline of April 21 in order for recipients to receive their funding allocations.

- The HSSCO Director continues to engage with stakeholders, and in numerous meetings, to represent the HS voice/lens in advocacy, program planning, and systems-building, with a particular emphasis on work around workforce development, infant and toddler issues, and early childhood health and homelessness issues.
- A grant refunding application mid-year progress report (July-December 2022) and a Head Start Collaboration Directors' 2022 Annual Report were submitted to the Office of Head Start at the end of January 2023..

Please see [this link](#) to reference the Googledoc presentation