

Early Learning Board (ELB) Special Meeting

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

9:00 am – 11:00 am

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 McCorrison, Mei Ou, Robert Peters (for Director Bossert), Nāpua Rosehill (for Jack Wong), Melodie Vega, Kerrie Urosevich, Matt Shim (for Director Fink), Dayna Luka (for Director Betts), Lane Tsuchiyama (ELB Institutional Analyst)

Absent: Mari Uehara, Ben Naki, Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner)

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

Public in Attendance: Lauren Padesky, JoAnn Farnsworth, Emma Christopherson, Terry Lock, Mary Ann Nemoto, Ke’ōpū Reelitz, Ka’ano’i Walk, Brenda Watanabe, Kate Ozawa, Corie Teruda

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 9:05 AM. After reading the ELB mission statement, he reminded everyone that regardless of in-person attendance, protocols would proceed as usual, with attendance and votes conducted by roll call. Quorum was established.	
Public Comment— Bob Peters	No public comments were provided.	

Early Learning Board

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

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<p>Governance Standing Subcommittee—Matt Shim</p>	<p>Matt Shim, Chair of the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS), explained that SB 1022, relating to the Early Learning Board composition, will be heard by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means at 9:30 am today. While this bill was discussed at the last ELB meeting (February 9), and the Board’s comments and concerns relayed through written testimony to the Senate Committee on Education, lawmakers indicated that the ELB could not come to a conclusive decision, and passed the proposed bill out of the Senate Committee on Education on February 13 as is. The subcommittee recommended the ELB make a decision quickly to be able to submit testimony in the event the bill crosses over to the House of Representatives.</p> <p>The GSS met recently to discuss the bill and brainstormed the following four possibilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve SB 1022 in its current form 2. Oppose SB 1022 and clearly explain why 3. Provide recommendations for an amended version of SB 1022 4. Amend the current ELB statute and present this to the Legislature <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biggest concern for most Board members was the lack of a Hawaiian Medium Education (HME) seat in SB 1022’s list of designated Board seats. • Matt and Chair Peters reminded everyone that ELB was originally an advisory board comprised of sector representatives. The thought was that having a diversity of members and perspectives would be helpful in decision-making and in assisting in the development of the EOEL as it moved from an Office within the Governor’s Office, to a program agency attached to the Department of Education (DOE). Initially, the Governor appointed the EOEL Director. The 	
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	<p>ELAB (Early Learning Advisory Board) was put into place. To ensure that the Director position would not be subject to political changes when the Governor changed, the Board then transitioned to a governing board and, in its current form, is now responsible for hiring the EOEL Director and providing guidance to the EOEL for policy across the early learning system. Board members have their own individual subject matter expertise to help move conversations and arrive at decisions that ultimately assist EOEL in executing the Early Childhood State Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yuuko Arikawa-Cross explained that EOEL staff are creating an Office plan, and that this plan is aligned with the EC State Plan, and references the statutes and state priorities that are drivers for the plan.• When the ELAB became the ELB, it created a mission and a vision statement, both of which are currently in use today to provide guidance and direction. ELB subcommittees were created to give direction to what the early childhood system should look like, and where energy should be directed, along with supporting the development of the Early Childhood State Plan.• Kerrie Urosevich wondered what it would look like if the statute were changed and ELB went back to being an Advisory Board instead of a Governing Board, and to then place EOEL under the Board of Education (BOE) since SB 1022's description of what ELB should look like is similar to that of the BOE's composition.• It was suggested that perhaps Board members are hesitant to change the existing Board composition because not many in the general public realize that there are many components to the early learning system, and that if the different sectors are not	
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	<p>included in Board membership, they may lose their importance and/or be neglected in system-building work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● It was noted that it was possible for ELB to submit testimony that would recommend maintaining the representative aspect of the board in some form even if the composition outlined in SB 1022 is unchanged.● A few Board members suggested opposing the bill, since there is no clarity on the reasoning behind it, and it shapes the ELB into something similar to the BOE.● Chair Peters voiced his concern that if the Board does not make specific suggestions now, decisions will be made for the Board.● Napua Rosehill commented that she feels that the Legislature wants to see action from the ELB, so what the Board should do is look at SB 1022 and identify areas it wants to keep and areas it wants to see revised.● Melodie suggested that the bill does not negate representative membership since this could be achieved through the county and at-large seats.● A question was raised as to whether a county representative would be a member at large living in that county or a member representing the entire county. Matt's response was that he understood that it would be a person from the county who meets the required qualifications.● Kerrie questioned whether moving away from program-type representation to geographic representation really reduced the number of people on the Board by very much, and whether it might really be the right structure for a Board overseeing a mixed delivery system.● A comment was made that the new Board composition detailed in SB 1022 might reduce some of the ethical questions that have come up concerning the Board. It is also not clear whether the Board structure involving program representation	
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	<p>necessarily helped EOEL move toward its intended outcomes, and that perhaps county representation might better help address statewide issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A comment made was that county representation is undeniably important; however, because the Board membership now consists of only one member from a neighbor island, it is too easy for the ELB to become “Oahu-centric.”• Chair Peters explained that with the way the bill is written, the Governor would be responsible for providing written documentation articulating the administration’s goals and priorities describing Board nominees’ qualifications and suitability to serve on the Board. In this sense, there may be greater flexibility when thinking of membership.• Megan McCorriston suggested that county Early Childhood Coordinators could perhaps fill the county representation seats on the Board with the new structure in place.• Ka’iulani Laehā noted that Boards that work most efficiently tend to be comprised not just of representation of one sector (in this case, early childhood), but of different, pertinent expertise to guide the organization.• Kerrie Urosevich raised the question about what the scope of EOEL’s work is, and how the Board can best support that work – this is what should determine the Board composition. She also wondered if HEICC’s voice is not at the table, where/how children birth to three with special needs fit into an EC system for children birth to five.• The Board agreed that the qualifications as detailed in SB 1022 are too vague and need more definition. <p>Matt then showed the Board possible solutions GSS came up with in regard to, firstly, amending SB 1022, and secondly, revising the current composition of ELB.</p>	
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	<p>Option C, Revised SB 1022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Voting members = 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 from each county (4) ○ 3 at large (3) ○ 1 Representative of Hawaiian Medium Early Learning Providers ○ 1 Pediatrician with child development focus ● Non-voting members = 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 from DOE, DHS, DOH, UH (4) ○ 1 each from Kamehameha Schools (KS) and Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS) (2) ● Keep qualifications listed in SB 1022 for Governor-appointed members ● Keep term limits listed in SB 1022 ● Amend to add a stakeholder advisory council that meets 4 times a year; AC members may serve on Board Subcommittees <p>Option D, Revised composition of current ELB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Keep 9 Voting Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kauai County ○ City and County of Honolulu ○ Maui County ○ Hawaii County ○ HME ○ Hawaii Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics ○ Center-Based Provider ○ Family-Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) ○ Head Start ● 6 Non-Voting Members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DOE, DHS, DOH, UH ○ KS and HAIS 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eligible for Subcommittees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family Child Care Provider ○ Philanthropy ○ HEICC ○ Home Visiting ○ Parents ● Use term limits listed in SB 1022 <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The reasoning behind Family Child Care Providers, HEICC, and Home Visiting being relegated to Subcommittee status is because there are other ways they could be represented on the governing board (e.g., subcommittees, county representatives). ● Kerrie Urosevich explained that while she thought Option C was better than Option D, she felt like it was too focused on early education and does not consider health and safety enough. If the scope of EOEL is only preschool children 3-4 years old, then she would be more okay with this. ● Ka’iulani Laehā wondered if it was possible to give HME the status of permanent designee similar to HAIS or KS has currently, because the position would be difficult to fill if the person sitting in it had to change every four to six years. ● “Philanthropy” has been relegated to subcommittee status not because of conflict of interest issues, but rather because of the perception of possibly having undue influence on Board members. Chair Peters explained that while this might not necessarily be going on now, there is the possibility of people perceiving things in that way in the future and has been an issue in the past. ● KS and HAIS remain ex-officio because combined with the DOE (which would also have a non-voting seat on ELB), they make up the vast majority of education providers in Hawaii. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerrie Urosevich suggested that there should be another ex-officio seat for someone from the health and safety sector (separate from the pediatrician seat, which gets voting rights). • Melodie Vega suggested that the 3 at-large seats listed in Option C could represent different parts of the system. As an example, she used workforce, family engagement, and infant-toddler settings. Rather than representing geographic locations or specific programs, they could serve as resources for specific skillsets or expertise that would be helpful for EOEL and their work. • The description for the composition of the proposed stakeholder advisory council in Option C is deliberately broad so that ELB will have the flexibility to craft an advisory board that will support the changing and diverse priorities of the ELB. <p>The Chair entertained a motion for the Board to give the Governance Standing Subcommittee the authority to craft testimony in support of Option C, as discussed for the amended version of SB 1022, with revisions related to the inclusion of early childhood systems development experience and expertise within the qualifications for membership, and to bring this testimony to the March 9, 2023 meeting for Board approval. (Matt/Melodie: Y—7; N—3)</p> <p>Matt Shim concluded this portion of the meeting by inviting all Board members to send ideas to him regarding suggestions on what the qualifications should be and he will discuss those suggestions with the GSS. The GSS will meet sometime next week, before March 2, 2023. Matt first needs to poll the members to arrive at a date and time that works for the most people.</p>	<p>The Board granted the GSS the authority to craft testimony in support of Option C, as discussed for the amended version of SB 1022, with revisions related to the inclusion of early childhood systems development experience and expertise within the qualifications for membership, and to bring this testimony to the March 9, 2023 meeting for Board approval.</p>
<p>Legislative Bill Testimony—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters opened up this agenda item for any bills any Board members would like to discuss. Kerrie Urosevich brought up the Infant/Early Childhood Mental Health bill that is designed to support</p>	

	the implementation of the Integrated Infant and Early Childhood Behavioral Health Plan that ELB helped to move forward in the past. This bill will anchor the Early Childhood Mental Health program in DOH and provide centralized coordination across the system for this work. It is currently moving in both the House and Senate and will most likely be sent to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, as well as the House Finance Committee. Matt Shim explained that DOH has been in support of the bill and helped work on it to ensure that it will be successful. Chair Peters agreed that ELB should support this bill with all of that in mind.	
Public Comment —Bob Peters	No public comment provided.	
Review Agenda Outcomes —Bob Peters	The Board granted the GSS the authority to craft testimony in support of Option C, as discussed for the amended version of SB 1022, with revisions related to the inclusion of early childhood systems development experience and expertise within the qualifications for membership, and to bring this testimony to the March 9, 2023 meeting for Board approval.	
Closing —Kerrie Urosevich	“We must keep our faith in the Republic. The day we stop believing democracy can work is the day we lose it.” –Queen Jamillia, <i>Star Wars</i>	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson