

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, March 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 CEED Center, KCAA
2707 South King Street, Honolulu, HI 96826
Or Via the Zoom Link**

Board Members in Attendance: Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, 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), Dayna Luka (for Director Betts), Lane Tsuchiyama (ELB Institutional Analyst)
Absent: Justina Acevedo-Cross, Ka‘iulani Laehā, Ben Naki, Kerrie Urosevich

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

Public in Attendance: Emma Christopherson, Robyn Chun, Ka‘ina Bonacorsi, Lauren Padesky, Kevin Costa, Edel Baguio-Larena, Felicia Villalobos, Kim Guieb, Raya Esteban, Kiyo Noguchi, Cheri Nakamura, Terry Lock, Lisa Martinez, Mary Ann Nemoto, Ted Burke, Vivian Eto, Cherilyn Shiinoki, Deanne Goya

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:35 PM and asked Mei Ou 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.	

<p>Review and Approve 2/9/23 Minutes—Bob Peters</p>	<p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the 2/9/23 special meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as disseminated (Megan/Mari: Y—7, N—0).</p>	
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comments were provided.</p>	
<p>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates—Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Yuuko Arikawa-Cross asked Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, to provide legislative updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor’s Message (GM) 1 contains the budget requests approved by Governor Green. The GM includes the following requests from EOEL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funding for expansion of 55 classrooms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This includes 2 FTE position counts and \$177,257 for FY 24 and FY 25. ○ These requests are <i>in addition</i> to the previously approved requests in the state budget, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expanding the Preschool Open Doors subsidy program and EOEL to 3-year-olds; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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; ○ Supporting 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 Department of Human Services (DHS), the School Facilities Authority (SFA), and the Office of Wellness and Resiliency (OWR). ● EOEL will prioritize submitting testimony on bills as it relates to EOEL’s statutory obligations. ● Upcoming deadlines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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. 	
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	<p>Coleen Momohara, EOEL’s Educational Specialist in charge of the EOEL Public Pre-K Program, was absent; Yuuko provided EOEL Public Pre-K Program updates in her stead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We have completed 3 of our 4 Professional Community Days for Administrators, Teachers, and Partners around this year’s theme of <i>Celebrating Children and Childhood</i>. 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 <i>Professional Standards and Competencies for Early Childhood Educators</i> to inform and guide our work in providing ongoing professional learning support and to guide our own learning as well.	
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	<p>Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start Collaboration Office Program Specialist, was absent; Yuuko provided Head Start Collaboration updates in her stead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State-level MOUs continue to be reviewed/updated with State partners and will be vetted with HS/EHS 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.	
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Next, Yuuko asked Alohi Maiava Shigeta, EOEL’s Program Specialist in charge of PDG B-5 grant work, to provide some updates. Alohi’s updates remained the same from last month’s meeting, and she reminded the Board that EOEL is resuming information collection efforts on the progress of the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) 2020-2023. The link to the form to share information can be found at <https://forms.gle/6RWFrCTCxcgk4Qb29> or at www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com on the side navigation tab. Alohi asked Board members to share these links with their organizations and partners, and to contact EOEL if there are any questions. Yuuko also added that EOEL and Hawaii P-20 are working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize their interagency agreement around PDG B-5 work. EOEL is convening a meeting with County Coordinators to look at specific pieces of PDG B-5 work that pertain to them, and EOEL has already met with federal partners, as well. EOEL will invite these groups to continue to meet to discuss PDG B-5 activities.

Finally, Yuuko gave a few more EOEL updates. She explained that there are ongoing efforts to work with Keiki O Ka ‘Āina to expand FCIL school-based programs. Currently there are programs funded by EOEL at Nanakuli Elementary and Kailua Elementary. EOEL is also focusing on special needs and early intervention issues by reviewing recommended standards for hearing and vision screening and offering suggestions to the Department of Health as part of its Advisory group. In the area of Early Learning programs, EOEL is participating in DOE site assessments, room and furniture design, Rural USDA opportunities, workforce development, and taking a look at Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) and DHS requirements.

	<p>With regards to EOEL personnel updates, Yuuko announced that Lisa Teruya has returned as a Secretary II for the EOEL Public Pre-K program. The Educational Specialist II (Workforce Specialist) and Institutional Analyst positions have been posted for external recruitment. EOEL is still looking for a Business Manager and a Communications Specialist.</p> <p>Yuuko concluded this portion of the agenda by updating the Board on her experience meeting with Senator Mazie Hirono and Lt. Governor Luke’s Roundtable with Early Childhood Providers and Experts on Pre-K Expansion. She also shared about her site visit to Kauai on February 14, 2023, where she was able to visit various elementary schools interested in opening pre-k classrooms on their campuses, as well as a former hospital interested in becoming a preschool site.</p>	
<p>Subcommittee Reports— Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>The Strategic Implementation Subcommittee (SIS) update was postponed due to its chair, Ben Naki, being absent at today’s Board meeting. In his place, Chair Peters moved forward the two motions the SIS was proposing.</p> <p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the proposed framework for the State Plan dashboard. The motion passed (Bob/Mei: Y—7; N—0).</p> <p>The Chair entertained a motion for the State Plan dashboard to get Board approval prior to its public posting. The motion passed (Bob/Melodie: Y—7; N—0).</p> <p>Next, Matt Shim, Chair of the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS) reviewed the proposed amendments to SB No. 1022 in the draft testimony the GSS crafted after the special ELB meeting on February 22, 2023. The following amendments were proposed: (1) add “systems building” to Section 1, Subsection (b)(4) on Page 2; (2) add to Section</p>	<p>The Board approved two motions presented by the SIS: one to approve the State Plan dashboard framework, and one to ensure the Board will approve the State Plan dashboard prior to public posting.</p>

	<p>1, Subsection (c) on Page 2, “(3) Bring an expertise in one or more professional disciplines of education, health, human services, business, workforce development, early childhood development or brain development”; (3) amend Section 2, Subsection (b), on Pages 2-4 to add “one representative of Hawaiian medium early learning providers,” and “one pediatrician with child development focus,” and change the number of members from the City and County of Honolulu from 3 to 1; and finally, (4) change Section 2, Subsection (d) on Page 7 to read, “(d) The board shall create an early learning stakeholder advisory council that meets four times a year. Advisory council members may serve on Board subcommittees.”</p> <p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the draft testimony. During the discussion, Melodie Vega pointed out that in Section 1, Section C, under “professional disciplines,” family engagement was missing. The motion did not pass (Matt/Erin: Y—5; N—2).</p> <p>The Chair entertained a motion to approve the draft testimony with “family engagement” added to the professional disciplines in Section 1, Section C. The motion passed (Matt/Melodie: Y—7; N—0). Matt said he would send an updated version of the draft testimony to Bob that will include “family engagement.”</p> <p>Chair Peters explained that he anticipated the bill would be heard in the House to open up conversation about it. At that time, he will testify on behalf of the Board in support of the testimony with the amended portions. If any individuals on the Board wish to testify, they are welcome to do so, but must refrain from representing the Board in their testimony.</p>	<p>The Board approved the testimony for SB No. 1022, with the addition of “family engagement” to the “ideal qualifications” listing.</p>
<p>Institutional Analyst Update—Lane Tsuchiyama</p>	<p>Lane Tsuchiyama, the Institutional Analyst hired by ELB to work on Act 46/210, gave a brief presentation to update the Board on his progress. Lane highlighted Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke’s Ready</p>	

	<p>Keiki Initiative, which launched on January 17, 2023, one day before the opening of the 2023 State of Hawaii legislative session. He explained that the initiative represents an extension of Acts 46 and 210, adopted by the State of Hawaii in 2020 and 2021, respectively. The Ready Keiki Initiative aims to improve the delivery of early learning opportunities to children and families in the State by, among other things, aligning resources to support family-centered decision making in the community. To that end, Lane has been working with the Lieutenant Governor and her team to facilitate the construction and renovation of new classrooms to add to the EOEL Public Pre-K program by working with the DOE and School Facilities Authority (SFA) in order to better understand and utilize resources appropriated by Act 257. Lane has also been working to engage county partners and leaders to position the DOE, SFA, EOEL, and other connected partners to establish a more effective and streamlined process through which proposed projects can be implemented more efficiently in the future. He has also been exploring opportunities to enhance the effective use of various funds, including Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), and Child Care Development and Block Grant (CCDBG), and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Finally, Lane announced the planned renovations of initial pre-k classrooms on eleven DOE elementary school campuses using Act 257 appropriations.</p> <p>In response to a question regarding the Board’s role in Lane’s work, Lane responded that for now, the ELB should monitor work being done because there are many different elements happening simultaneously. As long as the ELB manages to keep the different pieces sorted properly, it will become clear when the time comes if there is anything else that needs to be done.</p>	
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ELB Testimony Focus for EOEL Budget Requests —Bob Peters	Chair Peters presented to the Board a document detailing the ELB’s testimony focus for EOEL budget requests. This document has been discussed at previous ELB meetings. The Chair entertained a motion to accept the ELB budget priorities as the basis for ELB testimony moving forward. The motion passed (Bob/Mei: Y—7; N—0)	The Board approved the four priorities for testimony in support of EOEL’s budget requests.
Public Comment —Bob Peters	No public comments were provided.	
Member Updates —Bob Peters	No member updates were provided.	
Review Agenda Outcomes —Bob Peters	Chair Peters reviewed the following agenda outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board approved two motions presented by the SIS: one to approve the State Plan dashboard framework, and one that gives the Board authority to approve the State Plan dashboard prior to public posting. • The Board approved the testimony for SB 1022 with the addition of “Family Engagement” to the “ideal qualifications” listing. • The four priorities for the budget testimony in support of EOEL were approved. 	
Announcements	None provided.	
Closing —Bob Peters	Kerrie Urosevich was absent. Chair Peters closed the meeting at 2:30 pm and encouraged everyone in attendance to enjoy and make the most of the time being given back to them.	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson