**TO:** The Conference Committee on S. B. 1022 H.D. 1

Relating To The Early Learning Board

House Conferees: Senate Conferees:

Rep. Woodson, Co-Chair Senator Kidani, Chair

Rep. Kitagawa, Co-Chair Senator Kanuha, Co-Chair

Rep. Marten Senator Fevella

Rep. Garcia

**SUBJECT: Conference Memo Regarding S. B. 1022 H.D. 1**

The Early Learning Board (ELB) appreciates the intent of the Legislature to enhance the governance function of the Board by reducing the number of voting members on the ELB and ensuring that county voices are reflected in future policy making as the ELB guides and supports the Executive Office on Early Learning’s (EOEL) efforts to meet its statutory responsibility to build a Statewide early childhood system, including expanding access to quality early care and learning.

The ELB prefers the H.D. 1 version of S.B. 1022 as it incorporates county perspectives along with relevant State agencies, accounts for the value inherent in the diversity of early learning and care stakeholder perspectives and highlights needed qualifications for members. Key features of the H.D. 1 version include the following:

* **Board voting member composition:** 3 at-large members, 4 county members (1 from each county to reflect the individual natures and needs of each State county), a Hawaiian Medium provider to represent and respect the unique nature of Hawaii’s two official languages, and a pediatrician to emphasize the importance of healthy child development and well-being;
* **Board non-voting member composition:** 
  + **State Agencies:** DHS, DOE, DOH, U.H.,
  + **Private Institutions:** Kamehameha Schools, HAIS (Hawaii Association of Independent Schools)
* **Qualifications:**
  + language that emphasizes knowledge/experience of early care and learning governance as well as systems building, recognizing the critical importance of both to support EOEL’s work;
  + the addition of one ideal qualification related to preferred professional expertise to provide needed content expertise and skill sets to establish policy for the complex task of system building.
* **Board Early Learning Advisory Council:** a stakeholder council created by the Board to meet 4 times per year to provide input/advise the Board in its policy-making role.

The H.D. 1 version creates a more manageable governing board and incorporates the key membership needed for policy making. It will enhance the effectiveness of the ELB, offering important county perspectives while continuing to benefit from the current representative nature of the Board’s composition. It eliminates potential conflict of interest issues and the challenge posed by systems perspective-taking of a representative board. Furthermore, it defines board expertise rather than representative voice as the key requirement for board membership, better suited to support and guide the EOEL

The ELB also recommends amending SECTION 4, p.8. ~~This Act shall take effect on June 30,~~

~~3000~~ to read: This Act shall take effect on December 1, 2023. The current Early Learning Board will continue to govern the EOEL until November 30, 2023 and all members will be considered holdovers. The new Board will assume its governance role on December 1, 2023 as interim members appointed by the Governor whose confirmation will occur during the 2024 Legislative Session.

This transition plan ensures the EOEL can move forward with its responsibilities, provides adequate opportunity for interested and qualified community members to apply and allows the Governor adequate time to appoint Board members to best serve the needs of young children and their families.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Peters, ELB Chair, at 808-227-7514.