

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, May 11, 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:** Justina Acevedo-Cross, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Ka’iulani Laehā, Megan McCorriston, Ben Naki, Mei Ou, Robert Peters (for Director Bossert), Mari Uehara, Kerrie Urosevich, Melodie Vega, Nāpua Rosehill (for Jack Wong), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner), Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), Matt Shim (for Director Fink), 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, Jordana Ferreira, Jeff Larson, Kevin Kabasawa, Stephanie Tim Sing, Ashley Miura

**Public in Attendance:** Emma Christopherson, Christina Cox, Lynette Kamekona, Shanna De Lima-Suganuma, Ted Burke, Felicia Villalobos, Lisa Martinez, Mary Ann Nemoto, Danny Cup Choy, Malia Tsuchiya, Elaine Yamashita, Ka’ina Bonacorsi, Lauren Padesky, Charis Sole, Terry Lock, Vivian Eto, Scott Fuji, Robyn Chun, Deanne Goya, Deborah Zysman, Jordan Smith, Ka’ano’i Walk, Cassia Simms, Noelani Iokepa-Guerrero, Aldric Ulep

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:33 PM and asked Mari Uehara 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><b>Review and Approve 4/13/23 Special Meeting Minutes—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>A motion was made and seconded to approve the 4/12/23 meeting minutes. Board member Justina Acevedo-Cross made a correction to her portion of the member updates section: the Kahewai Summit had 320 members, not 380. The minutes were approved with the requested correction. (Kaiulani/Ben: Y—10; N—0)</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Written and oral comments were received by Terry Lock from the University of Hawai‘i College of Education relating to Item IV on the agenda. She thanked ELB and EOEL for their diligent collaboration with the Executive and Legislative branches of government to increase affordability and access to high quality early learning. She notated her support of a mixed-delivery system, as this method draws upon years of expertise to provide high quality options for families. She also noted she is in support of expanding the Preschool Open Doors (POD) program, but is disappointed that the funding for infant-toddler programs (H.B. No. 547) did not pass this legislative session.</p> <p>Terry also noted that while she is in support of the expansion of EOEL public pre-k, she hopes it will be done intentionally and thoughtfully in order to maintain high quality, as demonstrated by the 9.6 total benchmarks ratings EOEL has received (based on the quality standards of NIEER and the quality controls established by EOEL staff). Finally, Terry said that she was recently on a panel with higher education colleagues in California who are also involved in increasing investments into pre-k, known as Transitional Kindergarten. This panel highlighted a longitudinal study of Tennessee’s public pre-k program conducted by Vanderbilt University, which demonstrated that without quality standards and quality control, investments made in preschool cannot be maintained to sustain long-term positive outcomes. In closing, Terry remarked that she believes Hawai‘i will need to design and develop a plan for a mixed-delivery pre-k system that does not sacrifice the quality of services that the early care and education workforce provides to keiki and their families across the state.</p>	

<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates</b>— Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Director Arikawa-Cross began this agenda item by asking Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, to provide legislative updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sine die, the closure of the 2023 State Legislative Session, was on Thursday, May 4, 2023.</li> <li>• Bills that passed final reading include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ HB 961–Expanding EOEL and POD to 3-year-olds (Transmitted to the Governor on 5/3/23)</li> <li>○ HB 960–Relating to the School Facilities Authority (Passed final reading in the House and Senate on 5/4/23)</li> <li>○ SB 941–Related to teacher housing (Passed final reading in the House and Senate on 5/4/23)</li> <li>○ SB 239–Establishes the accreditation program (Passed final reading in the House and Senate on 5/4/23)</li> <li>○ SB 1022–Related to the ELB (Transmitted to the Governor on 5/3/23)</li> <li>○ HB 300–the State Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included are funds for EOEL Public Pre-k Program expansion and the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program</li> <li>▪ Passed final reading in House and Senate on 5/4/23</li> <li>▪ Budget worksheets not posted yet</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Governor will review bills that have passed the final readings in the House and Senate.</li> <li>• If the Governor intends to veto a bill, he must notify the Legislature by June 26, 2023 and deliver the veto by July 11, 2023. If the Governor signs a bill, it becomes law. If</li> </ul>	
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	<p>the Governor neither signs nor vetoes a bill by July 11, 2023, it becomes law.</p> <p>HB960 transfers the funds appropriated to the SFA to the special fund. As for SB941, it gives the SFA authority to build teacher housing with 170 million dollars appropriated to this.</p> <p>For the public pre-K updates, Director Arikawa-Cross reported the total number of applications received for SY 2023-2024 as of April 30<sup>th</sup> is 278, and that number is expected to increase over time.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross asked Alohi Maiava Shigeta, EOEL’s Program Specialist, to provide PDG B-5 and Early Childhood State Plan updates. Alohi explained that ELB’s SI subcommittee is continuing to review the State Plan web-based dashboard, which is undergoing revisions to be more suitable for the Board’s use. EOEL and Hawaii P-20 attended an all PDG B-5 grantee networking webinar, hosted by the PDG B-5 TA Center, that provided guidance on supporting a quality workforce and increasing staff compensation. EOEL continues to solicit feedback on the progress of EC State Plan SIP objectives through this <a href="#">form</a>. The form can also be found on the <a href="http://www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com">www.earlychildhoodhawaii.com</a> site, or as a google form and a PDF at the request of the Board. Alohi reminded Board members to share the form with others in their organization and/or partners, and to contact EOEL if there are any questions or if they would like to share information that the form does not currently capture. This form will be open until the end of the year.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start State Collaboration Office Program Specialist, provided a few Head Start updates, referring to written updates previously submitted. State-level MOUs are making their way to the AG offices of state partners for review/approval prior to</p>	
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	<p>obtaining signatures from HS/EHS CEOs. The MOUs are intended to help strengthen and “institutionalize” partnerships to support our HS/EHS children and their families. As a result of an April meeting between the Lieutenant Governor and HS/EHS Directors and CEOs, HS is now being invited to stakeholder meetings to engage in discussions to support the LG’s Ready Keiki Initiative. HS/EHS directors have been busy completing their refunding applications, their COLA and Quality Improvement grant proposals, and DHS ARPA grant summary reports for submission, while continuing to navigate staffing shortages and striving to reach funded enrollment counts. 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.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross reported that she had been invited to visit Ka Pa‘alana, a program in Kapolei that assists families of young children experiencing homelessness. Director Arikawa-Cross was able to visit the yurt that was constructed to provide a toddler and a preschool classroom, where there is no water line and which only recently installed electricity and air conditioning. Director Arikawa-Cross commented that it was encouraging to see parents engaging in activities with their children and how involved they were in their children’s lives.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross also provided a Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) update. A draft version of the dashboard presented at the last meeting shows the number of early childhood providers participating in either the National School Lunch Program or the CACFP, as well as who is eligible but not participating in either.</p>	
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	<p>EOEL Pre-K staff have been conducting induction training for new school staff of the eleven new schools set to open this upcoming school year to help with onboarding them into the EOEL Pre-K program. Normally, it takes an entire year to conduct induction training and onboarding of new schools, but under the current circumstances, this process has been abbreviated and expedited, with children scheduled to begin in August 2023.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross promoted the 2023 ECE Summer Institute on Kaua‘i as being available to register for by contacting Jaime Lum at 808-956-2376 or via email at <a href="mailto:ece@hawaii.edu">ece@hawaii.edu</a>.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross announced that she has been accepted into the National P3 Center’s Leadership Certificate Program, along with Complex Area Supervisor Rochelle Mahoe. This is an 11-month program, beginning June 1, 2023, and ending on April 30, 2024.</p> <p>Yuuko also announced that DHS became approved for the Impact Project, which aims to help states (including territories and tribes) develop and expand their capacity for planning, investing in, and implementing quality early childhood systems, policies, and practices.</p> <p>Finally, Director Arikawa-Cross reported that she recently returned from the ECEPTS national conference on ECE Apprenticeships. Before attending, she did not know the difference between internship and apprenticeship, so this conference was a very informative experience for her.</p> <p>The Board congratulated Director Arikawa-Cross for completing one year as the EOEL Director, effective May 2.</p>	<p><b>Yuuko Arikawa-Cross was recognized as having completed her first full year as Director on May 2.</b></p>
<p><b>Subcommittee Reports—</b> Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Board member Justina Acevedo-Cross, convener of the Workforce Equity Subcommittee (WES), provided updates. A major topic of</p>	

	<p>discussion for WES has been focused on how to attract more people to early childhood education, especially from high schools and asked Board Member Melodie Vega to provide an update on how Keiki o Ka ‘Āina (KOKA) has engaged in efforts related to recruitment.</p> <p>Board Member Vega explained that KOKA staff attended the ECEPTS conference in order to participate in apprenticeships conversations, and subsequently held booths at two high school career fairs. They received 92 inquiries from juniors and seniors who will be graduating soon. Of those 92 inquiries, 50 received informational emails, and of those 50, 5 responded to those emails. Since then, KOKA has interviewed two applicants who will be starting their apprenticeship program next month – with their first 90 days working in preschool or infant-toddler settings and then moving forward to register in classes at the community college.</p> <p>Board Member Vega found it interesting that the number of inquiries dwindled from a large group of interested individuals to a very small group of individuals who actually pursued this path. In the meantime, KOKA will look at retention and support strategies for the apprenticeship program that will include three different types of supervision including: (1) reflective supervision, to help apprentices successfully move through the program by reflecting on their practices; (2) administrative supervision, to get through the administrative tasks of the organization they are employed by, as well as registering for classes and other details; and (3) program implementation supervision, by the actual teachers and directors in the classroom who will be supporting the apprentices becoming early childhood professionals.</p> <p>Board Member Vega reported a few of the challenges encountered to date, including an interviewee who had no internet access in her home for virtual interviews, and another applicant who has a one-year-old</p>	
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	<p>child and needs childcare to participate in the program. KOKA is trying to come up with solutions to both situations.</p> <p>KOKA’s last application review with the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) and with the National Apprenticeship Program will be on Monday, and will know after that whether there is any more work they will need to do on their application, or whether their application will be approved. KOKA has hired a Workforce Development Coordinator to manage the apprenticeship program, and who is available to answer questions from the community about the program.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The apprenticeship program is not necessarily designed for an employer to have larger numbers of apprenticeships, but more as a sponsor to grow the workforce within their organization.</li><li>• Board member Vega shared that the timing of soliciting interest in the apprenticeship program was affected with graduations impending and other factors impacting graduating high school seniors. KOKA plans to follow up after graduations are done. She explained that a lesson learned was that it was important to catch people at the right time.</li><li>• There is no limit on the number of apprentices KOKA can accommodate. Even if a position is not open immediately once an apprentice completes his/her program, another apprenticeship position will then open.</li><li>• Board member Vega explained that the students who are particularly serious in early childhood education seem to want to go to college. Another enticing factor for these students is making sure that wages are comparable. One of the flyers for the program explains the wage amounts apprentices will earn, alongside what KOKA will pay for schooling.</li></ul>	
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	<p>Board Member Matt Shim, convener of the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS), provided an update on the Director’s Evaluation. All Board members, including ex-officio members, will receive Google forms in order to provide input to Chair Peters related to Director Arikawa-Cross’s performance over the past year. The period of review is from May of 2022 to April of 2023. Chair Peters will be sending out an email with a link to the survey on May 18th, and everyone will have until close of business on May 25th to complete the form. Board Member Shim suggested that while completing the form, Board members should use their observations of, and interactions with, Director Arikawa-Cross, as well as the EOEL updates shared at every Board meeting, to inform their evaluation. Director Arikawa-Cross will provide her own self-reflection and evaluation. The next ELB meeting (June 8, 2023), the Board’s collective feedback will be shared. Chair Peters explained that the Sunshine Law does not permit this conversation to be had in an Executive Session, and that it must be kept as part of the regular Board proceedings. The survey is not restricted to voting members, so everyone on the Board should make the effort to participate.</p>	<p><b>The Director Input Survey related to the Director’s Evaluation will be emailed out on May 18th with directions, and will be due back to the Chair on May 25th.</b></p>
<p><b>Leadership Update—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Board member Shim provided an update on SB 1022. SB 1022 passed out of the conference committee and the most recent version, S.B. No. 1022 H.D. 1 C.D. 1, removed amendments made in the H.D. 1 version and reverted the bill to its original language, including deleting language that would have added an HME representative and a pediatrician with a child development focus. They also added three members from the City and County of Honolulu rather than one, and deleted language that would have created the early learning stakeholder advisory group for quality control.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There was no explanation as to the rationale for the changes made by the Conference Committee, nor was there anything in the conference report that indicated an explanation.</li> <li>● The current Board will have a June meeting, but it is unknown if there will be a meeting after that.</li> <li>● Chair Peters shared his thoughts that this current version of the bill does not meet the needs of the early learning system without the elements of HD1 that were proposed and then removed. He brought up two items that he felt needed to be addressed.</li> <li>● How will the Board respond, if at all, to the approval of SB1022? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To the best of everyone’s knowledge, the Governor is not planning on vetoing bills without reasonable justification. That being said, the Governor is also open to discussion, so he would be open to receiving memos or even meeting with people in person. This could be a good way to inform him about documenting ELB’s work and discussing the items that did not make it into the CD1 version of SB1022.</li> <li>○ Jordana explained that to answer the question posed by the Chair, the Board needs to ask itself whether the bill poses a significant barrier to the ELB in its ability to effectuate its statutory obligations, and decisions on what to recommend to the Governor should be based on that answer</li> <li>○ It was confirmed that current Board members could apply to be considered for the new Board, as appointed by the Governor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● What does the Board’s future look like?</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Currently, it is unknown whether the Attorney General or the Boards and Commissions have any insight on how this matter can be handled.</li> <li>○ Regardless of whether ELB members decide to recommend a veto or not, they will need to prepare for a transition.</li> <li>○ When the ELB submitted the conference memo, they submitted a transition plan recommendation that would have allowed for the current Board to continue until November 2023 so that EOEL could carry on its work, and to give the Governor time to select from a pool of applicants. This recommendation was included in the C.D. 1 version of the bill.</li> <li>○ Jordana explained that comments and recommendations that can be submitted to the Governor is not to recommend a transition process. It is solely to either recommend a veto or to support the bill, and includes a justification for either option. If the Board wants to recommend a transition process, they could instead consider submitting a memo.</li> <li>○ Any new subcommittees created by the new Board would need to begin with a clean slate, but the new Board will inherit any and all policies that the existing subcommittees of the current ELB have made. If they want anything changed, they will have to vote on it.</li> </ul> <p>Chair Peters entertained a motion to hold a special meeting to discuss the recommendations regarding SB1022 in further depth. The agenda will make it clear what exactly the Board will be discussing. The motion passed (Bob/Justina: Y—9; N—0)</p>	<p><b>GSS has been asked to put a discussion of transition practices on its agenda once more information has been obtained.</b></p> <p><b>The Chair will schedule a special meeting of the ELB to decide how to provide a response to the Governor related to SB1022 CD1, in order to meet the June 2 deadline.</b></p>
<p><b>Public Comment—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>No public comments were provided.</p>	

<b>Member Updates</b> —Bob Peters	Board Member Shim reported that today, May 11, 2023, is the last day of the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration. Starting tomorrow, May 12th, access to vaccinations will no longer be free or handled by the federal government, and will instead become a commercial product. There will also no longer be free access to self-test kits, and there will be changes to Medicare and Medicaid. Matt reminded everyone that despite the end of the public health emergency declaration, COVID-19 is not “gone”, and a pandemic could happen once again. People should continue to take precautions, like constant washing of hands, wearing masks, staying home when sick, and social distancing as much as possible.	
<b>Review Agenda Outcomes</b> —Bob Peters	Chair Peters reviewed the following agenda outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Arikawa-Cross was recognized as having completed her first full year as EOEL Director on May 2.</li> <li>• The Director Input Survey related to the Director’s evaluation will be emailed out on May 18th with directions and will be due back to the Chair on May 25th.</li> <li>• The GSS has been asked to put a discussion of transition practices on its agenda once more information has been received.</li> <li>• Finally, the Board will schedule a special meeting to decide how to provide a response to the Governor related to SB1022 HD 1 CD1, in order to meet the June 2 deadline.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	None were provided.	
<b>Closing</b> —Kerrie Urosevich	“We had each other, that’s how we won.” –Lando Calrissian, <i>Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker</i>	

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson