

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, June 8, 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:** Kaiulani Laehā, Ben Naki, Mei Ou, Robert Peters (for Director Bossert), Mari Uehara, Melodie Vega, Nāpua Rosehill (for Jack Wong), Kim Guieb (for President Lassner), Matt Shim (for Director Fink), Dayna Luka (for Director Betts), Lane Tsuchiyama (ELB Institutional Analyst)

**Absent:** Justina Acevedo-Cross, Erin Henderson-Lacerdo, Kerrie Urosevich, Megan McCorriston, Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi)

**Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance:** Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Alohilani Maiava Shigeta, Chris Jackson, Jordana Ferreira, Jeff Larson, Tiffany Hirota, Ashley Miura

**Public in Attendance:** Anne Horiuchi, Emma Christopherson, Christina Cox, Ted Burke, Dawson Carrigan, Jeremy Heyer, Elaine Yamashita, Terry Lock, Lauren Padesky, Danny Cup Choy, Angela Miyashiro, Edel Baguio-Larena, Lisa Martinez, Ka’ano’i Walk, Carol Wear, Charis Sole, Lindsay Heathcock, Vivian Eto, Malia Tsuchiya, Ke’opu Reelitz, Aldric Ulep, Deanne Goya

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions—</b> Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:33 PM and asked Melodie Vega 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.	

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Early Learning Board

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

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<p><b>Review and Approve 5/11/23 Meeting Minutes</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters entertained a motion to approve the 5/11/23 meeting minutes. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved as distributed. (Mei/Mari: Y—7; N—0)</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comment were provided.</p>	
<p><b>Home Visiting Presentation</b>—Jeremy Heyer, Supervisor of the Home Visiting Services Unit, Department of Health</p>	<p>Chair Peters introduced Jeremy Heyer to the Board, and thanked him for joining the meeting from a conference in D.C. Jeremy is the Supervisor of the Home Visiting Services Unit (HVSU), housed within the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH).</p> <p>Using a power point presentation, Jeremy shared about the important work the HVSU does here in Hawaii, providing pregnant people and their families, particularly those considered at-risk, the necessary resources and skills to raise children who are physically, socially, and emotionally healthy and ready to learn. He gave a brief summary of the organization of HVSU, a brief history of home visiting services in Hawaii, and a quick overview of the kinds of services provided. By electing to participate in home visiting programs, families learn how to improve the overall health of their family members and provide better opportunities for their children. Jeremy commented that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can impact individuals throughout their lifespans, and result in long-term effects such as psychiatric disorders, impaired cognition, crime, and poverty. In order to implement strategies for combating ACEs and other obstacles to optimum early childhood development, the HVSU provides services to priority populations, including low-income families, pregnant women under 21 years of age, users of tobacco products, children with development delay, and families with a history of child abuse/neglect, or substance abuse. Jeremy also explained that a large portion of home visiting funding comes from the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) grant program, which is administered by HRSA, in partnership with ACF. The MIECHV program has been</p>	

	<p>reauthorized several times over the years, with the most recent reauthorization occurring in December 2022 for 5 more years. The HVSU has a federally mandated improvement requirement in place, where four of six benchmarks must improve. Last measured in fiscal year 2020, Hawaii demonstrated improvement in six out of six benchmarks. HVSU has a website that they use for recruitment and information-sharing called yourohana.org. Jeremy encouraged everyone to visit at this website when they have time.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the discussion that followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal lawmakers are not interested in providing MIECHV funds for low-intensity service models, as they want evidence-based, comprehensive results from the agencies they are funding. It can be a little challenging to navigate that maintenance of effort.</li> <li>• Trauma-informed care has been benefiting home visiting programs, especially for the home visitors themselves. The training is helping build a culture of support within individual implementing agencies to address mental health and other health disparities.</li> <li>• Pediatricians who want to make a referral can go to yourohana.org to find implementing partners there, along with their contact information. Jeremy himself can also act as a bridge. He expressed a desire for the HVSU to go back into birthing hospitals for early identification of mothers who might need services – this has been difficult to do during the pandemic.</li> <li>• Currently, the HVSU is working on budget requests for the next fiscal cycle.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates—</b> Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Director Yuuko Arikawa-Cross asked Jordana Ferreira, EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, to provide legislative updates.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departments and the Governor’s Office are in process of reviewing bills that have passed the 2023 Legislative session.</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 the Governor neither signs nor vetoes a bill by July 11, 2023, it becomes law.</li> </ul> <p>Yuuko provided some Public Pre-K program updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAEYC Professional Learning Institute (June 4-7, 2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EOEL and UH will co-present at this year’s Institute; the presentation is titled, <p style="margin-left: 40px;">“Engage in Cross-Sector Professional Development with an Equity Lens: Sustaining Momentum to Lead Together”</p> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Pre-K Team completed an abbreviated version of the Induction Program for the schools opening classrooms in SY 23-24.</li> <li>• The UH ECE Summer Institute 2023 will take place in July. The Pre-K Team is looking forward to working with early childhood colleagues!</li> <li>• <a href="#">2023 ECE Summer Institute FLYER</a> (This 2-page flyer may take several seconds to load.)</li> </ul> <p>Next, Yuuko asked Alohi Maiava Shigeta to provide updates on the Early Childhood State Plan, Strategic Implementation Plans, and the PDG B-5 Grant. Alohi reported that the ELB’s SI subcommittee completed the first review of the State Plan web-based dashboard. EOEL will revise each section of the dashboard based on the subcommittee’s feedback. PDG B-5 is readying to initiate Activity 1 Needs Assessment, which includes updating the risk and reach</p>	
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	<p>assessment, researching family choices and preferences, along with workforce economic impact study.</p> <p>Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start Collaboration Office Director, provided Head Start updates. State-level MOUs are making their way to the AG offices of state partners for review/approval prior to 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. The majority of HS programs are closed for summer break, with a few operating an extended school year. EHS programs are still in operation for infants and toddlers. Staff will return in mid- late July for pre-service training, setting up of classrooms, and conducting initial home visits with families. HS programs will start up again at different times in August. The HSSCO Director is working to complete unfinished deliverables (e.g., MOU signatures and/or distribution, 2023 HS Fact Sheet, etc.) before the end of June.</p> <p>Finally, Yuuko provided her personal updates. She was able to participate in a Keiki O Ka ‘Aina (KOKA) outreach event called Ho‘ike. Present at the event was the “YES Bus” Project, from the DOE Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. The “YES Bus” Project operates out of a mobile bus that travels to locations where shelters, community centers, libraries, encampments, and outreach providers are located to provide back-to-school support, including clothing and supplies, for students who are homeless or live in unstable housing.</p> <p>Yuuko participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Kauai Early Learning Conference with the Kauai Early Childhood Educational Consortium, an event she was invited to by the Kauai Early Learning Coordinator. She hosted a booth to disseminate information about EOEL and its public pre-k</p>	
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	<p>program, and also had the opportunity to attend some of the workshops held that day.</p> <p>Yuuko briefly explained her involvement with “Planting the Profession”, a project to improve health outcomes for young children based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s <i>Spectrum of Opportunity Framework</i>, in partnership with Chaminade University, DOH, and Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS).</p> <p>She also announced that the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program was open for applications for Fall 2023 courses, while Summer 2023 awards had already been processed for eligible students. A report on the first round of awards will be developed after the summer term ends. Applications can be found at <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FHGD75Y">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FHGD75Y</a>.</p> <p>Yuuko also provided a brief update on Ready Keiki (<a href="https://www.readykeiki.org">https://www.readykeiki.org</a>), Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke’s initiative to have universal access to pre-k programs for all unserved 3 and 4 year old children in ten years. Yuuko reviewed the new tracker on the Ready Keiki website, and the redesign plans to make classrooms “early learning-friendly”. She thanked the numerous partners working with EOEL and the Lieutenant Governor on this project.</p> <p>In closing, Yuuko announced the retirement of Coleen Momohara, EOEL’s Education Specialist in charge of the public pre-k program, and Chris Jackson, EOEL’s Head Start Collaboration Office Director. Coleen has served for ten years as a preschool teacher and administrator, and in family-child interaction and family relationships programs; 6 years at the University of Hawaii; and 26 years in the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE), including 17 years as a teacher at Enchanted Lake Elementary, working at the Windward</p>	
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	<p>District Office as a special education resource teacher, and 9 years at EOEL. Chris was a “founding mother” and teacher at St. Timothy’s Children’s Center in Aiea; served as a preschool special education teacher in a 3-year federally-funded demonstration project; worked as a trainer and consultant with Head Start programs in the Outer Pacific, (including Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, and Yap); served as an EC lecturer at Honolulu Community College; was a staffer for 27 years in Head Start; and has served a total of 13 years as HS Collab Director, 4 years within the Department of Human Services/BESSD, and 9 years within EOEL. Yuuko acknowledged the extensive contributions and long years of hard work and service these two professionals have both provided, and the Board joined her in wishing them well for a safe and happy retirement.</p>	<p><b>The Board wished Coleen and Chris a happy retirement and expressed respect for their contributions to the early learning field.</b></p>
<p><b>Subcommittee Reports—</b> Subcommittee Heads</p>	<p>Matt Shim, convener of the Governance Standing Subcommittee (GSS), provided updates on the Board transition. He reminded the Board that all current members will continue to sit on the ELB until the Governor appoints new members. This includes members whose terms would have otherwise ended. The GSS was tasked with brainstorming ideas on how to compile information on the Board’s past and current work to pass on to the new Board. They have decided to poll the different subcommittees to create a document, with Yuuko’s help, that all ELB members will have access to as a single location to archive their information. The GSS will also be looking at how to recruit colleagues for the new Board.</p> <p>Chair Peters added that, based on the decision made at the special ELB meeting on May 25, 2023, he did submit comments and recommendations on S.B. 1022 H.D. 1 C.D. 1 to the Governor in a memo. The memo focused on the current ELB’s approval of the transition, and indicated their support for the reduction in size, the switch away from a representative Board, and the inclusion of county members, all of which are seen as beneficial components to the bill.</p>	<p><b>The GSS is in the process of creating an online location for the archiving of information for the new Board in order to support this transition.</b></p>

	<p>Concerns that were described in the memo included the importance of retaining stakeholder voices in some form; the inclusion of equity in Board appointment and policy; the lack of a Hawaiian Medium Education (HME) representative, given that Hawaii is a dual-language state; and the potential for the way the Board is now being designed to have a heavy public sector influence when the Board’s statutory responsibilities include overseeing the private ECE sector, as well. Also included in the memo was ELB’s offer to support the transition to a new Board in whatever way might be most helpful to minimize disruption and to continue to support EOEL’s efforts in meeting its statutory responsibilities. As of the June ELB meeting, there has been no response to the memo. For now, the Board will move forward, operating and functioning as usual. Officially, the current Board is an interim Board with holdovers until the Governor appoints a new Board. Nothing in the statute indicates there will be any change in circumstances with the Director of EOEL with the change to a new Board.</p>	
<p><b>EOEL Director Evaluation Report—Bob Peters</b></p>	<p>Chair Peters provided some context for the EOEL Director Evaluation Report. The criteria upon which the EOEL Director was being evaluated was approved by the ELB on December 8, 2022.</p> <p>12 out of 15 ELB members completed the evaluation survey. Every leadership standard and/or indicator had three possible criteria on which respondents could rate the EOEL Director’s performance: “exceeds expectations,” “meets expectations,” and “needs improvement,” or “unsure.” Any time “needs improvement” was selected, the respondent was prompted to provide an explanation and evidence. At the end of the survey, respondents were able to add comments and concerns.</p> <p>The survey was divided into three standards, with a summary of the comments for each: “1.1 Aligns resources, including staffing, strategic</p>	



	<p>initiatives, and office organization to support the development of a system for early learning statewide”; “1.2 Collaborates across the public and private sectors and among public agencies to develop shared objectives and to move system-building forward”; and “5 Professionalism: the Executive Director demonstrates a high level of ethical and professional behavior in their interactions both internally and externally, supports the diversity of our State and models both transparency and reflective practices.” In 1.1, 83% of respondents said that the EOEL Director “meets expectations” while 17% said that she “exceeds expectations”; in 1.2, 33.3% of respondents said that the EOEL Director “exceeds expectations,” 58.3% said that she “meets expectations,” and one person stated that the EOEL Director “needs improvement,” citing the need for “increased transparency and engagement with private partners”; and finally, in standard 5, 50% of respondents said that the EOEL Director “exceeds expectations” while the other 50% said that she “meets expectations.”</p> <p>In conclusion, the overall ranking for the EOEL Director’s performance was as follows: “meets expectations” for standard 1.1; “meets expectations” for standard 1.2; and “meets/exceeds expectations” for standard 5. Overall, the EOEL Director “meets expectations.”</p> <p>Chair Peters entertained a motion to approve the overall ratings for the annual performance evaluation for the EOEL Director for 2022-2023. (Bob/Melodie: Y—7; N—0)</p>	<p><b>The Director’s evaluation ratings were approved as presented.</b></p>
<p><b>Public Comment</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comments were provided.</p>	
<p><b>Member Updates</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>No member updates were provided.</p>	
<p><b>Review Agenda Outcomes</b>—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters reviewed the following agenda outcomes:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board wished Coleen Momohara and Chris Jackson a happy retirement and recognized and thanked them for their contributions to the Early Learning Board and to the early childhood community</li> <li>• The ELB will continue to function as an interim Board until a new Board has been assigned by the Governor.</li> <li>• An online location is being developed for the inclusion of documents to support the new Board’s transition.</li> <li>• The Director’s annual evaluation has been approved as presented.</li> </ul>	
<b>Announcements</b>	None provided.	
<b>Closing</b> —Bob Peters	Chair Peters provided some closing thoughts. He wished everyone a good weekend and reminded members that the July ELB meeting will proceed as usual.	

**List of the people who submitted written testimony before the meeting:**

NAME	Organization	Agenda Item
Ke‘ōpū Reelitz	Hawaii Children’s Action Network	VII. EOEL Director Evaluation Report: Summary Report of Board Input

Submitted by Ashley Miura and Chris Jackson