

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, October 12, 2023

1:30 pm – 3:30 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, Ka’iulani Laehā, Megan McCorriston, Mei Ou, Robert Peters (for Director Bossert), Nāpua Rosehill (for President Wong), Mari Uehara, Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), Dayna Luka (for Director Betts), Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner)

Absent: Justina Acevedo-Cross, Ben Naki, Kerrie Urosevich, Melodie Vega, Matt Shim (for Director Fink)

Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Jordana Ferreira, Kevin Kabasawa, Lane Tsuchiyama, Alohi Maiava Shigeta, Mikako Deguchi

Public in Attendance: Alexander O., Deanne Goya, Del Baguio-Larena, Kaho‘okahi Kanuha, Keli Houston, Kim Guieb, Kiyo Noguchi, Lauren Padesky, Mary M., Nāmaka Rawlins, Raya Esteban, Terry Lock, Emma Christopherson, Aldric Ulep, Angela Miyashiro, Vivian Eto, RJ Rodriguez, Chris Jackson, Carol Wear, Alanna Bauman, Ke‘ōpū Reelitz, Keiko Nitta, Christina Cox, Kiyomi Umezawa

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/Introductions— Bob Peters	Chair Peters began the meeting at 1:35 PM and asked Board member Erin Henderson-Lacerdo to read the mission statement. Attendance was taken and quorum was established.	
Review and Approve 9/14/23 Meeting Minutes— Bob Peters	A motion to approve the 9/14/23 ELB meeting minutes was made and seconded. Chair Peters requested the minutes be amended to change	

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

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	“concise” to “precise” on page 6. The minutes were approved with the suggested amendment. (May/Erin: Y—7; N—0)	
Public Comment —Bob Peters	Nāmaka Rawlins, representing Aha Pūnana Leo (APL), provided a comment on agenda item IV. EOEL Framework: Provide EOEL Hawaiian Language Public Prekindergarten Program. APL would like the Board to consider the work that Pūnana Leo has done over the last 40 years. APL is interested in helping to guide what the framework would look like as a subject matter expert.	
Executive Office on Early Learning Updates —Yuuko Arikawa-Cross	<p>Director Arikawa-Cross provided updates on efforts related to Health, Mental Health, & Nutrition. EOEL’s Institutional Analyst, Mikako Deguchi, shared a survey result on health screening activities in the EOEL Public Pre-k program. Mikako surveyed the state office teachers to collect data on vision and hearing screenings conducted in the classrooms. Director Arikawa-Cross commented that this data will serve as a baseline and helps with activities outlined in the PDG grant regarding implementation of health screenings in the public Pre-k program. Member Mari Uehara asked if vision and hearing screenings conducted by primary doctors are shared with preschools. Director Arikawa-Cross responded that these screenings are done in addition to what is conducted by primary care doctors.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross shared the number of EOEL applications as of September 1, 2023 and September 26, 2023.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross shared data requested from Hawaii’s State-designated child care resource and referral agency, People Attentive to Children(PATCH), on new and closed child care facilities in close proximity to the 11 new EOEL public pre-k classrooms that opened in SY 2023-2024. Director Arikawa-Cross asked the Board whether it is helpful to continue to pull the data. Member Ka’iulani Laehā questioned how we are ensuring the accuracy of the information. For example, APL’s Hi‘ipēpē program opened in both Wai‘anae and</p>	

	<p>Waimea, but the opening of the Waimea location was not reflected in the report out and whether it included reasons for closures. Member McCorrison was wondering how EOEL would be using this information as the information does not provide enough context without why. Director Arikawa-Cross responded that EOEL will be using the information to assess community impact; however, we do not have information on why the site closed as that information is not collected. Board member Nāpua Rosehill asked whether EOEL will also be looking at enrollment dips in neighboring schools and commented that the enrollment data may be helpful. Director Arikawa-Cross shared that not everyone reports on enrollment data but will see if EOEL can pull that data. Chair Peters commented that he suspects that most of the Board members find the information helpful however, we need to think about how it can be useful and from there what data needs to be collected and how to best do so. . Director Arikawa-Cross commented that EOEL will continue to request the data and share it with the Board.</p> <p>EOEL’s Government Affairs Specialist, Jordana Ferreira, provided an update from the LEARN Conference held in Minneapolis on September 19-20, 2023. She attended sessions focusing on policy, including strategies to building equitable grassroots coalitions, engaging families and other stakeholders, what other states are implementing to meet the needs of families with young children. To note, how coalitions and stakeholder groups have been able to center equity across all levels of policy was most notable, and Jordana Ferreira noted EOEL will continue to have internal discussion to assess how we can incorporate more robust communications strategies to link people to policy and policy to people.</p> <p>EOEL’s Program Specialist, Alohilani Maiava Shigeta, provided updates on the PDG B-5 grant Activities. Regarding activity 3 pertaining to parent and family engagement, the PDG team finalized a</p>	<p>EOEL to continue reporting the data on EOEL new programs, community new programs, and community closed programs.</p>
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contract to develop a PDG B-5 website. Grant funds were also used to support the upcoming Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HiAEYC) early childhood conferencing at the Ala Moana Hotel on Saturday October 21, 2023. Regarding activity 4, focusing on workforce, a Hawaii team was accepted into the The National Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Center centering the ECE Workforce in Policy and Programming Community of Practice as Cohort B members. For Activity 5, one of the tasks aims to recruit a pool of providers to be a part of the CLASS baseline score setting activity to become a CLASS certified observer. Each class that volunteers will receive a CLASS Instructional or Emotional support Kit and interested individuals can contact Kim Guieb or Alohi. Regarding Activity 6, the team is moving forward on accreditation support activities and screening activities Director Arikawa-Cross mentioned earlier.

Director Arikawa-Cross announced that EOEL is hiring Ian Okamoto as the Workforce Developmental Specialist to start on October 23, 2023.

Director Arikawa-Cross then reported on the updates regarding EOEL's policy framework regarding providing EOEL Hawaiian Language Public Prekindergarten Program. The framework aims to provide EOEL Hawaiian Language Public Prekindergarten Program and reiterated that the next step is to convene partners to develop an implementation plan for an EOEL Hawaiian Language Public Prekindergarten Program. Chair Peters commented that the Next Steps do not require approval from the Board, but the Framework would require approval from the Board. A motion to approve the framework to provide EOEL Hawaiian Language public prekindergarten program was made and seconded. Board member Ka'iulani Laehā asked for clarity on the framework, expressing concerns around supporting the provisions of a program without knowing what that exactly is. Director

	<p>Arikawa-Cross explained the Framework aims to provide an EOEL public prekindergarten program in the Hawaiian Language. EOEL's Government Affairs Specialist added that EOEL already has authority in statute to implement a program in either of the State's languages and the framework is essentially to provide those options, which EOEL already has the statutory authority to do; however, the next steps clarify how EOEL would like to start that process. The intention was to start a working group that would have the discussions on what that should look like. They would help to design the program that EOEL would then assess any policy needs to establish the program effectively. Member Kaiulani Laehā mentioned that her concerns also stem from Director Arikawa-Cross being in a time-crunch due to some of the issues occurring at Blanche Pope elementary in which subject matter experts are not involved in the design process and believes more refinement needs to happen on how this is worded. Board Member Megan McCorriston asked if this would change the way in which we opened the Blanche Pope Elementary classroom. Director Arikawa-Cross clarified that the current classroom is a privately-funded public pre-k classroom, not an EOEL public pre-k classroom, hence why EOEL wants to convene stakeholders to design an EOEL public prekindergarten classroom to meet the needs of families that would like a program in Hawaiian language. Board member Mari Uehara commented on the need to consider how a Hawaiian language program would prepare children for kindergarten within the design process. Board member Ka'iulani Laehā explained APL's efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian Language and from APL, it grew into immersion programs. Blanche Pope elementary was one of the two classrooms that opened up without input from APL and clarified that APL's mission is language revitalization, not educating young children based on standards. The potential opening of classrooms that are not prepared to implement strong programming with language revitalization as the goal is scary to the work that has been done over the last 40 years. Board member Nāpua Rosehill</p>	
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explained that Kamehameha Schools is the private funder for the Blanche Pope Elementary program and the opening was to respond to the community's needs. Board member Stephen Schatz shared he understands the concern about the framework being too broad and maybe flipping the order of the next step and framework as being an effective way to move this initiative forward.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the framework for EOEL to provide a Hawaiian Language public prek program. Motion did not carry. (Chair Peters; Erin: Y—4; N—3) Chair noted that it is a good discussion and that it is an important issue to address.

**Chair, EOEL Director, and
EOEL Government Affairs
Specialist will continue to**

		work on revising the framework.
Subcommittee Reports—Ben Naki	Convening member Ben Naki is absent. The subcommittee wanted to update the status on the dashboard. Chair Peters reminded members that the dashboard is intended to be a tool for the Board to track the vital signs for the Early Childhood State Plan. Director Arikawa-Cross asked EOEL’s Institutional Analyst Mikako Deguchi to present the Early Childhood State Plan Dashboard. Mikako shared the information and data on the dashboard that the former EOEL Research Statistician had put together. The dashboard included information and data on Health & Safety, Families, Early Learning, Workforce and the Early Childhood System. Director Arikawa-Cross noted that the dashboard was updated to include the inputs from the subcommittee and also noted that parts of the dashboard need to be reassessed for clarity.	EOEL to continue discussion on dashboard items requiring further refinement.
Maui Early Childhood Status/Updates	Maui Family Support Services, Inc. CEO Edel Baguio-Larena shared stories and experiences of staff and community partners she works most closely with. The Early Head Start center is closed and cannot open this year and unsure if they will re-open within the next 2 years. However, they have assisted families who were enrolled in that center to enroll in another center. For families not enrolled yet, we’ve been able to provide home visiting services. In Lahaina, MEO Head Start was also impacted and unsure when they will re-open. Imua Family Services and Kama‘āina Kids were providing temporary emergency care for families and workers affected by the fires. In 2 weeks there will be a keiki health fair focusing on physicals for keiki, promoting wellness, and fun activities for families at Whaler’s Village. Re-entry in the impact site are being opened by zones and many families have not yet been able to return and are still being housed in hotels and are worried what they will do when their stay in the hotels end. Dayna Luka with DHS asked to share that DHS, Hawaii Children’s Action Network (HCAN), and Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS) are working closely on the subsidy rules for emergency assistance. The	

	<p>emergency rules for the subsidy program were adopted for families that were impacted by the Maui fires. Families must apply online, by October 31, 2023. Temporary changes that were adopted in the emergency rules include the following: no income cut off, no employment or activity required, no copayment, extra time for missing documents, and a one-year eligibility period. The emergency rules are posted on the DHS website and if anyone has questions, they can email Hawaii child care subsidy unit.</p> <p>Home Visiting programs have been resumed and are conducting home visits in Lahaina, Ka‘anapali, and Napili areas. Further, Edel shared that there are concerns about the staff’s mental health and the Ho‘ikaika partnerships members are discussing strategies that support staff’s well-being and healing. Last month the Kako‘o Resource Center opened at the Maui Mall, which provides opportunities for government and non-profit organizations to provide information and resources, including assistance to apply for assistance, to assist those impacted by the fires.</p>	
<p>Public Comment—Bob Peters</p>	<p>KCAA Christina Cox mentioned that there are 20 families who are needing tuition assistance and asked DHS about the contact information for the families needing assistance. Member Dayna Luka provided contact information.</p>	
<p>Member Updates—Bob Peters</p>	<p>Member Dayna Luka, with DHS, shared that HCAN, ECAS, and Ka‘ina collaborated with DHS on communication materials regarding the subsidy program for those impacted by the Maui fires. She also shared DHS and PATCH will be on Maui Friday to meet with providers and center directors to talk about the impacts of the wildfires on their businesses, staff, and children and to listen to any challenges or needs they have. We will be returning to Maui the following week with Ka‘ina to visit those child care centers with requests to increase capacity to see if we can brainstorm supports and will also be meeting with the Maui County Department of Public Works to discuss issues</p>	

	providers are facing when attempting to expand capacity in their facilities and establishing temporary facilities.	
Review Agenda Outcomes —Bob Peters	<p>Chair Peters reviewed the following agenda outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with EOEL on the EOEL Hawaiian language prekindergarten program on the motion. The Chair and EOEL Director will explore how to proceed. • Received an overview of the dashboard that provides a baseline of information and can be utilized for future planning and sense of progress made overtime since the State Plan was designed. • Updates on Maui by Edel on impacts and plans with specific focus on some of the needs of mental health for the workers, and heard from DHS updates on subsidies and plans to visit Maui to work on capacity building on child care centers 	
Announcements	None provided.	
Closing —Bob Peters	Chair Peters thanked the Board for being present and closed the meeting.	

Submitted by Yuuko Arikawa-Cross