

# Early Learning Board (ELB)

Friday, January 19, 2024

1:30 pm – 3:45 pm

Meeting Chair will preside at CEED Center, KCAA

2707 South King Street, Honolulu, HI 96826

Or Via the Zoom Link

**Board Members in Attendance:** Ka'iulani Laehā, Mei Ou, Robert Peters (for Director Bossert), Kerrie Urosevich, Melodie Vega, Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), Megan McCorriston, Matthew Shim (for Director Fink), Nāpua Rosehill (for President Wong), Scott Nakasone (for Director Betts), Mari Uehara, Ben Naki, Erin Henderson Lacerdo, Justina Acevedo-Cross, Mari Uehara, Sulma Gandhi, Stephanie Shipton.

**Absent:** Stephen Schatz (for President Lassner)

**Executive Office on Early Learning staff in attendance:** Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Kevin Kabasawa, Stephanie Tim Sing, Tara Castrovinci, Ian Okamoto, Alohi Maiava Shigeta, Jordana Ferreira, Lane Tsuchiyama, Kelli Vannoy, Mikako Deguchi.

**Public in Attendance:** Alanna Bauman, Aldric Ulep, Angela Miyashiro, Anne Horiuchi, Cassia Simms, Charis Sole, Chelsea LaFrance, Chris Jackson, Christina Cox, Ka'ano'i Walk, Kevin Costa, Kim Guieb, Kiyohide Noguchi, Kiyomi Umezawa, Lauren Padesky, Malia Tsuchiya, Raya Esteban, Robyn Chun, Terry Lock.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/Introductions</b> Bob Peters	Chair Peters opened the meeting at 1:30 PM and asked board member Megan McCorriston to read the mission statement.	

<p><b>Introduction of New Board Members</b> Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters announced the addition of two new members appointed to the Board. Dr. Sulma Gandhi and Stephanie Shipton were introduced and spoke briefly about their background and experiences. Chair Peters will connect the new members to EOEL staff to review board-related documents.</p>	
<p><b>Governance Subcommittee</b> Matthew Shim</p>	<p>The Governance Subcommittee was tasked with developing a board transition plan and Board member Matthew Shim shared the recommended process of the ELB’s board member transfer plan pursuant to Act 170, SLH 2023. The subcommittee is recommending appointed board members replace existing board members in order of the expiration dates of the pre-Act 170 board members. ELB received 2 appointments, and these appointments have replaced the philanthropy and Family Child Interaction Learning representatives. As the Governor appoints new members to the remaining seven seats, ELB members will transition out in the following order: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Head Start (HS), Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC), Hawaii Language, Center-Based provider, Parent, and Home Visiting representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Board member Mari Uehara asked if the Governor would be using applications received to fill vacant positions on the board. Chair Peters answered that the former board structure no longer exists and going forward applicants will be appointed as either a <i>county</i> or an <i>at-large</i> member. He also confirmed that even if an applicant has previously applied, they would need to re-apply for the new board in order to be considered for one of the available seats.</li> <li>● Board member Megan McCorriston asked if existing board members would leave the board once new board members were appointed. Board Member Matthew Shim answered that it is “undetermined” at this time.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board member Erin Henderson Lacerdo asked if the transitions would take place during this current legislative season. Chair Peters answered that it is unknown at this time. Member Henderson Lacerdo also asked if outgoing board members should still be expected to participate in subcommittee work. Board member Shim encouraged board members to continue subcommittee work and that work details should be updated and filed so that information can be accessed by future board members.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Thank You to Outgoing Board Members</b> Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters acknowledged the two outgoing board members. He thanked Justina Acevedo-Cross for her continued work and support of the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board member Acevedo-Cross addressed the board and expressed her gratitude. She stated she would continue to serve the community and our young keiki.</li> <li>Later in the meeting upon former Board member Melodie Vega’s arrival, Chair Peters thanked her for her commitment to the board. Melodie Vega thanked the board and expressed her desire to continue participating as a community member.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Roll Call Review and Approve November Meeting Minutes</b> Bob Peters</p>	<p>Attendance was taken and quorum was established. A motion was made by board member Kerrie Urosevich and seconded by board member Ka’iulani Laehā to approve the meeting minutes from December’s meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair Peters asked that an amendment be made to add under the “<i>action</i>” column in the subcommittee section the approval of the director’s role for 2023 as submitted by the governance subcommittee.</li> </ul> <p>Motion to amend the meeting minutes passed. (Y-10; N-0)</p>	<p>EOEL to update the December ELB meeting minutes to reflect the amendment.</p>

<p><b>Public Comments</b> Bob Peters</p>	<p>No public comments were made.</p>	
<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Update</b> Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director</p>	<p>Director Arikawa-Cross shared that EOEL staff recently took part in a team building activity at Kōkua Kalihi Valley. Staff learned more about the program and took time to give back to the organization by helping to clean up the overgrown ‘āina and plant new vegetation.</p> <p>EOEL’s Workforce Development Specialist, Ian Okamoto, shared updates on the early childhood educator stipend program. He stated that applications for the program have increased significantly with 179 applications received this past semester. Stipends have been awarded and are currently being distributed to recipients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Okamoto also shared that a convening regarding the Hawai’i Early Childhood Education (ECE) Apprenticeship Program will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Honolulu Community College.</li> </ul> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross addressed the goal of reopening Princess Nahi‘ena‘ena Elementary School this month as well as the solicitation of new locations for the FCIL programs on HIDEOE classrooms.</p> <p>She also shared that EOEL was able to open two additional EOEL public prekindergarten classrooms at Nānākuli Elementary on January 8<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross shared that DHS announced applications are now open for Preschool Open Doors for 3 and 4-year-olds. The income limits have also been expanded.</p> <p>In addition, she introduced the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) observation tool that is used to assess the quality of teacher-</p>	

	<p>student interactions. EOEL’s PDG B-5 team will be meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the CLASS baseline results.</p> <p>Government Affairs Specialist, Jordana Ferreira, shared legislative updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Opening day of the legislative session was January 17<sup>th</sup>.</li><li>● EOEL staff distributed a flyer to lawmakers outlining priorities for this supplemental session.</li><li>● EEL participated in a joint presentation with DHS on January 11<sup>th</sup> for the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) early learning informational briefing at the Hawai’i State Capitol. The briefing was hosted by both the House and Senate human services and House education committees.</li><li>● On January 16<sup>th</sup> EOEL presented for both the Senate Ways and Means and Education Committee budget briefings in which EOEL shared the request to sustain funding amounts to EDN700 in the State budget as appropriated at the start of the biennium.</li></ul> <p>Alohi Maiava Shigeta, Program Specialist, gave updates on the PDG B-5 grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The annual financial report is due 1/31/2024 and the annual performance progress report is due 03/30/2024.</li><li>● EOEL is working with the Kauai Planning and Action Alliance to support a February 17<sup>th</sup> ECE conference on Kauai.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● She also shared that they have contracted with the Association for Infant and Mental Health Hawaii (AIM-HI) to deliver a series of workshop sessions addressing trauma.</li><li>● The Student Ambassador Pilot Program was relaunched and there are currently students at Honolulu Community College and Kaua‘i Community College taking part in the program.</li><li>● Shigeta also shared that CLASS observations were completed in 40 center-based classrooms to establish a baseline threshold.</li><li>● Lastly, she shared that they are currently reviewing feedback received on the Hawaii Career for Young Children’s (HCYC) “Career Lattice Framework”.</li></ul> <p>Mikako Deguchi, Institutional Analyst, shared that she recently attended a DOH Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The meeting was intended to help improve mental health for children 0-3 and how to make mental health services available for families and care providers.</li></ul> <p>Regarding the stipend program, board member Ben Naki asked if data was available indicating how many applicants were <i>new to the field</i>, <i>currently working in the field</i>, and (if currently working) <i>which program, (public sector or private sector.)</i> Ian Okamoto replied that</p>	
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	<p>employment data is collected upon applying for the stipend. He will be analyzing the data and pull information to share at the next meeting.</p> <p>Board member Kerrie Urosevich asked if applicants who do not receive the stipend are then referred to Chaminade. Ian Okamoto answered that all applicants who meet the requirements would receive the stipend; however, he would look at data to determine if there could be any additional outreach to those who are not eligible or decide not to accept a stipend.</p> <p>Board member Megan McCorriston asked Mikako Deguchi for clarification on the topic of the meeting she attended regarding mental illness. Deguchi clarified that the meeting was primarily addressing how families and care providers can access mental health services. Board member Erin Henderson Lacerdo, presented at the meeting that Deguchi attended. She added insight into how infant and child mental health could look for the islands. Board member Kerrie Urosevich also encouraged those interested to reach out to Erin as she is currently working with local preschool programs.</p> <p>Board member Mari Uehara stressed the importance of teachers having good mental health practices as it directly affects those in the classroom. She also asked if there is a way to have a type of “<i>welcoming program</i>” for those college students who are studying early childhood education on the mainland and wish to return to Hawai‘i and teach. Director Arikawa-Cross agreed it was a good idea to connect on this topic and investigate how to further meet this need.</p> <p>Chair Peters spoke on his observations while attending the NCSL conference and recognized the Lieutenant Governor’s appreciation of Director Arikawa-Cross and the EOEL in their collaboration with the</p>	
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	Ready Keiki program. He also extended his personal congratulations and thank you on successfully opening the Nanakuli classrooms.	
<b>Governance Subcommittee</b> Matthew Shim	<p>Board member Matthew Shim shared that last month the board did approve the Director evaluations. He stated previous evaluation standards would be included along with the those that were approved at the previous meeting..</p> <p>A motion to approve the newly amended evaluation was made by member Matthew Shim and seconded by member Ben Naki.</p> <p>Motion to amend the Director Evaluation passed. (Y-10; N-0)</p>	The Board approved the amended Director evaluation.
<b>Maui Updates</b>	No updates or comments were made.	
<b>Public Comments</b>	No public comments were made.	
<b>Board Member Updates</b>	<p>Board member Kerrie Urosevich asked for support of the early intervention pay increases that will be requested this legislative session. She also shared that there will be an ECAS all network meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> at Ko‘olau Ballrooms with the focus being on wellness. She also encouraged support of the increased funding for a Peer Support Specialist position for the Office of Wellness and Resilience. This position would help support mothers who are currently seeking treatment for substance abuse stay with their babies so that the child does not end up in child welfare and mom continues to progress through treatment.</p> <p>Board member Ben Naki shared that Head Start has a number of proposed changes being addressed including workforce issues, salary structures, mental health, and quality improvement items. Head Start has concerns about mandates and funding and how that might affect enrollment.</p>	



	<p>Board member Erin Henderson Lacerdo shared that Jeremy Heyer from the Dept. of Health will be joining the board of directors for the Association of State and Tribal Home Visiting Initiatives.</p> <p>Chair Peters shared that HAIS is facilitating the Kahewai Summit to take place in April and a request for proposals has been made. This year’s summit will focus on trauma-informed care, wellness, resilience, and effective teaching and learning practices.</p>	
<b>Meeting Outcomes</b>	<p>Chair Peters reviewed the two main outcomes of the meeting. The first was the presentation of the board transition process as well as welcoming the two new board members. The second was the amendment of the Director’s evaluation for 2023-24.</p>	
<b>Closing</b>	<p>Chair Peters informed the board that the next meeting would include an agenda item to discuss the EOEL public pre-kindergarten program’s toilet training policy for 3-and 4-year-olds as requested during the Senate WAM briefing held on January 16, 2024.</p> <p>Board member Kerrie Urosevich closed the meeting by sharing a quote. “Cheers to the new year and another chance for us to get it right.” – Oprah Winfrey</p>	

Notes submitted by: Tara Castrovinci