

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, March 14, 2024

1:30 pm – 3:30 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: Stephanie Shipton, Dr. Sulma Gandhi, Dayna Luka (for Director Betts), Dr. Matthew Shim (for Dr. Kenny Fink), Nāpua Rosehill (for Jack Wong), Dr. Robert Peters (for Dr. Phil Bossert), Dr. Megan McCorrison, Benjamin Naki III, Dr. Kerrie Urosevich, Mei Ou, Dr. Mari Uehara, Erin Henderson Lacerdo, Ka’iulani Laehā, Kim Guieb (proxy for Stephen Schatz, for President David Lassner)

Absent: Dr. Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi)

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, Mikako Deguchi, Ku’ulei Kaluhiokalani

Public in Attendance: Aldric Ulep, Angela Miyashiro, Carol Wear, Charis Sole, Cheri Nakamura, Chevelle Davis, Chris Jackson, Deborah Zysman, Elaine Yamashita, Emma Christopherson, Hanna Lesiak, Ka’ano’i Walk, Ka’ina Bonacorsi, Lisa Martinez, Lynette Kamekona, Malia Tsuchiya, Raya Esteban, Sharon Tsuda, Vivian Eto, Christina Cox.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
Welcome/ Mission Statement/ Announcements	Chair Peters opened the meeting at 1:30 PM and asked board member Ben Naki to read the mission statement.	

Chair Bob Peters		
Review and Approve Minutes Bob Peters	Ka'iulani Laehā made a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. The motion was seconded by Megan McCorrison.	Minutes from the February meeting were approved; Yes=9, No=0
Public Comments	No public comments were made.	

**Executive Office on
Early Learning Update**
Yuuko Arikawa-Cross,
Director

Director Yuuko Arikawa-Cross shared updates from the EOEL.

- The legislative session continues with important early childhood related bills moving forward. Bills HB2683 and SB2937 repeal the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian language college at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. EOEL is providing support and testimony to both bills.
- Workforce Specialist, Ian Okamoto shared that participation in the early childhood stipend program has been growing. The highest rates of participation have been seen in community colleges as well as graduate programs. For spring term 2024, the estimated number of participants on a license track is 14. Applications close for the summer term 2024 on April 15th. More opportunities to apply for fall and spring term will be available.
- EOEL Public Pre-K application packets for the 2024-25 school year were made publicly available on March 1st. There will be a total of 92 classrooms across 74 campuses throughout Hawai'i for the 2024-25 school year.
- Early Childhood Educational Specialist, Ku'u lei Kaluhiokalani highlighted that the Pre-K team is currently working with schools who will have new classrooms for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. Orientation sessions are being held so that staff can learn more about the EOEL Public Pre-K Program coming to their campuses this fall. The state teachers are currently working on coaching and mentoring teachers, using the CLASS observation tool, as well as planning a professional collaboration day in early April and teacher work group professional learning day at the end of April.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director Arikawa-Cross shared that EOEL continues to work with the School Facilities Authority (SFA) and Bowers & Kubota to complete the 44 classroom renovations as part of the Ready Keiki Cohort 2 classroom renovation project. • Director Arikawa-Cross highlighted the process of the classroom renovation specifications. The classroom designs align with the DHS and NAEYC standards for accreditation. The classrooms are modeled to be the most ideal setting for early childhood learning. Director Arikawa-Cross also stated that community feedback has been included with regards to spaces. • EOEL has been looking into the option of having classrooms on non-HIDOE campuses. EOEL has supported bills SB3087 and HB1903 which would expand early learning programs on other state and public lands beyond the Department of Education school campuses. Both bills are still moving along in the legislature. • Lane Tsuchiyama, Institutional Analyst, shared that EOEL and ECAS have been jointly accepted to work with the Children’s Funding Project’s fiscal map project for 2024. The fiscal map is a tool for analyzing public spending at the city, county and federal level. These maps can help better understand where funding is being utilized or where there are gaps in funding. Work on the fiscal map will begin soon. • Director Arikawa-Cross highlighted the recently increased Preschool Open Doors (POD) income eligibility limits. Qualifying income limits have been increased and the current application period runs through March 28th. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hawai'i Early Childhood Accreditation Project (HECCAP) is available to those providers who are interested in engaging in the NAEYC accreditation process. • Government Affairs Specialist, Jordana Ferriera, shared the first legislative crossover passed on March 7th with 30 bills remaining active of the approximately 100 that EOEL has been monitoring. EOEL has submitted testimony on several measures pertaining to early childhood and will continue to monitor active measures being considered by the legislature. • Director Arikawa-Cross shared upcoming opportunities to take part in trauma response care through the Association for Infant Mental Health in Hawai'i (AIMHHI). Two sessions will be offered throughout April and May. • Alohi Mariava Shigeta, Program Specialist – Early Childhood State Plan, shared recent updates to the Preschool Development Grant. In order for the grant partners to focus on the annual report, they will not be providing a full update for March. Additionally, the PDG B05 partners will start providing full updates to ELB on a quarterly basis rather than monthly in order to align with the federal reporting schedule. • Director Arikawa-Cross highlighted that the Head Start Region 9 will be hosting the 2024 Hawai'i and Outer Pacific Institute from April 22-26th. The event will take place at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort and Spa. • Director Arikawa-Cross also wished current Government Affairs Specialist, Jordana Ferriera, good luck as she now embarks on her new career as the Early Childhood Coordinator for the City and County of Honolulu. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board member Ka’iulani Lachā asked how EOEL has been supporting the Hawaiian language classrooms and if there has been any progress made towards inclusion and support of those teachers and programs. Director Arikawa-Cross stated that there will be two new Hawaiian language classrooms slated to open in the 2024-25 school year. The new classrooms will be at Blanche Pope Elementary and Lāna’i Elementary . 	
<p>Governance Subcommittee Matt Shim</p>	<p>Mathew Shim addressed questions that were posed at the previous board meeting regarding the new board. He provided the following clarification to last month’s questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Question posed:</u> <i>Once interim appointments reach a quorum for the new board, which is now 5 of 9 voting members, do current de facto members step down from the board?</i> <u>Answer:</u> <i>When 9 new voting members are seated on the board a quorum can be reached and de facto members will step down.</i> <u>Question posed:</u> <i>When does the current chair step down and does the current chair remain until the new board quorum nominates and approves the chair?</i> <u>Answer:</u> <i>Yes. Until the 9 new voting members nominate and a majority of voting members approve a new chair, the current chair can remain in that role.</i> <u>Question posed:</u> <i>Do current ex officio, non-voting members need to be redesignated?</i> <u>Answer:</u> <i>No, unless a new designee is assigned the current non voting ex officio members that are seated do not need to be redesignated.</i> In addition, the change from voting members to ex officio, which were the Executive Director of the HAIS and the CEO of Kanehameha Schools, means that those members are no longer 	

	<p>voting members, because Act 170 is now operative. Current chair, Bob Peters, is in that position and will remain until a new chair is elected.</p>	
<p>ELB Legislative Advocacy Bob Peters</p>	<p>Board member Kerrie Urosevich asked the board to support bills HB1800 / SB2234 in regards to early intervention services salary increases and HB 2712 / SB3001 which is the expansion of applied behavior analysis (ABA) services to support keiki with Autism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerrie Urosevich made a motion for the board to support HB 1800 / SB2234 in support of early intervention services salary increases. The motion was seconded by Mari Uerhara. • Kerrie Urosevich made a motion for the board to support HB 2712/ SB 3001 to expand ABA services to support keiki with autism. The motion was seconded by Mari Uerhara. <p>Chair Bob Peters asked the board to support the bill SB2474 SD2 which would support paid family leave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Bob Peters made a motion for the board to support SB2474 SD2 to support paid family leave. The motion was seconded by Erin Henderson Lacerdo. Discussion was opened among board members. Board member Ka‘iulani Laehā expressed reservations in supporting the bill due to still having unanswered questions and her experiences working through staffing issues and how the bill could pose challenges on community based providers . Board member Kerrie Urosevich also expressed her questions on how this would be implemented, but gave support for the bill. Board members Erin Henderson Lacerdo and Sulma Gandhi shared their support and testimony for the bill. Board member Ben Naki stated that PACT has previously lost staff due to paid leave and support could help prevent further workforce shortages. 	<p>Motion passed Y=8, N=0. The board will provide support for HB 1800/SB 2234.</p> <p>Motion passed Y=8, N=0. The board will provide support for HB 2712/SB 3001.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Peters invited Deborah Zysman from HCAN to address board member questions and give insight into how this bill would impact the early childhood workforce. 	<p>Voting commenced and the motion to support bill SB2474 SD2 to support paid family leave was passed; Y=6, N=1.</p>
<p>Update on Bills Supported Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters shared that ELB has offered support and testimony to various early education bills including the EOEL facilities, Preschool Open Doors, priority application process, and student registry for Pre-K through 12. He stated that the board will be supporting the upcoming childcare classroom contracts pilot as well as the implementation of a child care provider subsidy and bonus program.</p>	
<p>Maui Early Childhood Updates Bob Peters</p>	<p>Ka'ina Bonacorsi, Maui County Early Childhood Resource Coordinator provided updates on the status of Maui early childhood programs and recovery efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infant and toddler center: New center opening in partnership with Princess Nāhi'ena'ena Early Head Start and Kama'āina Kids. Two temporary classroom locations have been identified. Both will serve ages 0-3 with one classroom able to serve 8 keiki, the other 18. They are currently looking to prioritize teachers who need care for their children in order to assist with workforce needs. One provider who lost their school in the wildfire has indicated that they will not make plans to reopen. However, other providers are currently assessing alternative sites for classrooms 	

	<p>and hope to be open by August. More specifics will be provided at a later date when available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding has been provided through a number of sources to help with the overall well being of families affected by wildfires. At last count families with children 0-5 still in non-congregate housing stand at approximately 200. • Developers are discussing plans for both temporary and permanent housing on west Maui and are looking for ideas as to what the communities would like to accommodate family and child care spaces. 	
Public Comments	No public comments were made.	
Board Member Updates Bob Peters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board member Matt Shim stated he will be absent for the next board meeting and will likely have a stand-in for that meeting. • Board member Dayna Luka announced that DHS Director Cathy Betts will be leaving her position in May. She will be leaving DHS to take a position as the new Executive Director of the Hawai'i State Bar Association. Governor Green has named Ryan Yamane to the new DHS Director position. 	
Meeting Outcomes	<p>Chair Peters reviewed the main outcomes of the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first outcome clarifies that now seated on the board are 9 voting members, which has changed the number required for a quorum to 5. This is the result of non voting membership changes on the Board in compliance with Act 170. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second outcome was EOEL sharing that Hawai'i has been selected for the Children's Fund Project Fiscal Mapping Project for 2024. • The third outcome states three bills have been added for ELB to support which include: HB 1800/SB2234 early intervention services salary increases; HB 2712/SB3001 expansion of ABA services to support children with autism; and SB2474 SD2 which supports paid family leave. 	
<p>Closing Bob Peters</p>	<p>Board member Kerrie Urosevich closed the meeting by sharing a quote. During a discussion with her son regarding the board and Robert's Rules of Order, he asked "Who is Robert?"</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert%27s_Rules_of_Order#:~:text=Robert%20Rule%20of%20Order%2C%20often,was%20designed%20%5B...%5D</p>	

Notes submitted by: Tara Castrovinci