

# **Early Learning Board (ELB)**

**Thursday, April 11, 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, Sulma Gandhi, Dayna Luka (for Director Betts), Matthew Shim (for Dr. Kenny Fink), Robert Peters (for Dr. Phil Bossert), Benjamin Naki III, Mei Ou, Mari Uehara, Erin Henderson Lacerdo, Kaʻiulani Laehā, Megan McCorriston

**Absent:** Dr. Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), Nāpua Rosehill (for Jack Wong), Dr. Kerrie Urosevich

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

**Public in Attendance:** Alana Bauman, Aldric Ulep, Angela Miyashiro, Carol Wear, Charis Sole, Cheri Nakamura, Chevelle Davis, Chris Jackson, Christina Cox, Dawson Carrigan, Deborah Zysman, Elaine Yamashita, Emma Christopherson, Jordana Ferriera, Kaʻanoʻi Walk, Kaiulani Laecha, Kauʻi Burgess, Keiko Nitta, Kim Guieb, Kiyohide Noguchi, Kiyomi Umezawa, Lisa Martinez, Lynette Kamekona, Malia Tsuchiya, Robyn Chun, Stacie Tonouchi, Verna Chinen, Vivian Eto, Christina Cox.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<b>MINUTES:</b>		
<b>Welcome/ Mission Statement/ Announcements</b> Chair Bob Peters	Chair Peters opened the meeting at 1:30 PM and asked board member Mei Ou to read the mission statement.	
<b>Review and Approve Minutes</b> Chair Bob Peters	Attendance was taken by Chair Peters and a quorum established. Ka'iulani Laehā made a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. The motion was seconded by Mei Ou.	Minutes from the March meeting were approved; Yes=7, No=0
<b>Public Comments</b>	No public comments were made.	

**Governance  
Subcommittee  
Matt Shim**

Governance Subcommittee Chair, Matt Shim, shared updates in regards to new board member selection and responsibilities.

- Matt Shim shared the memo that Chair Peters sent out to the Early Learning Board explaining chair responsibilities and selection process as it pertains to Act 170.
- It was determined that once the new board is in place, Chair Peters will be able to plan the election and collect nominations for the new Chairperson position. A conversation was had with the Deputy Attorney General and it was determined that the current Chair, despite being a non-voting member, can remain in the position until the new board is seated and a new Chairperson is elected.
- Board member Matt Shim made a motion to accept the chairperson selection process and eligibility requirements. The motion was seconded by board member Ka‘iulani Laehā.

Chair Peters opened the floor for discussion on the proposal.

- Board member Stephanie Shipton asked if there would be a governance subcommittee chair during execution of this process. Board member Matt Shim answered that he is the current Chair of the governance subcommittee and will continue to remain in his position as an ex-officio for the Department of Health.
- Board member Sulma Gandhi asked for clarity regarding if the ballots would be electronic due to meetings being held virtually. She also asked if self-nomination was acceptable. Both Chair Peters and Matt Shim stated that the electronic ballot option had not been discussed, however it would be necessary to make that available. Matt Shim added that a “written ballot” does not exclude email. In addition, Matt Shim stated that as long as a board member is a voting member they can nominate anyone, including themselves.

Motion was voted on and approved; Yes=8, No=0

<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning</b> Yuuko Arikawa-Cross</p>	<p>Director Yuuko Arikawa-Cross shared updates from the EOEL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Week of the Young Child is April 8-12th. Mayor Blanchiardi made an official proclamation.</li>   <li>● April is national child abuse prevention month. Director Arikawa-Cross highlighted advocacy approaches such as participating in reading child abuse prevention books, relevant to a child’s age, that educate children on what is appropriate/not appropriate and how to have a voice to speak up. Board member Dr. Mari Uehara also added that the American Academy of Pediatrics is a great resource for information on child abuse prevention.</li>   <li>● Workforce specialist, Ian Okamoto shared data and updates for the early childhood education stipend program by county. He highlighted that participation in the program has been growing steadily. Applications for the summer term closed on April 15th.</li>   <li>● Director Arikawa-Cross shared that on March 30th the KCAA hosted a presentation on the HODOE Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) which was presented by Dr. Laura Padesky of the Hawaii Department of Education. The presentation walked participants through what the KEA is seeking to assess</li> </ul>	
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	<p>and allowed participants to gain a better understanding of the KEA process and impacts on classrooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Lane Tsuchiyama, Institutional Analyst, shared legislative updates including bill SB-2937 SD1HD2 which would repeal the sunset date for the exemption of laboratory school programs of the Hawaiian Language College at UH-Hilo from state English-medium standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications, and staff training requirements. The bill continues to move through the legislative process and both House and Senate conferences will be assigned soon.</li><li>● In addition, HB 1964 HD2 SD2, establishing the Child Care Provider Subsidy and Bonus Program, continues to move through the legislature. House and Senate conferences will be announced soon.</li><li>● Funding for the early care and education system continues in the legislature with the passing of HB 1800 HD1SD1. This bill continues to include support for all classrooms previously approved by EOEL Public Pre-K expansion in fiscal year 2024-25 as well as includes two temporary Program Specialist positions to work with the PDG B-5 renewal award.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● SB 3116 SD2HD1 continues to move forward. This would amend the DHS Preschool Open Doors (POD) to allow DHS to maximize its enrollment process.</li>   <li>● Funding for Kaiapuni education, HB 2074 HD2SD1, would add 3 full-time Kaiapuni education specialists and 10 classroom teachers to the HIDOE Kaiapuni program. The bill continues to move through the legislative process and a conference committee will meet on the bill soon.</li>   <li>● EOEL has submitted 35 pieces of testimony over the last month.</li> </ul> <p>Director Arakawa-Cross gave an update on the facilities for ECE programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Pre-Plus RFP (RFP no. F24-049) continues to move through the award review process and further information on the award will be available soon.</li>   <li>● Work on the 55 Public Pre-K classrooms continues. To date 16 classrooms have been completed, 4 are being furnished, 4 are in construction, 27 are in the bidding process, and 7 are in review.</li> </ul> <p>Director Arikawa-Cross also highlighted that the EOEL Public Pre-K program application is now available online.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The online portal was launched at the beginning of April and approximately 40 applications have been received online.</li><li>● Board member Mari Uehara asked if there was any preference given to those who apply online vs. drop off the application in person. Director Arikawa-Cross answered that applications are time stamped and the applications are processed in the order received. In addition, EOEL is hoping to use the online application for data sharing with the DOE as well as using the application portal as an effective communication bridge between schools and EOEL.</li><li>● Director Arikawa-Cross outlined the dates for priority category and home school preferences. Chair Peters asked if after the priority categories are filled would EOEL be marketing to fill the remaining seats. Director Arikawa-Cross answered that EOEL would market if needed. Banners are going out to EOEL Public Pre-K schools.</li><li>● Director Arikawa-Cross also highlighted the number of applications by island. To date 33 have been received on Kaua‘i, 423 on O‘ahu, 92 on Maui, 28 on Moloka‘i, 19 on Lanai, and 138 on Hawai‘i. Also, 55% of schools with Pre-K or K throughout the state have an early learning opportunity through either EOEL or Head Start.</li><li>● EOEL also continues to support new FCIL contracts as well.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ku‘ulei Kaluhiokalani, Early Childhood Education Specialist, added that the EOEL Pre-K team has been busy with new school inductions, as well as class observations, and a professional collaboration day.</li><li>● Communications Specialist, Tara Castrovinici, shared that she attended the <i>Keiki Strong Rally</i>, along with Mikako Deguchi and Stephanie Tim-Sing from EOEL. The rally sponsored by HCAN and Hawai‘i Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance was part of Education Week at the Capitol. Advocates gathered to support quality, affordable early childhood education and care.</li><li>● Director Arikawa-Cross shared that the Office of Wellness and Resilience is requesting all government employees take the <i>Hawai‘i Workplace Wellness &amp; Quality of Life Survey</i>. The goal is to provide data and insights to improve the quality of life in our Hawai‘i communities.</li><li>● EOEL has contracted the Islander Institute to help with dialogue and discussion around the EOEL Hawaiian Language Pre-K program. EOEL is seeking feedback on the curriculum, instruction, assessment and professional development of this program. Dates for this will be announced shortly.</li><li>● Board member Ka‘iulani Laehā asked if EOEL had any updates in regards to data collected on how community providers are being impacted as a result of EOEL public pre-k classrooms.</li></ul>	
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	<p>states, territories, and tribes with funding and support from the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Child Care. States use CCDF to provide financial assistance to low-income families to access child care so they can work or attend a job training or educational program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stacie Tonouchi, DHS Childcare Subsidy Program Administrator, shared the CCDF's final rule changes. The changes were published last month and became effective on April 13th.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/occ/Overview_of_2024_CCDF_Final_Rule.pdf">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/occ/Overview_of_2024_CCDF_Final_Rule.pdf</a></p>	
<p><b>Maui Early Childhood Updates</b> Bob Peters</p>	No updates were shared.	
<p><b>Public Comments</b></p>	No public comments were made.	
<p><b>Board Member Updates</b> Bob Peters</p>	No member updates were made.	
<p><b>Chair Updates and Meeting Outcomes</b> Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters shared updates on the new board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Both Stephanie Shipton and Sulma Gandhi will be recommended for confirmation by the Senate.</li> <li>● Joni Onishi will be the representative for the County of Hawaii; Elaine Yamasha will be the representative for County of Maui; Alana Bauman will be the representative for the County of</li> </ul>	

	<p>Kaua'i; Dr. Lindsey Heathcock will represent the City and County of Honolulu; Kau'i Burgess will be at-large; Cheryl Cudiamat will be at-large</p> <p>Chair Peters stated that the current board members will end their term and the new board will be present for the May meeting. He thanked the board and the EOEL for support and commitment and noted that he will continue through June when a new Chairperson would be selected.</p> <p>Chair Peters outlined the following outcomes from the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Chair selection process was established and approved. The new Chair will be introduced at the next meeting.</li> <li>2. The encouragement of EOEL to look at the impact that Public Pre-K has on community providers.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Closing</b> Bob Peters</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM</p>	

Notes submitted by: Tara Castrovinci