
Early Learning Board meeting

— July 11, 2024 —

I. Welcome/Mission/Announcements/Introductions

II. Review, approval of minutes of 6/13/24

**III. Board member report on Early Care & Education
Workforce Symposium
*Kau'i Burgess***

IV. Information: Meeting attended as ELB chair

Lt. Governor Sylvia Luke's Ready Keiki meeting on June 27, 2024.

- Attended via Zoom and observed, as this was my first meeting.
- Important points of information include:
 - New Ready Keiki classrooms opening this school year. EOEL now taking online applications as well as paper.
 - Increase in funding to Preschool Open Doors (POD) and opening application period up has resulted in increase in applications.
 - School Facilities Authority (SFA) new staff, Executive Director Ricky Fujitani and Policy & Program officer Cheri Nakamura.
 - Ongoing challenge of not enough qualified staff for DHS licensed programs. Programs have closed classrooms due to lack of staff.
 - Other initiatives were mentioned. Link to LT. Gov.'s site is on EOEL website.

Information: Chair's involvement in various groups.

- Hawai'i Careers with Young Children (HCYC), a coalition of entities working on a coherent, inclusive professional development (PD) system for early childhood educators. Co-chair of Framework workgroup with Brenda Watanabe of Hawai'i CC.
- Compensation Design Team member (group organized by Dr. Terry Lock's ECE3 program at UH Mānoa). Working on a plan to increase compensation for early childhood educators in Hawai'i.
- Dept. of Human Services (DHS) Child Care Advisory Committee, voting member representing Maui County.
- University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) Early Childhood Education AS Degree program Advisory Committee.
- Professional Development Specialist (PDS) independent contractor for Council for Professional Recognition, doing observations of Child Development Associate (CDA) credential candidates.

V. EOEL Executive Director's report

VI. Information: Chair's expectations of board members, culture of board

- Have an inquiry mindset. Ask informed questions. (*Anne Douglass, 6/29/24*)
- Come informed. Please read reports before the meeting (placed in board materials page 48 hours before. <https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/early-learning-board-meeting-materials/>)
- Meeting times can be used for discussion and decision making. Not all written reports require decision making.
- County representatives should be informed about early learning in their county. County coordinators, higher education faculty are resources. Having county representation is a big shift from previous board composition.
- Shifting in our thinking from seeing early educators as objects of change to agents of change. (*Anne Douglass, 6/29/24*)
- For board functioning, working on by-laws to send to Governance committee. (Mahalo to Lane Tsuchiyama).

Break - 10 minutes

VII. Board responsibilities and committees

1. Directing EOEL on how best to meet the developmental and educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten.

Responsible: Currently, ELB as a whole.

2. Providing recommendations to the office on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs.

Responsible: Currently, ELB as a whole. Does this need to be assigned to a committee? *Suggested: Early Learning System Performance committee.*

Responsibilities continued

3. Promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children.

Responsible: Currently, not clear how this is met. Does this need to be assigned to a committee? *Suggested: subcommittee of possible Early Learning System Performance?*

4. Appointing the director of the office and evaluating the director on an annual basis.

Responsible: Currently handled by Governance standing committee.

Current standing committees

- Governance (Members: Matt Shim (chair), Rochelle Mahoe, Dayna Luka, Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Elaine Yamashita)
 - Addresses how ELB is governed
- Finance (Needs members. Stephen Schatz, Yuuko, Elaine)
 - Addresses finances of EOEL/ELB. Should this committee expand its scope to include
- Would proposed *Early Learning System Performance* committee work?
- Previous ad hoc subcommittee on Early Educator Workforce Equity submitted a report in Dec. 2022 which resulted in the only current policy (1-101) adopted by ELB. This policy was part of the basis for 2023-24 *Framework of Policy Priorities*. *Should this subcommittee continue given that the workforce shortage is still a pressing issue? Could it be under proposed Early Learning System Performance?*

**VIII. Amending previously approved Chairperson and
Vice-chair limits.**
Governance committee

IX. Proposed selection process for Vice-chairperson *Governance committee*

X. Addressing 6/13/24 public request to add agenda item

- Mahalo for the request. It brought up the point that ELB needs a process for addressing requests.
- This is being worked on as part of the by-laws.

Review agenda outcomes/announcements/closing

- Quote for today: from Marie Curie:
 - *You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all humanity, our particular duty being to aid those to who we think we can be most useful.*
- Next meeting August 8, 2024.