

Early Learning Board (ELB)

Thursday, June 13, 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, Alanna Bauman, Cheryl Cudiamat, Joni Onishi, Lindsey Heathcock, Dr. Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), Elaine Yamashita, Stephen Schatz (for President David Lassner) Nāpua Rosehill (for Jack Wong)

Board Members Absent: Kau‘i Burgess

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

Public in Attendance: Christina Cox, Mari Uehara, Aldric Ulep, Angela Miyashiro, Anne Horiuchi, Barbara DeBaryshe, Cheri Nakamura, Chevelle Davis, Chris Jackson, Corie Tanida, Dana Vela, Deborah Zysman, Edel Baguio-Larena, Kaiulani Laeha, Kevin Costa, Kim Guieb, Linda Elento, Lynette Kamekona, Ronald Rodriguez, Stacie Tonouchi, Terry Lock, Treena Becker, Vivian Eto

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
MINUTES:		
I. Welcome/ Mission Statement/ Announcements Chair Bob Peters	Chair Peters opened the meeting at 1:35 PM and read the mission statement. Attendance was taken by Chair Peters and a quorum established.	
II. Review and Approve Minutes Chair Bob Peters	Chair Peters motioned to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Elaine Yamishita seconded the motion.	Minutes from the May meeting were approved. Yes=7, No=0

**III.
Board Member Report on
Event Attended: *HIDOE
Early Learning
Conference on June 4,
2024.***

Alanna Bauman
(on behalf of Kau‘i
Burgess)

Board member, Alanna Bauman shared her experience from the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) Early Learning Conference that took place on June 4th at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

- The conference was hosted by the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design.
- The purpose of the conference was to share best practices, classroom experiences, as well as share helpful instructional strategies and teaching ideas for early learning educators.
- The conference was attended by several board members including Alanna Bauman, Kau‘i Burgess, Rochelle Mahoe, Nāpua Rosehill, and Stephanie Shipton.

Chair Peters asked Board member, Rochelle Mahoe, if HIDOE is pursuing a structured reading (literacy) approach. Mahoe answered that HIDOE is indeed and recently held a literacy leadership summit. Mahoe added that the presenters of this summit were looking at ways to make literacy a “fun skill”, rather than a “drill type skill” while still engaging young readers and meeting state literacy standards.

Board member Cheryl Cudiamat shared her concerns over recent developmental goals and ideas being played out on the HIDOE level.

**IV.
Executive Office on Early
Learning Updates**
Yuuko Arikawa-Cross

Legislative Session Update:

Lane Tsuchiyama, EOEL Institutional Analyst, shared information on the legislative session that ended on May 3, 2024.

- Bills of importance to EOEL and early learning that passed for further consideration by the Governor included:
 - **SB 3087 SD1 HD1 CD1** *Relating to Early Learning*; Would allow EOEL to establish early learning programs in other available public buildings through public-private partnerships.
 - **SB 3116 SD2 HD1 CD1** *Relating to the Preschool Open Doors Program*; Amendments to HRS Section 346-181 would allow the Dept. of Human Services (DHS) to manage its Preschool Open Doors Program to maximize enrollment in the POD program.
 - **SB 2937 SD1 HD2 CD2** *Relating to Access to Learning*; Amendments to exempt Hawaiian Language laboratory school programs from the standards, assessments, performance ratings, staff qualifications and staff training requirements in Act 46.
 - **HB 2074 HD 2 SD1 CD1** *Relating to Kaiapuni Education*; Makes appropriations to HODOE to support positions in the Kaiapuni education program.
 - Legislature passed **HB 1800 HD1 SD1 CD1**, *Relating to Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2024*.
 - Makes no changes to the EOEL Base Budget approved.
 - Adds 2 Temporary Positions to the EOEL to assist with the PDG B-5 grant.

<p>Public PreK Expansion and Early Learning Board Roadmap to Achieve the Objectives of Act 46 and Act 210 (SLH 2021) related to early learning and early childhood care opportunities in the State of Hawaii by 2032</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board member Elaine Yamashita asked if EOEL would be giving an update on any other bills that were supported during this legislative session. Chair Peters answered that they would only be giving reports on bills that survived and moved forward, not bills that were killed. <p>Workforce Development Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funds are still available for the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program. It is available to anyone looking to join the early learning field or looking to make progress on credentials in the early learning field. ● Applications must be received by July 15th for the fall term. <p>Facilities for PreK Classrooms Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 20 Classrooms are <i>Complete</i> (of 55 rooms asked for in the 2023 session) ● 26 Classrooms are <i>In Construction</i> ● 7 Classrooms are in <i>Bidding</i> stage ● 1 Classroom is undergoing <i>Site Assessment</i> ● King Kamehameha III, is a temporary site location will have no renovation work but will have new furniture and still be very similar to the other classrooms. <p>EOEL PreK Applications Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To date, over 400 applications have been received through the new online portal. Each island has received the following number of applications through May: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kaua'i (5 classrooms) has received 103 applications ○ O'ahu (56 classrooms) has received 707 applications ○ Maui (9 classrooms) has received 108 applications ○ Moloka'i (3 classrooms) has received 49 applications ○ Lana'i (2 classrooms) has received 27 applications ○ Hawai'i (16 classrooms) has received 230 applications 	
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Funding for Early Care and Education:

- Partners in Education has been awarded Family-Child Interaction Learning Programs in Hawai‘i (FCIL) contracts for Nanakuli Elementary and Kailua Elementary schools.
- Contract will begin on July 1, 2024 and continue through July 20, 2025 with annual extensions. The contract amount is \$400,000.

Program Quality Improvement and Maintenance:

- EOEL, Dept. of Human Services (DHS), University of Hawaii (UH) and members of the early learning board will attend the QIS Summit (Quality Improvement Systems) in Minneapolis August 6-8th. The summit will address state, community and tribal quality improvement leaders developing policy, designing and implementing and evaluating QIS to effectively work with families and providers to create equitable policies and processes that will achieve positive outcomes for children.

Preschool Development Grant (PDG B-5)

- EOEL will be adding two new positions in conjunction with the PDG B-5 grant:
 - Program Specialist will be hired to assist with the creation of the new state plan and PDG B-5 timelines and project deliverables.
 - Family Support Specialist will plan, organize and coordinate family engagement and outreach activities to make families and caregivers more aware of the programs, services and resources available through the state’s early learning system in the future.

Director Arikawa-Cross also welcomed Secretary Esther Kim to the EOEL staff. Esther comes to EOEL from the Dept. of Education.

	<p>Chair Peters asked if applications for the Public PreK program have increased this year. Director Arikawa-Cross answered that applications have significantly increased for a variety of reasons. She credited the work of her staff, board members and others in the early learning and care community who have helped to elevate early learning in the public eye. In addition, she stated that programs such as Preschool Open Doors (POD), Public PreK and Charter Schools opportunities have also given many families options that were not available in the past.</p> <p>Board member Rochelle Mahoe commented that in her complex area 5 new classrooms will be opening. She stated that it has been easier to find high-quality instructors for these new classrooms than in years past.</p> <p>Board member Cheryl Cudiamat asked Director Arikawa-Cross for clarification on the age structure of the EOEL classrooms, specifically if both 3 and 4 year-olds would be in the same classroom. Director Arikawa-Cross answered that classrooms would be multi-ages and both 3 and 4 year-olds in same classrooms together.</p>	
<p>Public Comment Opportunity</p>	<p>Public comment was made by Linda Elento.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Elento asked if EOEL works with early intervention for children 0-3 and the Preschool Open Doors Program. ● EOEL Director, Yuuko Arikawa-Cross answered the question and explained the two primary functions of EOEL: Assisting with the implementation of the EOEL Public PreK program and assisting with the coordination of early care and education throughout Hawai‘i. She added that Preschool Open Doors is facilitated by the Department of Human Service (DHS) and that early intervention is primarily run through the Department 	

	<p>of Health. Both the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services sit on the Early Learning Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Elento stated that she has presented testimony in the past to other agencies. She feels the state is ready to allow parents to be able to continue early intervention in lieu of special education services. She asked the board to consider adding this to future board agendas for further discussion. 	
<p>V. Public Board Member Roles and Responsibilities Randy Moore UH Board of Regents , Past Chair</p>	<p>Chair Peters welcomed Randy Moore, Interim Deputy Superintendent of Operations for the Hawaii Department of Education, and University of Hawaii Board of Regents, Past Chair.</p> <p>Moore shared a presentation for the board focused on the roles and responsibilities of each board member and the board as a whole.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moore reiterated that the board’s job is governance and not management. • The board is responsible for setting the mission, goals, and strategic direction and desired outcomes. • He also touched on the purpose of Sunshine Laws and the impact on local boards. 	
<p>VI. Maui Fire Impacts to Early Care and Learning</p>	<p>Board member Elaine Yamashita shared an update that at least one program in Lahaina will not be reopening. She stated staffing was, and continues to be, an issue in Lahaina after the wildfire.</p>	
<p>VII. Election of Board Chair Matt Shim, Governance Subcommittee</p>	<p>Governance Subcommittee Chair, Matt Shim discussed the process of electing a new board chairperson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The chair nominations opened on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at the early learning board meeting and closed at 4:30 PM on Friday, May 24th. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two nominations were made, one was a self-nomination and the other was made for another candidate. The Governance Subcommittee did not receive a verification of interest from the nominated candidate, and therefore one name was added to the ballot. • Shim emailed the ballots to each board member, with the exception of Kau‘i Burgess who is not eligible to vote due to her still being active on another board at this time. <p>Elaine Yamashita thanked Chair Peters for his years of work and dedication to the board.</p>	<p>Elaine Yamashita received the nomination and was unanimously elected to the position of Early Learning Board Chair.</p> <p>Yes=7, No=0</p>
<p>VIII. Outcomes and Closing Bob Peters</p>	<p>Chair Peters congratulated Elaine Yamashita on her newly elected role. He thanked the board and the EOEL staff for their dedication to early education and young children and wished all the very best moving forward.</p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 3:04 PM.</p>	

Notes submitted by: Tara Castrovinci
Early Learning Board Meeting for 06/13/2024