

**EARLY LEARNING BOARD (ELB)  
GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, November 14, 2024

1:30-4:00 pm

At CEED Center, KCAA

2707 South King Street, Honolulu HI 96826

Or via Zoom Link

The Meeting Chair will preside at CEED Center for the meeting.

**Board Members Present:**

Elaine Yamashita, <i>Chair</i> Stephanie Shipton, <i>City and County of Honolulu</i> Alanna Souza, <i>Kaua'i County</i> Dayna Luka, (for Director Ryan Yamane), <i>Department of Human Services</i> Joni Onishi, <i>Hawai'i County</i> Kau'i Burgess, <i>At-Large</i> Stephen Schatz (for President David Lassner), <i>University of Hawai'i</i>	Nāpua Rosehill (for Jack Wong), <i>Kamehameha Schools</i> Matthew Shim, PhD (for Dr. Kenny Fink) <i>Department of Health</i> Dr. Rochelle Mahoe (for Superintendent Hayashi), <i>Hawai'i Department of Education</i> Dr. Sulma Gandhi, <i>At-Large</i> Dr. Lindsey Heathcock, <i>City and County of Honolulu</i>
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**Board Members Absent:**

Dr. Phil Bossert, <i>Hawaii Association of Independent Schools</i> Cheryl Cudimat, <i>At-Large</i>	
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**Executive Office on Early Learning Staff Present:**

Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, <i>Director</i> Kevin Kabasawa Tara Castrovinci Lane Tsuchiyama Mikako Deguchi Alohilani Maiava Shigeta	Dr. Ephraim Schwab Ian Okamoto Ku'ulei Kaluhiokalani Dr. Remy Pages Jennifer Chow Stephanie Tim Sing
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**Public in Attendance:**

Kaina Bonacorsi Leah McRae Nicole High Robyn Chun Lynette Kamekona Vivian Eto Chriis Jackson	Angela Miyashiro Richmond Luzar Aldric Ulep Jared Kimura Ronald Rodriguez Kevin Costa Kim Guieb
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Ben Naki Weny Kalani	Mei Ou Kiyomi Umezawa
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## MINUTES

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
<p><b>Welcome and Roll Call</b> <i>Chair Yamashita</i></p>	<p>Chair Yamashita called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.</p> <p>Board member Lindsey Heathcock read the vision and the mission statement.</p> <p>Chair Yamashita announced that a folder has been created for board members in the shared board drive containing documents from the board retreat.</p> <p>Chair Yamashita also clarified that members of the public can contribute to discussion if board members feel that person's contribution would be beneficial. A board member must move to join in the discussion going forward.</p> <p>Chair Yamashita took roll and a quorum was established.</p>	
<p><b>Review and Approval of Minutes</b> <i>Chair Yamashita</i></p>	<p>Kau'i Burgess made a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting. The motion was seconded by Joni Onishi.</p>	<p>Vote was taken and a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting passed. Yes=6, No=0</p>
<p><b>Executive Office on Early Learning Updates</b> <i>Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director</i></p>	<p>Director Arikawa-Cross shared updates from the Executive Office on Early Learning.</p> <p><u>Workforce Updates:</u> Ian Okamoto, Workforce Development Specialist, shared updates on the Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program. He shared that recipient numbers have declined due to fewer students attending college during summer session.</p> <p>Ian also shared a slide showing the breakdown of stipend awards based on setting/type of program during each term. To date \$335,364.35 has been awarded.</p> <p><u>Facilities Updates:</u> Director Arikawa-Cross shared sites currently being evaluated by School Facilities Authority (SFA) that would require minor repairs and updates, "hub" (quads of 4 classrooms together or double quads of 8</p>	

spaces), and facilities that were interested, however deemed not feasible.

Funding for Early Care & Education:

Dr. Remy Pages, Research Statistician, shared the RAPID Survey Project that was recently launched.

Director Arikawa-Cross shared that the survey will be open from the 1st to the 22nd of each month and will be pushed out to partners at the beginning of each month going forward.

Program Quality Improvement:

Ku'ulei Kaluhiokalani shared updates from the public pre-k classrooms which include professional learning days with topics selected based on trends and data collected on classroom level. Pre-k teachers, administrators, and partners are taking part in professional community days; this year's topic is *Creating a Caring, Equitable Community of Learners: Supporting Children Through Positive Guidance*. State Office Teachers are currently doing classroom observations assessing the quality of teacher-child interactions.

Director Arikawa-Cross introduced EOEL's new Government Affairs Specialist, Jennifer Chow.

Tara Castrovinci, Communications Specialist, offered updates on the new EOEL website that should launch in January. She also shared that EOEL has been producing a monthly newsletter and encouraged those not receiving the newsletter to contact her to be added to the list of recipients.

Ready Keiki backpack distribution events continue to take place alongside Lt. Governor Luke and her team. Backpacks are being given to children in new EOEL classrooms and contain a book, crayons, notebook and water bottle.

Mikako Deguchi, Institutional Analyst, shared that EOEL staff recently attended the Department of Health (DOH) Early Intervention Partner meeting that took place at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport Conference Center. The meeting included Part C providers, administrators, community partners and families and aimed to improve the system and strive for positive outcomes for children receiving services.

Support for Families:

Dr. Ephraim Schwab, Head Start Collaboration Office (HSCO) Director, shared that EOEL and Head Start will once again participate in the USDA Food and Farm Workers Relief Payment Program. The program provides \$600 to farm workers who were displaced or working during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also shared that the 2024 Region 9 Head Start Family Engagement and Cultural Effectiveness Conference recently was held at the Prince Waikiki in Honolulu.

<p><b>PATCH presentation</b> Leah McRae and Nicole Higa</p>	<p>PATCH (People Attentive to Children) representative Leah McRae shared a presentation on the new PATCH registry for licensed providers. The registry's purpose is to connect early learning professionals with licensing, professional development, quality initiatives, growth opportunities, and track and report career progression over time.</p> <p>PATCH representative Nicole Higa presented on the HELP resource kit platform which contains handbooks, templates, and ECE operations.</p> <p>Discussion was had regarding workforce communication and outreach going forward.</p>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>Comment was provided by Kaina Bonacorsi regarding timing and coordination of surveys being distributed to families.</p>	
<p><b>Unfinished Business: Approval of proposed bylaws for board</b> Governance Subcommittee: Matthew Shim</p>	<p>Matthew Shim made a motion to approve the proposed bylaws presented at the October meeting. The motion was seconded by Joni Onishi.</p> <p>Questions and discussion followed. Edits were suggested.</p> <p>Matthew Shim made a motion to include the corrections and edits suggested to the bylaws. Amendments will be submitted to the board for approval. Joni Onishi seconded the motion.</p>	<p>Vote was taken to approve the proposed bylaws as they were presented in October and did not pass. Yes=0, No=6</p> <p>Vote was taken to approve the proposed bylaws with suggested corrections and passed. Yes=6, No=0</p>
<p><b>Unfinished Business: Clarification on proposed bill for Head Start Collaboration Director</b> Chair Yamashita</p>	<p>Chair Yamashita reviewed the proposed bill Sec. 302L-1.6(b) which would include adding Head Collaboration Director as a non-voting member of the board.</p> <p>Comments and discussion by board members followed.</p> <p>Chair Yamashita moved to entertain a motion to approve submission of the edited bill for the Administrative Package.</p> <p>Joni Onishi made a motion to submit the edited version for the Administrative Package. Lindsey Heathcock seconded the motion.</p> <p>Comments and discussion by board members followed.</p>	<p>Vote was taken to submit the edited bill as part of the Administrative Package and passed. Yes=6, No=0</p>

<b>Public Comment</b>	Kaina Bonacorsi asked for clarification on the proposed bill. Chair Yamashita addressed the question and discussion followed.	
<b>Unfinished Business:</b> <b>Finance Committee:</b> <b>Proposed salary adjustment for EOEL Director.</b> <i>Stephen Schatz</i>	<p>Proposed salary adjustment for the EOEL Director was made at the previous meeting. Suggestion was to adjust Director’s salary to align with the similar position in the HGEA bargaining unit 6,(Educational Officers) It was suggested that adjustments be made not only to the salary going forward, but also do a retroactive adjustment to July 1, 2023.</p> <p>Questions, comments and discussion by board members followed.</p> <p>Stephanie Shipton made a motion to approve the finance committee’s proposed salary adjustment for EOEL Director. Motion was seconded by Kau`i Burgess.</p>	<p>Vote was taken to approve the finance committee’s proposed salary adjustment for EOEL Director and passed. Yes=6, No=0</p>
<b>Closing</b>	Chair Yamashita adjourned the meeting at 4:08 pm.	

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