

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

Thursday, December 12, 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> 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> Dr. Phil Bossert, <i>Hawaii Association of Independent Schools</i> Cheryl Cudiamat, <i>At-Large</i>
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Board Members Absent:

Stephanie Shipton, <i>City and County of Honolulu</i>	Alanna Souza, <i>Kaua'i County</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:

Edel Baguio-Larena Robyn Chun Kevin Costa Christina Cox	Raya Esteban Jordana Ferreira Kim Guieb Mitzie Higa
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Chevelle Davis Lynette Kamekona Terry Lock Angela Miyashiro Alexandria Sisson Felicia Villalobos Melodie Vega	Danicia Honda Chris Jackson Richmond Luzar Mei Ou Charis Sole Malia Tsuchiya Caroline Soga
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MINUTES

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Welcome and Roll Call <i>Chair Yamashita</i>	Chair Yamashita called the meeting to order at 1:34pm Board member Sulma Gandhi read the vision and the mission statements. Chair Yamashita took roll and a quorum was established.	
Review and Approval of Minutes <i>Chair Yamashita</i>	Kau'i Burgess made a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. The motion was seconded by Sulma Gandhi.	Vote was taken and a motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting passed. Yes=5, No=0
Executive Office on Early Learning Updates <i>Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director</i>	Director Arikawa-Cross shared updates from the Executive Office on Early Learning. Expansion: Workforce Development and Support Director Arikawa-Cross shared that the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) approved the expansion of Chaminade University School counseling license to include a pre-school field. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In DOE public schools the counseling license is for K-12 and does not cover Pre-K. Counselors have raised concern over servicing pre-k children when their license is only for K-12. Facilities update: O'ahu has a new inclusive park in Kaka'ako at Kolowalu park in partnership with the Hawaii Community Development Authority. This is O'ahu's first inclusive playground for our children who might have special needs.	
	Funding for Early Care & Education: Director Arikawa-Cross shared RAPID survey updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Across all the source links we received 43 valid responses. • 2700+ invalid responses came through the child care advisory QR code, STEM social media link, and also the Facebook link. 	

- Purpose of the RAPID survey is to hear from parents of children under 6 years old.
- She shared that every month for 6 months the survey QR code/link will be changed so that they can start to create our next state plan.

Public comment: Ka'ina Bonacorsi, Maui County Early Childhood Resource Coordinator, shared that the counties were also sending out a family survey for the PDG B-5 grant at the same time.

It was noted that this type of issue would be one that could be addressed by the proposed "Communication & Collaboration" subcommittee.

In September, the board approved EOEL's budget request. Budget and finance did not originally include EOEL's requests in the budget, however after rebuttal to Governor Green's office, EOEL's requests have now been included in the budget package.

Expansion of the Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) program was not included in the Governor's budget request.

Program Quality Improvement and Maintenance:

Director Arikawa-Cross addressed the roadmap to the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA):

- The assessment details a comparison between 2023-2024 which are not the same cohorts of children.
- Dr. Remy Pages presented a different type of analysis of the KEA data. Dr. Pages shared a graph displaying the school level impacts of the pre-k program on the KEA and discussion followed.
- Further information can be found at: [\(2024-2025\) BOARD PRESENTATIONS](#)

Health, Mental Health, Nutrition:

Mikako Deguchi, Institutional Analyst, shared the Hawai'i Dental Service (HDS) Foundation grant project focused on dental decay prevention using a multi-generational approach. Educational material will be sent out to language translation services.

Dr. Ephraim Schwab, Head Start Collaboration Director, shared the continuation of Head Start and EOEL's partnership with the Farm and Food Workers Relief Program.

- Preliminary talks are underway with National Migrant Head Start and the USDA to bring the program to Kaua'i island.

Director Arikawa-Cross introduced Saesha Seguirant, Office Assistant. She will be the point of contact and she will be tracking the board member terms, monitoring the ELB drive and checking the board's email and routing to the Chair. She will also assist with running the meetings and taking notes.

Mikako Deguchi, Institutional Analyst, gave an update about the status of Act 210 (2021).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently EOEL is working with partner agencies Department of Health, Department of Education and Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission to update the August report and satisfy the requirements of section 26-6(10), HRS. • Work on the report is ongoing but DHS and EOEL appear to be on track to meet the submission by the deadline. • Update was also given on the status of the NIEER report. • Further information can be found at: (2024-2025) BOARD PRESENTATIONS <p>Director Arikawa-Cross shared her experience attending the Hunt Institute Early Childhood Leadership Summit in September, including the process of fiscal mapping that could be beneficial to Hawaii.</p> <p>PDGB-5 Update: Alohilani Maiava Shigeta, Program Specialist, shared updates on the PDGB-5 renewal grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information can be found at: (2024-2025) BOARD PRESENTATIONS 	
<p>Update on ECE Registered Apprenticeships as a Compensation Strategy <i>Dr. Terry Lock Melodie Vega Caroline Soga Jordana Ferreira</i></p>	<p>Dr. Terry Lock asked Chair Yamashita if Jordana Ferreira, not named as an original presenter, could join as a participant in the presentation.</p> <p>A motion was made by Joni Onishi to suspend the rules and allow Jordana Ferreira to join the presentation. Motion was seconded by Kau'i Burgess.</p> <p>Melodie Vega, Dr. Terry Lock, Caroline Soga and Jordana Ferreira presented updates on the ECE apprenticeship training programs including changes and updates to current programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further information can be found at: https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/early-learning-board-meeting-recordings/ 	<p>Suspension of rules passed. Yes= 5, No=0</p>
<p>Vice Chair Election <i>Matt Shim</i></p>	<p>Matthew Shim shared that there was one candidate for the Vice Chair position, Stephanie Shipton.</p> <p>Stephanie Shipton will be the new Vice Chair of the board.</p>	<p>Vote was taken to accept the Vice Chair nomination and passed. Yes=5, No=0</p>
<p>Unfinished Business: Report on Proposed Standing Subcommittee to handle Legislative Matters</p>	<p>Matthew Shim shared that Permissible Interaction Groups (PIGs), which would include a subcommittee to handle legislative matters, are not subject to Sunshine Laws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When needed the PIG or standing committee should be given authority to act without the involvement of the full board. <p>Instead of a subcommittee of the board, the Governance committee</p>	

<p><i>Governance Subcommittee:</i> <i>Matthew Shim</i></p>	<p>agreed that the previous practice of the EOEL Executive Director, Government Affairs Specialist and Chair of ELB meet weekly during legislative sessions to address current issues.</p>	
<p>2023-24 Framework Policies as a Base for 2025 <i>Chair Yamashita</i></p>	<p>Chair Yamashita suggested that EOEL use the current framework as a basis to support 2025 legislation.</p> <p>Motion was made by Kau'i Burgess to use the current framework as a basis to support upcoming legislation. Motion was seconded by Lindsey Heathcock.</p>	<p>Vote was taken and a motion to approve the framework policy for 2025 passed. Yes= 5, No=0</p>
<p>Update on Possible Family Council <i>Chair Yamashita</i></p>	<p>Chair Yamashita shared that she has been advised that Hawai'i revised statutes do not give ELB or EOEL power to create an attached entity such as a Family Council. An alternative option would be to form a subcommittee of the board rather than a council.</p> <p>Discussion was had by board members. It was agreed that having EOEL compile a list of organizations with family entities that could be tapped for feedback when needed would work.</p>	
<p>Unfinished Business: EOEL Executive Director Evaluation Criteria <i>Matthew Shim</i></p>	<p>Criteria for evaluation of the EOEL Director was presented at the October meeting, however was not voted on.</p> <p>Matthew Shim made a motion to approve the EOEL Director evaluation as presented to the board in October. Joni Onishi seconded the motion.</p>	<p>Vote was taken to approve the evaluation criteria of the EOEL Director and passed. Yes=5, No=0</p>
<p>Proposed salary schedule for EOEL Executive Director <i>Matthew Shim</i></p>	<p>Governance chair Matthew Shim shared the 12/12/24 memo from the committee with a proposed salary schedule for the EOEL Executive Director.</p> <p>The proposal was discussed, and will be voted on in the January 2025 meeting.</p>	
<p>Unfinished Business: Harm To Students Registry <i>Phil Bossert</i></p>	<p>Phil Bossert shared information about the Harm To Students Registry that was signed into law by Governor Green in July.</p> <p>The registry requires all public and private schools in the state to check if any of their faculty staff volunteers or contractors are on the registry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is primarily oriented to sexual offenses, but also includes other physical and psychological offenses. • Any person placed on the registry may not be hired by any public, private, or charter school. Any/all faculty staff, volunteers, and contractors must be cleared prior to hiring. 	

	Discussion by board members addressed the need for DHS to have access to the list in order to assure that someone listed would not be able to be employed in a DHS licensed program. DHS representative Dayna Luka volunteered to consult with the DHS deputy attorney general to determine the most effective way to do this.	
Closing	Chair Yamashita adjourned the meeting at 4:05 pm.	