

**ACT 14: Early Learning Council
Hanahauoli School – Professional Development Center
Thursday, February 16, 2012
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

Council members in attendance:

Julie Morita (for Pankaj Bhanot), Kaina Bonacorsi, Lynn Cabato, Deliana Loretta Fuddy, Christine Jackson, Charles Larson, Dee Jay Mailer, Steve Shiraki (for Kathryn Matayoshi), Kanoe Naone, Melodie Vega (for Lora Perry), Robert Peters, Angela Thomas

Absent:

Linda Johnsrud, Pamela Perkins

I. Opening and Welcome

- Meeting called to order by Chairperson Robert Peters at 1:41 p.m.
- Ms. Lynn Cabato was introduced as the ELC’s Head Start Provider Representative. Governor N. Abercrombie appointed L. Cabato in February, 2012.
- Today’s meeting will end by 3:45 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of 01/19/12 meeting were approved.
- Minutes of 12/15/11 meeting were amended as follows:
- Regarding the Collective Impact Work Group – the 5 agencies approached Governor Abercrombie with the idea of forming a work group to analyze data to inform early childhood policy issues.

III. Legislative Education Week (T. Lock)

- T. Lock announced the week of 03/12 as Education Week at the Legislature.
- The ELC has an opportunity to share early childhood successes and challenges with legislators during this event.
- Topics (which could be designed as “centers”) may include: ELC Framework, early learning planning, junior kindergarten, income tax check-off legislation, and each county’s early learning and development needs.
- Volunteers are needed to plan for and help at the event.
- The ELC’s day is Thursday, March 15 – 9:30-11:00 a.m. (8:30 a.m. set up) in Room 225 at the State Capitol.

IV. Discussion of Early Learning Legislation (T. Lock/S. Teves)

- Bills have passed through the Education Committees and are moving forward to the Finance/Ways and Means Committees.
- SB 2545
 - Components of the bill:
 - Establish Executive Office of Early Learning (OEL) – responsible to ensure public/private partnerships, administratively attached to the Department of Education, creates and implements early learning plan for targeted 4-year olds, manages Pre-Plus statewide sites.
 - Establish the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) to replace the ELC.
 - Repeal Junior Kindergarten at the end of SY 2013-2014.
 - Require children eligible to enroll in kindergarten to be at least 5 years of age on July 31 of the school year starting with the SY 2014-2015.
 - Make an appropriation (\$500,000) to the Executive OEL.
 - ELC support of SB 2545
 - Supports establishing the OEL.
 - Requests more clarity on the ELC transforming to the ELAB.
 - Supports the delay of repealing junior kindergarten and must include service and funding plans for the late-born children.
- HB 2728 – income tax check off funds for Early Learning Trust Fund.
 - ELC must support and include the need to expand support of dedicated, reliable and continuous funding sources.
 - Senator S. Chun-Oakland suggested all early learning funding sources should be placed in one trust fund to avoid competing against other funds dealing with children’s safety, health, and ready to learn initiatives.
- HB 2519 – Governor’s bill to fund the Executive OEL
 - ELAB’s role will be advisory to the OEL’s Director on Hawaii’s early learning and development system.
 - Statements/comments regarding ELAB:
 - Transforming to an advisory role may not impact early learning policy decisions.
 - Need more information about what it means to be in an “advisory” role.
 - ELC with an Executive Director is less likely to get funded than an Executive Office with a Director.
 - Current ELC Sub-Committee structure should continue with OEL staff support, functions of ELC will shift to OEL.
 - Suggestion: keep joint private and public chair leadership for the advisory board.
 - Explicit language to define the agency’s level of participation and presence on the board is important in building the board’s successful relationship with each other.
 - Early learning forward movements require many agencies working collectively and collaboratively.
 - Memorandum of Understanding can be signed to bring clarity to roles.
 - When the State Advisory Council was established through the Head Start Act, roles and responsibilities were very explicit.

- OEL's Director will be participate in the Governor's Cabinet and appointed by the Governor.
- New additions to the ELAB include a parent representative, a representative from the Hawaii chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a representative of home visiting program providers, and a representative from the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council.
- Senator J. Tokuda compared the ELAB to the Executive Office of Aging's advisory board.
- Current legislators on committees may not continue in the 2013 Legislative session due to anticipated reapportionment and election year.
- ELAB will continue to follow Sunshine Law procedures as a statutory-created advisory board.
- Tasks for 03/15 ELC meeting:
 - Governance Sub-Committee should look and report on different models of advisory boards.
 - Invite Senator J. Tokuda to discuss details of an advisory board roles and responsibilities.

V. Discussion of Department of Health (DOH) Legislation (D. Fuddy)

- HB 2516 and SB 2778 are both appropriation bills for early childhood obesity prevention.
 - Components include collect and analyze data, increase awareness of early childhood obesity health implications, promote best practices through community-based initiatives, and establish a task force to develop and recommend legislation for childhood obesity prevention.
- SB 3029 – Sugar sweetened beverage tax bill
 - Tax proceeds would go to community health and trauma centers.
 - DOH supports the tax to be the dedicated funding source for childhood obesity and oral health.
- ELC supports the bills.
- S. Teves suggested ELC submit testimonies for all DOH and DHS related bills. Dave Tom (Good Beginnings Alliance) have been tracking bills and emailing the information 2-3 times a week. The ELC appreciates D. Tom's efforts to help the Council track the early learning bills in the Legislature.

VI. ELC SUB-COMMITTEE STRUCTURE/WORK PLANS (DJ. Mailer)

- ELC sub-committee structure will not be revised until a decision is made on transforming the ELC to the ELAB.
- The Quality Sub-Committee (headed by Kaina Bonacorsi, Mike Fahey, and Kathy Murphy) will assist with the Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) and oversee connectivity to the ELC Framework. They will work with Ms. GG Weisenfeld, P-3's curriculum alignment specialist, to revise and format the ELDS.

VII. Public Comment

- Kathy Murphy: There will be a legislative briefing on Monday, 03/05 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Richardson Law School (University of Hawaii) Classroom 5. S. Teves will be speaking on early childhood issues.
- Melodie Vega: Please provide feedback or comments at the next ELC meeting on the CANOES trainer application and competencies documents.
- Dee Jay Mailer: Be My Voice’s Girl Scouts Rally at the State Capitol will be on Tuesday, 03/13. The Girl Scouts’ message is girls with voices for children. On Tuesday, 03/20, the Eleu group will be at the State Capitol from 9:00-10:30 a.m. with the message that children are priority in our State.
- Mike Fahey: ELC message - Hold on to visions/ideals, do what’s right, organized around the spirit of generosity, stay strong forever.

VIII. Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Place: Hawaii State Capitol – Governor’s Conference Room, 5th Floor
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, 96813**

Agenda items:

- Legislative issues

Monthly agenda addition requests, including conference call site address, must be emailed to R. Peters and D. J. Mailer 2 weeks prior to the scheduled meeting to allow compliance with Hawaii’s Sunshine Law.

Future meeting dates for 2012 (3rd Thursday of the month):

April 19	May 17	June 21	July 19
August 16	September 20	October 18	November 15
December 20			

IX. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

In attendance:

<i>Terry Lock</i>	<i>Kathy Murphy</i>	<i>GG Weisenfeld</i>	<i>Dave Tom</i>
<i>Mike Fahey</i>	<i>Anna Peters</i>	<i>Mary Ann Nemoto</i>	<i>Christina Cox</i>
<i>Steve Teves</i>	<i>Dani Tomiyasu</i>	<i>Elinor Lutu-McMoore</i>	<i>Russell Nishiyama</i>
<i>Diane Young</i>			