

ACT 14: Early Learning Council
Hawaii State Capitol-Governor's Conference Room, 5th Floor
Thursday, March 15, 2012
1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Council members in attendance:

Kaina Bonacorsi, Deliana Loretta Fuddy, Christine Jackson, Christina Cox (for Charles Larson), Dee Jay Mailer, Kanoe Naone, Pamela Perkins, Lora Perry, Robert Peters, Angela Thomas, Barbara Yamashita

Absent:

Lynn Cabato, Linda Johnsrud, Kathryn Matayoshi

I. Opening and Welcome

- Meeting called to order by Chairperson Robert Peters at 1:09 p.m.
- Attending the ELC meeting for the first time, Ms. Barbara Yamashita was introduced as the Department of Human Services Representative and Ms. Pamela Perkins was introduced as the Family Child Care Program Representative.
- Terry Lock thanked the ELC members and Senator Jill Tokuda for attending and helping at the Early Childhood Open House today from 8:30-11:30.

II. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of 02/16/12 meeting were approved.

III. Legislative Update and Senate Bill 2545 (T. Lock/Senator J. Tokuda)

- Early childhood appropriation bills currently in session total \$1 million - \$500,000 for early childhood health and \$500,000 for early learning.
- House Education/Human Services Committees deferred decision making on SB 2545 until Monday, 03/19/12 at 2:00 p.m.
- Multiple funding sources (SB 2545's general appropriation line and HB 2012-\$250,000 in House budget) indicate attention to early learning.
- House members may need more early learning information to understand the junior kindergarten issue.
- SB 2545 is a result of thoughtful planning between the Legislature and Governor's Office.
 - The bill will have at least 2 more Legislative sessions (2013 and 2014) to appropriate adequate funds for the targeted 4-year old group.
 - The junior kindergarten repeal date (school year 2014-2013) is the 2nd year of the State's biennium budget to ensure adequate funds are planned in future years.

- The Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) attempts to consolidate efforts for efficiency.
 - It will allow more opportunity for participation from the early learning community.
 - It is modeled after the current Executive Office of Aging that also has an advisory board.
 - The bill’s language describing the roles of the ELAB members were general and broad to state the early learning system’s intent. If the language is overly specific and prescriptive, it may exclude and interfere with future work.
 - The ELAB is a support team to the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL), headed by the State Early Childhood Coordinator, to implement the early learning system.
- If SB 2545 is signed into law, the EOEL will be established effective July 1, 2012 and the ELC transforms to the ELAB.
 - Future advocates must ensure the Governor’s Office maintain early learning as a top priority.
 - The EOEL is the pathway to develop the Department of Early Learning.
 - SB 2545’s language can be revised in the future legislative sessions.
- Private sector comments: Early learning focus will be forgotten once ELC is transformed to the ELAB.
 - Response: The ELAB will be connected to the state government at the highest level as one of the governor’s priorities. The ELAB and State Early Childhood Coordinator must respond and be accountable to the Governor.
- House Finance budgeted \$250,000 (in HB 2012) after T. Lock explained details of the budget plan.
 - In-kind private support/match is used as leverage to demonstrate non-state funding support for early learning.
- The Legislature will need to commit to funding the targeted 4-year olds.
 - Be My Voice’s campaign message will be critical to highlight and raise the importance of early learning.
- SCR 80 and HCR 62 request the DOE to conduct research on the correlation between children who are late-born and the high school drop out rate.

IV. Additional Legislative Discussion (T. Lock/Representative R. Takumi)

- The House bill regarding junior kindergarten expiration will not be heard in the Senate.
- EOEL must be established and funded to develop and implement the plan for the late-born children.
- The plan for State-funded preschool for all or targeted late-born students must be more than a pilot and yet, cannot be all encompassing, costing \$100+ million.
- The ELAB model closely follows the Policy Advisory Board for Elderly Affairs (PABEA) in the Executive Office on Aging.
- Early childhood advocates must build public will with Legislators by finding each Legislator’s “tipping point” for support.

- Reminder: if the ELC transforms to the ELAB, the ELAB's core membership must be the same as the State Advisory Council (SAC) as stated in the Head Start Act.

V. Quality Improvement and Rating System (QIRS) Components Overview (G. Fong)

- The State Attorney General advised the project to keep the acronym in all capital letters – QIRS and not QIRs.
- The QIRS pilot has been launched. Resource materials, including participation agreements, have been sent to pilot projects.
- Intent of the QIRS is to assess program quality, support changes, and provide resources.
 - Eventually, the information can be used to inform families of program quality.
- Pilot funding ends in June 2013, with a desire to extend the pilot until December 2013 or June 2014 to give the system more time to monitor and analyze program improvements.
- Project orientations will be completed by March 2012.
- The program provider will develop a quality improvement plan based on the assessment scale data.
 - The QIRS Advisory Team will review the program's quality improvement plan.
- The QIRS data system will help facilitate reporting results and decision-making/monitoring information.

VI. Advisory Board Models (C. Jackson/D. Fuddy)

- Example of possible models for the EOEL and the ELAB were shared.
- Model I is described in SB 2545 – the EOEL is administratively attached to the DOE and the ELAB replaces the existing ELC.
- Model II – the EOEL and the ELAB are administratively attached to the DOE and both require staff/consultants to carry out respective functions.
- Model III – the EOEL is administratively attached to the DOE and the ELAB is attached to the EOEL. The EOEL staff support the ELAB in carrying out their collective functions.
- Model IV – the EOEL is administratively attached to the DOE and the ELAB functions in the capacity of the SAC.
- Model V – the EOEL is administratively attached to the DOE and the ELAB functions in the capacity of the former Interdepartmental Council (IDC).
- ELC recommended additional language to SB 2545: The ELAB will be advisory to the EOEL and be an independent voice to advocate for the healthy, safety, and learning needs of children ages 0-5 and their families.

VII. ELC Sub-Committee Reports

- Quality
 - Lora Perry and Kathy Murphy are the Co-Chairs of the sub-committee. Lora Perry is replacing Kaina Bonacorsi.

VIII. Public Comment

- Kathy Murphy: Thank you to the ELC for the hard work and hard decisions being made at every meeting.
- Christine Jackson: Infant/Toddler Summit is scheduled for April 12 at the Best Western Plaza Hotel.
- Mike Fahey: ELC message – stay strong forever.

IX. Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2012

Time: 1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Place: Hanahauoli School – Professional Development Center
1922 Makiki Street, Honolulu, 96822**

Agenda items:

- Legislative information

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):

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

IX. Meeting adjourned at 3:37 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>Liz Chung</i>	<i>Anna Peters</i>	<i>Dani Tomiyasu</i>
<i>Sharon Taba</i>	<i>Lynn Wilson</i>	<i>Melissa Pavlicek</i>	<i>Linda Brown</i>
<i>Melodie Vega</i>	<i>Julie Morita</i>	<i>Russell Nishiyama</i>	<i>Diane Young</i>