

Early Learning Board Meeting
Thursday, July 9, 2026
AGENDA

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Early Education and Development (CEED), 2nd Floor
Kindergarten and Children's Aid Association (KCAA Preschools of Hawaii)
2707 South King Street, Honolulu, HI 96826

The public may attend the meeting in person or remotely via the ZOOM link (see below)
The Chair will preside in person.

Early Learning Board Vision: Creating a sustainable early learning system that partners with families to ensure that every child is healthy, valued, and successful in school and life.

Early Learning Board Mission: To support children's academic and lifelong well-being by directing and supporting the Executive Office on Early Learning for an effective, coordinated, high-quality early learning system from prenatal to kindergarten entry.

Board expectations:

- Inquiry mindset. Ask informed questions. Other mindsets are equity, bold, and radical. *(Anne Douglass)*
- Come informed: Written reports are to be read prior to meetings. Meeting time can be utilized for discussion and decision-making. Not all written reports require decision-making.
- County representatives should be informed about early learning in their county.
- Shifting in our thinking from seeing early educators as objects of change to agents of change. *(Anne Douglass)*

The Board will accept public testimony with each agenda item. Public comments are limited to 2 minutes per agenda item and must address items listed on the published agenda.

The times listed in the third column are estimates.

The chair reserves the right to take up agenda items out of order.

I.	Welcome/Vision & Mission/Announcements/Roll call: Elaine Yamashita Vision & mission read by: Dr. Sulma Gandhi, member at-large <i>Outcome: Information</i> <i>Public comment</i>	1:30 - 1:35
II.	Review and approve May 2026 minutes: Elaine Yamashita Mahalo to Tara Castrovinci for taking minutes.	1:35 - 1:40

	 (DRAFT) May 2026 ELB MINUTES.pdf <i>Action: Approve 5/14/26 Meeting Minutes</i>	
III.	Board member updates: Updates from board members on early learning system activities and initiatives. - Chair Yamashita: Represented ELB at the May 20 event on Professional Standards and Competencies, the June 1 signing of the State Plan with Gov. Green, and the June 27 Early Educator Leadership Symposium III. September 10, 2026 will be the annual in-person meeting, starting at 9 a.m. Board retreat in morning, regular board meeting in afternoon. <i>Outcome: Information, questions</i> <i>Public comment</i>	1:35-1:50
IV.	Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Updates Report: Director Arikawa-Cross/Staff ★ Legislative Updates ○ Intent to Veto List ○ Signed Bills ○ Veto Deadline Roadmap to Achieve the Objectives of Act 46 (SLH 2020) and Act 210 (SLH 2021) related to early learning and early childhood care opportunities in the State of Hawaii by 2032 – Public Pre-Kindergarten Expansion & Early Learning Board (ELB). ● Workforce Development and Support ○ Mary Tenny Castle Award for Teaching Excellence ○ UH West O‘ahu add a teaching field approval ○ Early Educator Teaching Forum III ● Facilities for Early Childhood Education Programs ○ Infant/Toddler spaces with other state agencies ○ Preschool space in partnership with other state agencies ○ Pi‘ikoi Youth Center opens on Kaua‘i ● Funding for the Early Care and Education Mixed Delivery System ○ Expansion of Preschool Open Doors ● Program Quality Improvement and Maintenance ○ Kaiapuni Kindergarten Entry Assessment ○ Report on Administration for Children and Families’ National Research Conference on Early Childhood <i>Outcome: Information, dialogue, questions</i> <i>Public comment</i>	1:50 - 2:40

	→ Early Learning ◆ Student Learning ◆ Staff Learning ◆ Leadership Learning ◆ EOEL and Community Partner Learning: Cognitive Coaching ◆ EOEL Public PreK Application Data → Family Support ◆ Head Start literacy outreach ◆ Keiki O Ka 'Āina Community Resource Fair ◆ Celebration of Fathers and Families ◆ Summer Reading Kick-Off → Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition ◆ Go Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care (NAPSACC) ◆ Hale Kipa Community Wellness Fair → Systems Updates ◆ Early Childhood 2025-2030 State Plan Signing ◆ Building Strong Foundations: Hawai'i's Early Childhood System (2026 Snapshot) ◆ Preschool Development Grant Birth-5 (PDGB5) Project Updates ● First 5 Hawai'i Common Application ● Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health ● First 5 Hawai'i Traffic and Leads <i>Outcome: Information, questions</i> <i>Public comment</i>	
	BREAK (10 minutes)	2:40 - 2:50
V.	EOEL Director Evaluation Process: Elaine Yamashita Today, Director Arikawa-Cross will share highlights from her professional portfolio. This year is the first year that all evaluation criteria were addressed. ALL BOARD MEMBERS: Deadline to fill out the evaluation form is Wednesday, July 22. Your input is valuable and needed. Responses are anonymous. Dr. Ephraim Schwab is exempted from the evaluation, as he is part of the EOEL staff. In late July, the Board Chair and Director will meet to discuss survey results. The Governance Committee will be meeting to establish criteria for 2026-27. At the August Board Meeting, the Chair will summarize the survey results. The Governance committee will present the criteria for 2026-27. <i>Outcome: Information, questions</i> <i>Public comment</i>	2:50 - 2:55
VI.	EOEL Director Presentation: Director Arikawa-Cross	2:55 - 3:15

	Highlights of professional portfolio. <i>Outcome: Information, questions</i> <i>Public comment</i>	
VII.	Review of Policy Priorities for 2027: Elaine Yamashita, Government Affairs Specialist, Jennifer Chow In the past, priorities were approved in December. In December 2025, the board agreed that having the priorities approved in July would ensure EOEL can use them to plan for the next legislative session. Will review and possibly identify 2027 focus areas.  Policy Priorities 2027 <i>Outcome: Information, questions, possible vote</i> <i>Public comment</i>	3:15 - 3:25
VIII.	School Facilities Authority (SFA) Presentation: Douglas Cullison, Prekindergarten Program Manager: Overview of SFA's contributions to the early childhood system. Processes for renovations, new buildings, funding, and land acquisition in partnership with various partners across Hawai'i. <i>Outcome: Information, questions</i> <i>Public comment</i>	3:25 - 3:55
IX.	Review Agenda Outcomes/Announcements/Closing – Elaine Yamashita Next meeting is August 13, 2026 Sept. 10 will be our annual all day in-person meeting.	3:55 - 4:00

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 13, 2026

Public Written Testimony addressing items on the agenda: Interested persons may submit written testimony via email to Tara Castrovinci at tara.castrovinci@eoel.hawaii.gov. For easier recognition, please include the word “TESTIMONY” in the email subject line. Testimony may also be hand-delivered or mailed to Tara Castrovinci, Executive Office on Early Learning, Prince Jonah Kūhiō Elementary, 2759 S. King Street, Room C6, Honolulu, HI, 96826. Written testimony must be received no later than 3 p.m. on July 7, 2026, for Board consideration and possible inclusion in the Board Packet. Any written testimony submitted after such time will be retained as part of the record and will be distributed to Board members at the beginning of the meeting. Written testimony may be included in the Board Packet and posted on the Board

website. Given this possibility, the public should be mindful of sharing personal information in their written testimony.

Remote Oral Testimony addressing agenda items may also be provided during the meeting. To provide Video/Zoom Testimony, interested persons may use the Zoom Meeting link <https://hidoe.zoom.us/join/44PyHDTESnCzjZhmszjOOg>. They may use any one of the following methods to offer oral testimony: indicate in the chat they wish to offer oral testimony when the Chair announces an agenda item; call or email Tara Castrovinci (see email/phone number below) by 9 am on the day of the meeting to request that the testifier be called on by name to present oral testimony; or, use the “raise hand” feature in Zoom. Public oral testimony is limited to 2 minutes per agenda item and must address items listed on the published agenda.

Board Packets (Meeting Materials) are available on the EOEL/ELB Website at **Board Meeting Materials**.

https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=4408188&type=d&pREC_ID=2679447. The Board Packet will also be available for public inspection in the EOEL’s Office (Prince Jonah Kūhiō Elementary, 2759 S. King Street, Room C6, Honolulu, HI, 96826).

The ELB is conducting in-person meetings at the Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Early Education and Development (CEED), 2nd Floor Kindergarten and Children’s Aid Association (KCAA Preschools of Hawaii) location (2707 S. King Street, 2nd floor, Honolulu, HI 96826), with some Board members joining remotely. The public may attend the meeting in person or may join remotely using the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://hidoe.zoom.us/join/44PyHDTESnCzjZhmszjOOg>

Passcode: x9^LwZ^S

Meeting ID: 813 1286 0797

Dial a number based on your current location:

US: +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1 689 278 1000 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507 473 4847 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 646 558 8656 or +1 646 931 3860

If you are logging in to Zoom via a computer or mobile app, we kindly request that you provide your first and last name, as well as the organization you represent. However, attendance at the meeting is not dependent on this information. If you choose to identify yourself, you can do so when you sign in to the meeting or once you are in the meeting. Attendees who wish to remain

anonymous need not disclose their names or organizations and/or may use pseudonyms or other identifiers.

Captioning is available through Zoom; the host will enable it for all participants.

If you need auxiliary aids/services or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Tara Castrovinci at (808) 784-5350 or at tara.castrovinci@eoel.hawaii.gov as soon as possible. Requests made as early as possible allow adequate time to fulfill them. Upon request, this notice is available in alternative formats.

If the Zoom connection is interrupted during the meeting, the meeting will recess for up to thirty (30) minutes to allow staff to attempt to restore connectivity. If the audiovisual connection cannot be restored, the meeting may reconvene with audio only using the phone information listed above. If the connection cannot be restored within thirty (30) minutes of interruption, the Board may continue the meeting by notifying the public of the date, time, and place of the meeting at the [Early Learning Board \(ELB\)](#). Otherwise, the meeting will be automatically terminated.

For help with Zoom, visit: <https://support.zoom.com/hc/en>