Early Learning Board Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 12, 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: Alanna Souza, Kaua'i representative *Outcome: Information* *Public comment*	1:30 - 1:35
II.	**Review and approve October 2026 minutes:** Elaine Yamashita Mahalo to Tara Castrovinci for taking minutes.	1:35 - 1:40

	DRAFT_ OCT 2026 ELB Meeting Minutes (1).pdf *Action: Approve 9/10/26 Meeting Minutes*	
III.	**Board member updates:** Updates from board members on early learning system activities and initiatives. Ben Naki, Head Start Association: Next steps for Head Start rule changes. Elaine Yamashita: Four positions on the Early Learning Board (ELB) will be up in June 2027. Two at-large, and two Honolulu City and County, with one more still vacant. Current board members are welcome to re-apply. Please encourage potential board members to apply. *Outcome: Information, questions* *Public comment*	1:40 - 1:45
IV.	**Revisions to Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Budget Requests and Legislative Bill Proposals** Director Arikawa-Cross, Government Affairs Specialist Jennifer Chow 1. **Head Start Collaboration Office: Position and Activity Funding** *Outcome: Discussion, Public comment, Vote in December* 2. **Revisit the previously discussed Child and Dependent Care Services Tax Credit.** Bill to extend the sunset date for the 2023 increase to the maximum employment-related expenses that may be used to calculate the tax credit amount. *Outcome: Discussion, Public comment, Vote*	1:45 - 2:00
V.	**Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) Updates Report:** Director Arikawa-Cross/Staff --- Roadmap to Achieve the Objectives of Act 46 (Session Laws of Hawaii 2020) and Act 210 (Session Laws of Hawaii 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 ○ Early Childhood Educator Stipend Program Update: Summer 2026 ○ Public PreK: Admin Day #1 ○ Public PreK: Professional Community Day #1 ○ Hawai‘i Association for the Education of Young Children 2026 Conference ○ 2026 Dive into Education Event	2:00 - 2:45

	• Facilities for Early Childhood Education Programs
	  ○ Linapuni Community Construction Update: A follow-up to the October Board Meeting
	• Funding for the Early Care and Education Mixed Delivery System
	  ○ Addressed in Section IV
	• Program Quality Improvement and Maintenance
	  ○ Addressed in the State Plan update section
	
	Outcome: Information, dialogue, questions
	Public comment
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	➔ Early Learning
	  ◆ Hauʻula Papa Kamaliʻi Highlight
	  ◆ Huakaʻi iā Kaʻala me ka Nananana Makakiʻi - UH West Oʻahu
	➔ Family Support
	  ◆ Department of Health Children with Special Needs Branch Family Wellness Fair
	  ◆ Puakalehua Early Learning Consortium and Hawaiʻi County 4th Annual ʻOhana Festival
	  ◆ A Very Hui Halloween - Molokaʻi
	  ◆ Nā Kama Leil Court Meeting
	  ◆ Child Safety Month
	➔ Health, Mental Health, Nutrition, Special Needs and Early Intervention
	  ◆ Zero to Three Conference Highlight
	➔ Systems Updates
	  ◆ Hele Imua Intern: Tiffany Mueller
	  ◆ Civil Beat: Hawaiʻiʻs Preschool Expansion is Bigger Than a Seat Count
	  ● Generative Questions for Reflection across access, affordability, workforce and sustainability, quality and outcomes, and system coordination
	  ◆ Hawaiʻi Early Childhood State Plan
	  ● Update from Dr. Terry Lock on Professional Standards and Competencies and Hawaiʻi Early Learning and Development Standards
	  ◆ Preschool Development Grant S.M.A.R.T. Grant
	  ● Attestation in support of the Priorities of the Administration for Children and Families
	Outcome: Information, dialogue, questions
	Public comment	

	BREAK (10 minutes)	2:45 - 2:55
VI.	**Proposed 2027 EOEL Director Evaluation criteria:** Elaine Yamashita Introduction and discussion of EOEL Director Evaluation criteria for 2027. Vote on proposed criteria will be in December. Proposed 2027 EOEL Director Evaluation criteria *Outcome: Information, dialogue, questions*	2:55 - 3:15

	Public comment	
VII.	**Draft Mixed Delivery System Policy Statement:** The Governance subcommittee is still discussing this. The next subcommittee meeting is on Jan. 22, 2027. **Mixed delivery system policy statement draft** *Outcome: Information* *Public comment*	3:15 - 3:25
VIII.	**Review Agenda Outcomes/Announcements/Closing** – Elaine Yamashita Next meeting: Dec. 10, 2026	3:25 - 3:30

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 10, 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 Nov. 10, 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/meeting/register/44PyHDTESnCzjZhmszjOQg. 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/meeting/register/44PyHDTESnCzjZhmszjOQg
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