

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



YUUKO ARIKAWA-CROSS  
DIRECTOR

**DEPT. COMM. NO. 462**

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Executive Office on Early Learning**  
2759 South King Street, Room C6  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

August 25, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President  
and Members of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of Representatives  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the report on the Early Learning Special Fund, pursuant to Section 302L-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at:

<https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Report-to-the-2023-Legislature-Early-Learning-Special-Fund.pdf>

Very truly yours,

Yuuko Arikawa-Cross  
Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yuuko Arikawa-Cross".

Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau



## Executive Office on Early Learning

### **Report to the 2023 Legislature: Early Learning Special Fund August 25, 2023**

#### **Context**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) was established by Act 178, Regular Session of 2012, and signed into law in June 2012. On July 1, 2015, EOEL was transferred from the Office of the Governor to become attached to HIDOE for administrative purposes only.

EOEL is charged with developing an early learning system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality, developmentally appropriate early learning opportunities for Hawaii's children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten.

The Keiki First Steps Trust Fund was established pursuant to Act 14, Special Session of 2008, to be administered by the then-Early Learning Council, and to be used for the early learning system.

The Keiki First Steps Trust Fund was renamed the Early Learning Trust Fund in 2009 pursuant to Act 194, Regular Session of 2009. When EOEL was created in 2012, responsibility for administration of the Trust Fund was moved to EOEL.

Act 046, Regular Session of 2020, amended the Early Learning Trust Fund to become the Early Learning Special Fund, and required that EOEL submit an annual report to the Legislature on the sources of moneys deposited into the Special Fund, and expenditures of the moneys in it.

The purpose of the Special Fund remains the same – to be used for the early learning system. Moneys received by EOEL in the form of fees, grants, donations, appropriations made by the Legislature to the Special Fund, revenues regardless of source, and earnings on moneys in the Special Fund shall be deposited into the Special Fund.

#### **Early Learning Special Fund**

No moneys were deposited into the Fund in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. As such, no expenditures were made from the Fund.