

TO: Representative Justin H. Woodson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: Measure: RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD  
Hearing Date: Thursday, March 16, 2023  
Time: 2:00 pm  
Location: Conference Room 309

**EARLY LEARNING BOARD POSITION: Comments**

**Comments:** The Early Learning Board (ELB) appreciates the Legislature’s recognition of the value of the diversity of early learning and care stakeholders in its current composition “providing unique and important input on how to best serve Hawaii's families and young children” (Senate Education Committee Report, Feb. 2023). The ELB also recognizes that its composition does not specifically call for members from each of the counties, reflective of different early childhood needs across the State.

In order to shape policy designed to provide quality opportunities for all children and respect the value inherent in the diversity of stakeholder and county perspectives, the ELB respectfully recommends amendments to SB 1022. These amendments are designed to increase the effectiveness of ELB governance by expanding the qualifications for Board membership to seek skill sets needed to guide early childhood systems development. The ELB believes that one voting member from each county is sufficient to provide county perspectives and that it is essential to include a Hawaiian medium provider as a voting member to reflect our dual language State along with a pediatrician whose focus is child development in recognition of the value of a holistic view of the child in policy making. Finally, the composition of the Board recommended seeks to minimize the potential for, or perception of conflict of interest while not overlooking the inherent value of multiple voices from the early childhood community that can be offered by an advisory council for the Board.

ELB also recommends the effective date take into consideration adequate time for the current board to transition based on the provisions of this bill.

**Amendments to SB 1022:**

Amend Section 1, Subsection (b)(3), Page 2 to read: “(3) Have an understanding of best practices in early learning governance or be willing to be trained in best practices in early learning governance; and”

Amend Section 1, Subsection (b)(4), Page 2 to read: “(4) Have ~~a clear~~ an understanding of the board's ~~role~~ responsibility in developing and ~~protecting~~ promoting a clear, long-term strategic vision for early learning and systems building.”

Amend Section 1, Subsection (c)(2), Page 2 to read: “ (2) Demonstrate a deep and abiding interest in early learning childhood and a dedication to the social, academic, and character healthy development of children.”

Add to Section 1, Subsection (c), Page 2: “(3) Bring an expertise in one or more professional disciplines of education, health, human services, business, workforce development, family engagement, early childhood development or brain development.”

Amend Section 2, Subsection (b), Pages 2-4 to read: “(b) The board shall consist of the following voting members:

- (1) One voting member from the county of Hawaii;
- (2) One voting member from the county of Maui;
- (3) One voting member from the county of Kauai;
- (4) ~~Three~~ One voting ~~members~~ member from the city and county of Honolulu; ~~and~~
- (5) Three at-large voting members;
- (6) One representative of Hawaiian medium early learning providers; and
- (7) One pediatrician with child development focus.”

Add to Section 2, Subsection (d), Page 7 to read: “(d) The board shall create an early learning stakeholder advisory council that meets four times a year. Advisory council members may serve on Board subcommittees.”

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March 15, 2023

Aloha to Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Marten and committee members:

I am in support of SB 1022 with amendments suggested by the Early Learning Board. I'm an advocate for early care and education, longtime Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children (HiAEYC, an affiliate of NAEYC) member, former member of the NAEYC Governing Board, and professor emerita of UH Maui College.

I have been in the early childhood profession for over 40 years. I have observed the Early Learning Board through its various iterations, from State Advisory Council to the current Board. It has had time to make major decisions on the vision of early care and education in Hawai'i, and it is evident that the composition needs to change in order to be more nimble and able to make crucial decisions.

I support the amendments that the ELB came up with in its last meeting. I understand that they propose just one representative from Honolulu City and County, a representative from Hawaiian language medium programs, and a pediatrician, along with an advisory body that would still have the representation across departments and programs that the current ELB has.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

Mahalo,  
*Elaine Yamashita*

Mar. 15, 2023

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Marten, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education

Subject: **Measure** - SB1022 RELATING TO EARLY LEARNING  
**Hearing Date** - Mar. 16, 2023  
**Time** - 2:00 PM  
**Location** - Conference Room 309

**I support of SB1022 with amendments offered by the current Early Learning Board.**

My name is Dr. Terry Lock. I am with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) College of Education (COE) and serve as the director of the Hawai'i Early Childhood Educator Excellence and Equity (ECE<sup>3</sup>) Project.

I have over forty-five years of experience in the field of early care and education. In 2011-2013, when I was the State Early Childhood Coordinator and first Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning, I worked closely with the Early Learning Advisory Board, which was the earlier version of the current Early Learning Board. Through these various forms, I agree that the composition of its membership needs to change, in order for the Board be effective and timely in making critical decisions on how to direct the Executive Office on Early Learning in coordinating an integrated early care and learning system for children, from birth through kindergarten entry, and their families, in communities across our state.

I attended the last two Early Learning Board meetings, where I observed how the members carefully deliberated and arrived at these amendments. I support the amendments that the ELB came up with. I understand that they propose just one representative from Honolulu City and County, a representative from Hawaiian language medium programs, and a pediatrician, along with an advisory body that would still have the representation across departments and programs that the current ELB has.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.