

# Executive Office on Early Learning Budget Briefing

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House Committee on Finance

*January 27, 2021*

**The youngest years of our lives provide  
our most rapid brain development.**



**The State Legislature understands this.  
That's why you've invested in us.**



# WHO WE ARE



Executive  
Office on  
Early  
Learning  
STATE OF HAWAII

## Statutory Charge:

To work across state departments, organizations, and sectors toward a comprehensive and integrated early childhood system for the state.

*Chapter 302L-1.5(d), Hawaii Revised Statutes*

# WHAT WE DO

## Two main functions

Coordinate and  
improve the early  
childhood system as  
a whole

Administer the public  
prekindergarten  
program

# WHAT WE DO

## System Coordination

EOEL plays central coordinator role in a sector with no centralized authority.

Currently, early learning and child care are regulated or provided by numerous entities:

- EOEL
  - Department of Human Services (oversees private providers + subsidies)
  - Department of Health (early intervention services + maternal child health branch)
  - Private providers/schools
  - Family-Child Interaction Learning program providers (e.g. traveling preschools)
- Head Start + Early Head Start program providers
  - Department of Education (Preschool Special Education)
  - Home visiting service providers
  - License-exempt care providers (e.g. friends + family care)

# WHAT WE DO

## EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program

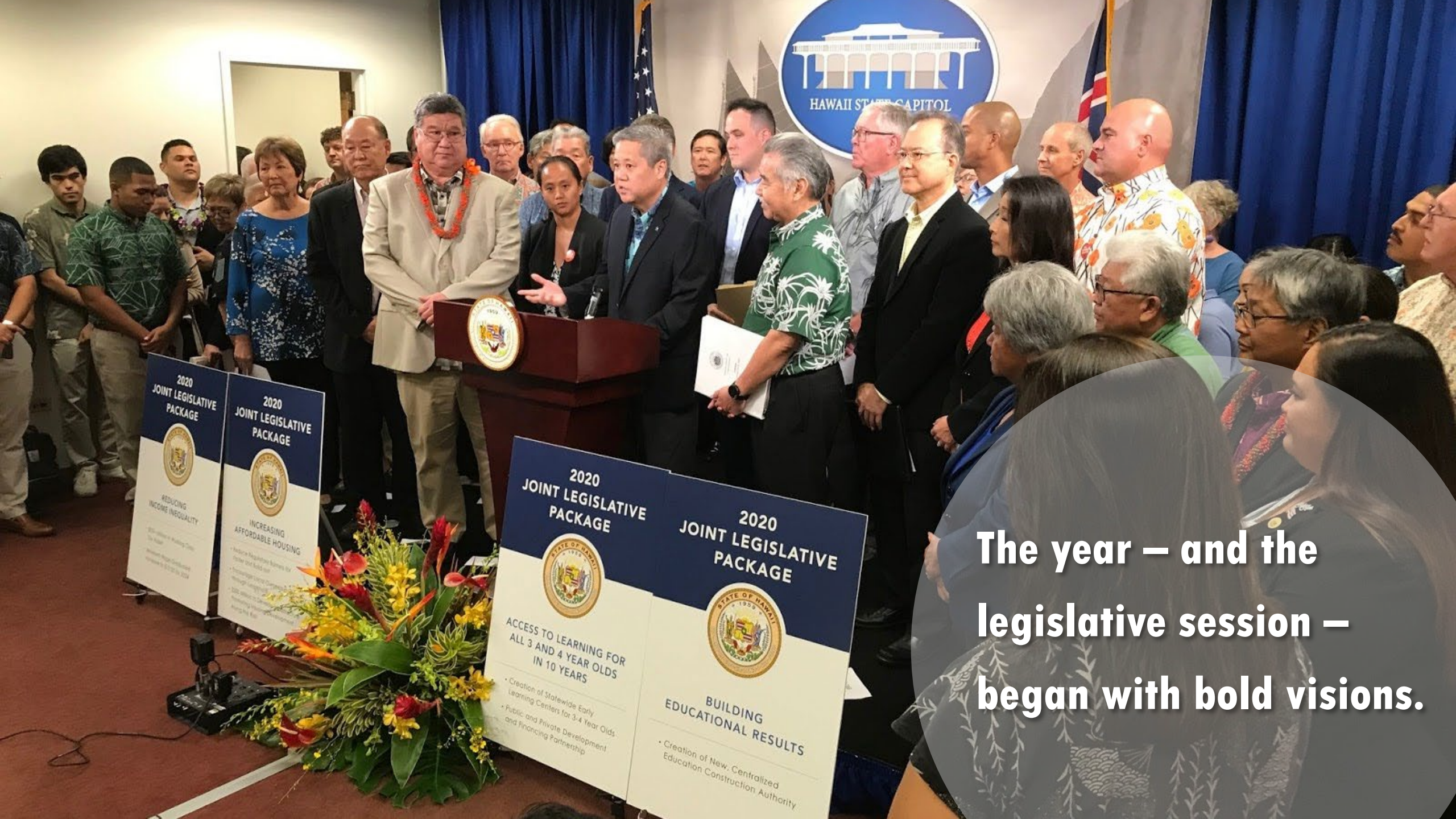
Our program provides early care and early learning experiences and is among the highest rated public prekindergarten programs in the nation. This program is of no cost to families.

### Hallmarks of our program:

Well-trained and  
well-supported  
educators

Cost-efficient and  
-effective use of  
public funds

Prioritization of  
at-risk and  
underserved  
children & families



**2020 JOINT LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

**REDUCING INCOME INEQUALITY**

**2020 JOINT LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

**INCREASING AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**2020 JOINT LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

**ACCESS TO LEARNING FOR ALL 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS IN 10 YEARS**

- Creation of Statewide Early Learning Centers for 3-4 Year Olds
- Public and Private Development and Financing Partnership

**2020 JOINT LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE**

**BUILDING EDUCATIONAL RESULTS**

- Creation of New, Centralized Education Construction Authority

**The year – and the legislative session – began with bold visions.**





# COVID-19

**By March 2020,  
everything had changed.**



**Through the summer,  
the EOEL Public  
Prekindergarten  
Program planned our  
way forward.**

**In August, most of our  
schools opened for in-  
person learning.**

# LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

## HB2543 / Act 46

HB2543, which became law as Act 46, changed a number of things in the early childhood community. The act:

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- **Transfers authority** of public prekindergarten classrooms on **charter school campuses** from EOEL to the Hawaii State Charter School Commission;
  - **Expands Preschool Open Doors** subsidies from the year before kindergarten to include both **3- and 4-year-olds**;
  - Sets **incremental goals** to increase access to early learning and child care for **3- and 4-year-olds have access**; and
  - Establishes **data-sharing and reporting** expectations across agencies.

# LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

## Early Learning & Child Care through the Pandemic

The needs of the early learning and child care sector have changed dramatically. Providers and schools take additional precautions to ensure the health and safety of staff and the children they serve. Some of the major shifts include:

More staff  
needed

Shorter hours for  
families; longer  
hours for staff

Increased cost  
and stress due to  
safety and  
sanitation needs

Reduced  
enrollment  
numbers

# 2020 IN REVIEW

## EOEL + the Pandemic

Given the dramatic shift for our sector, we are focused on strengthening the sector to maintain existing programs and services, rebuild, and improve toward a post-pandemic world.

Support and lead gathering and disseminating information for families and providers.

Gather stakeholders, including sister agencies, to collaborate and coordinate.

Maintain work on larger, community-driven plans to weather the pandemic and improve the system in the future.

# 2020 IN REVIEW

## EOEL + the Pandemic

As an early learning and child care provider, we also had to adjust the EOEL Public Prekindergarten Program to serve young children and their families safely.

Reduced capacity  
to ensure health and  
safety measures

(374 as compared to 740 in  
non-pandemic time)

Health and safety  
precautions and  
protocols for staff  
and children

# BEYOND 2020...

## Preparing for Expansion in a Post-Pandemic World

Both of EOEL's main functions (coordinator and program administrator) are necessary to:

Preserve current stock of child care and early learning slots and providers

Plan for expansion of private and public child care and early learning options for working families

Establish coordination across state agencies (EOEL, DHS, DOH and DOE) to track and plan

Advise most efficient and effective investment of public and private dollars

# FY 2021-2023 BUDGET

## Guiding Star

As EOEL prepared its budget – considering the challenging economic forecast – we were guided by one thing:



**Children &  
Families**

Minimize impact to  
direct services for  
young children and  
families



# FY 2021-2023 BUDGET

## EOEL Budget + FTE Totals

	Amount	FTE
Reductions	\$(1,325,711)	0.00
Federal Funds	\$125,628	1.00
General Funds	\$8,971,887	94.00
Total	\$9,097,515	95.00

# FY 2021-2023 BUDGET

## Currently Funds

- 37 EOEL Public Prekindergarten Classrooms
- 18 Charter School Prekindergarten classrooms
- Positions that enable EOEL to fulfill our statutory responsibilities

# FY 2021-2023 BUDGET

## From Act 276, SLH 2019 (SB 78)

- EOEL added 10 new Public Pre-K classrooms in SY 2020-2021, including 20 FTE total for Teacher and Education Assistant positions
- Funds for the Early Learning Academy and Early Learning Induction Program
- Funds to transfer DOE Pre-K Programs to EOEL
- \$4 million appropriated to maintain 18 Charter School Pre-K classrooms
- 6 FTE positions to implement EOEL's statutory responsibilities, including Public Prekindergarten classrooms

# FY 2021-2023 BUDGET

## Requests

- **\$249,239 for Restoration of Funding for 7 Prekindergarten Classroom teaching positions**
- **2 Permanent Full-Time Equivalent Teaching Position Counts— 1 Preschool Teacher and 1 Education Assistant III for existing Prekindergarten classroom**



**Your investments in EOEL  
and the early childhood  
sector make a difference.**