

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board

SUBJECT: **Measure:** SB 1022 RELATING TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD
Hearing Date: Friday, February 3, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Conference Room 229

EARLY LEARNING BOARD POSITION: COMMENTS

The Early Learning Board meets next Thursday (February 9, 2023) when decisions about legislative testimony will be addressed. Therefore, as the Board Chair, I am only offering comments about this bill at this time, having shared the bill with ELB members but not discussed its content to date.

The context for these comments is the on-going effort by the ELB to address the request of the Senate Concurrent Resolution S.C.R. 34 S.D.1 H.D.1 (2022) to evaluate and report to the Legislature regarding the Board's Composition and Charter and to develop a strategic plan.

The Board composition included in SB 1022 decreases the number of voting members, highlighting personal qualifications and experience for board membership along with specific Island representation. It replaces the current stakeholder and provider voting member representation of the ELB, while it retains inclusion of department agencies engaged in the work of the early childhood system in an ex-officio capacity and continues the inclusion of the KS chief executive officer and the executive director of HAIS but as non-voting members, rather than voting members. It clearly addresses the size of the Board, term concerns and qualifications for those nominated to serve.

This governance model is one the ELB Governance Subcommittee has included in the options being studied as it explores other state models. One of the goals of the subcommittee's work is to seek to align the value of stakeholder/provider representation with the governance responsibilities of the Board. Given that EOEL has been charged with building an early learning system (pre-natal to kindergarten entry) and the ELB has as one of its responsibilities, "Promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children" (Act 202, 2017), the Board seeks to identify a model of governance that respects the value of stakeholder/provider representation and in-put while recognizing the requirements of serving as an effective governing body for the EOEL. That is the goal of the work in which it is currently engaged.

The ELB respectfully requests the Committee to consider the value that can potentially result from further study as outlined in the Board's report to the Legislature to identify a model that can best support the needs of a complex early childhood system, recognizing that its final decision may be the model described in this bill or some modification of it.