



## Executive Office on Early Learning

### **Report to the 2018 Legislature: Executive Office on Early Learning Public Pre-Kindergarten Program December 27, 2017**

#### **History**

The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) was established by Act 178, Regular Session of 2012, and signed into law in June 2012. EOEL is charged with developing an early childhood development and education system that shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality, developmentally appropriate early learning opportunities for Hawaii's children, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten. Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2014, appropriated \$3 million for the establishment of Hawaii's first State-funded pre-kindergarten program. EOEL launched the EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program (Program), through a partnership with the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE), at 18 schools and 20 classrooms across the state starting the 2014-15 school year. The Program, which was statutorily established by Act 109, Regular Session of 2015, is currently in 19 schools and 21 classrooms. Five new classrooms will start in the 2018-19 school year with funding provided through Act 49, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, bringing the total to 24 schools and 26 classrooms. The Legislature, also recognizing the importance of a high-quality program in making an investment in early learning worthwhile, funded in the same act the Early Learning Induction Program, to help prepare schools with new classrooms to provide high-quality experiences for their incoming students.

On July 1, 2015, EOEL was transferred from the Office of the Governor to become attached to HIDOE for administrative purposes only.

## Status Update

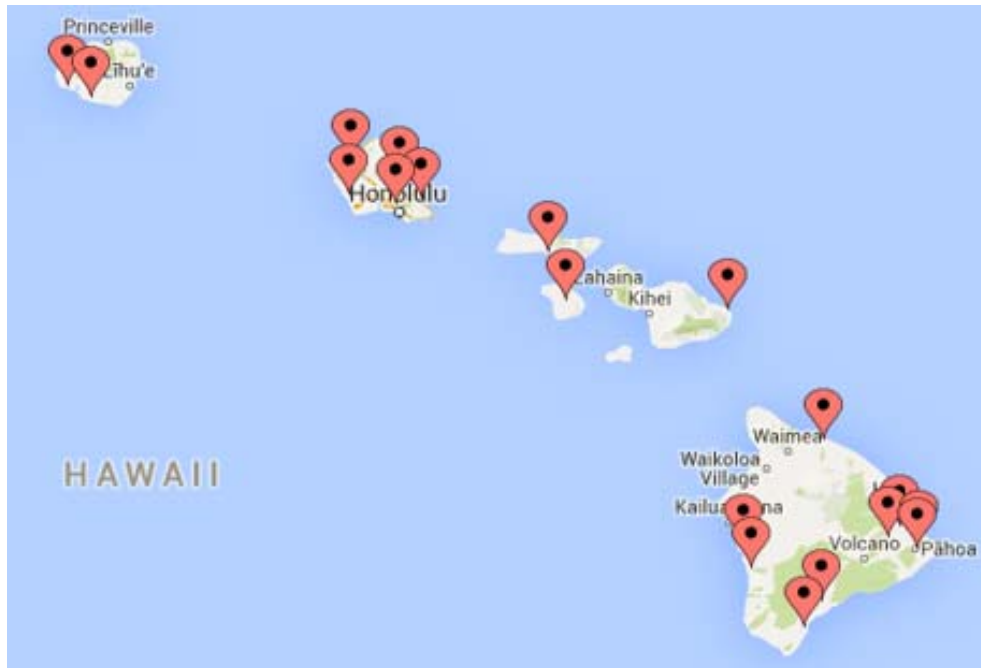
The chart below addresses the following information with respect to the Program as of December 12, 2017:

1. The number of classrooms established & their locations;
2. The number of children enrolled at each school and aggregate data explaining how the program is prioritizing underserved or at-risk children;
3. The number of applicants who were placed on a waitlist for the program & at which schools;

| Island  | School     | # of Classrooms | # of Students | English Language Learners | Special Education | Wait List |
|---------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Hawaii  | Honokaa    | 1               | 17            | 0                         | 0                 | 0         |
|         | Hookena    | 1               | 16            | 2                         | 2                 | 0         |
|         | Keeau      | 1               | 20            | 0                         | 0                 | 5         |
|         | Keonepoko  | 1               | 17            | 2                         | 0                 | 0         |
|         | Konawaena  | 1               | 20            | 0                         | 1                 | 13        |
|         | Mt. View   | 1               | 19            | 0                         | 0                 | 7         |
|         | Naalehu    | 2               | 34            | 0                         | 0                 | 0         |
|         | Pahala     | 1               | 13            | 0                         | 0                 | 0         |
|         | Pahoa      | 1               | 20            | 2                         | 0                 | 3         |
| Kauai   | Eleele     | 1               | 19            | 0                         | 0                 | 1         |
|         | Kekaha     | 1               | 20            | 0                         | 1                 | 1         |
| Lanai   | Lanai      | 1               | 18            | 3                         | 1                 | 0         |
| Maui    | Hana       | 1               | 6             | 0                         | 0                 | 0         |
| Molokai | Kaunakakai | 1               | 20            | 0                         | 0                 | 0         |
| Oahu    | Keolu      | 1               | 20            | 0                         | 0                 | 4         |
|         | Linapuni   | 2               | 40            | 14                        | 2                 | 3         |
|         | Nanakuli   | 1               | 20            | 0                         | 0                 | 5         |
|         | Waiahole   | 1               | 14            | 0                         | 0                 | 0         |
|         | Waialua    | 1               | 20            | 0                         | 0                 | 4         |

### Notes:

- Until June 30, 2015, priority was given to those whose family income was no more than 200% of the federal poverty level guidelines for Hawaii (FPL). Since then, the income criteria has been updated twice to increase access for families: to 250% of FPL as of July 1, 2015 (Act 109, Regular Session of 2015), and to 300% of FPL as of July 1, 2017 (Act 202, Regular Session of 2017).
- Enrollment is on a continuous basis throughout the school year.



#### **Program Staffing**

21 Classroom Teachers  
21 Educational Assistants  
6 Resource Teachers  
1 Educational Specialist

#### **4. Description of the basic elements of each classroom**

- Positive interactions among children;
- Sustained conversations and interaction among children and teachers;
- Instruction and environment that promote academic and social-emotional learning simultaneously;
- Child-initiated activities facilitated by responsive, nurturing teachers;
- Collaborative partnerships with families that are respectful of their communities and culture; and
- Ongoing coaching, mentoring, and active learning communities for educators and their principals, to help them master essential competencies.

5. Description of high-quality standards incorporated in each classroom &
6. The degree to which the program's standards, as incorporated in each classroom, are meeting the research-based National Institute for Early Education Research Quality Standards Benchmarks

| NIEER Benchmark   | EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program  | Meets the NIEER benchmark?                                      |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Comprehensive early learning &amp; development standards</b>   | Hawaii Early Learning and Development Standards, which are aligned with HIDOE Common Core Standards and culturally sensitive, are utilized in all classrooms.           | Yes   |
| <b>Lead teachers must have a BA</b>   | HIDOE must hire lead teachers with a BA and teaching license in the State of Hawaii.  | Yes   |
| <b>Lead teachers must have a specialization in pre-k</b>  | Currently, 20% of Program teachers have a specialization in pre-k.  | No  |
| <b>Assistant teachers must have a Child Development Associate or equivalent</b>   | Educational Assistants must have an Associate's Degree.   | No  |
| <b>Teachers must receive <math>\geq 15</math> hours of professional development each year</b>                                 | Teachers are provided $\geq 10$ days ( $\geq 160$ hours) for professional development in addition to opportunities to participate in professional learning communities. | Yes   |
| <b>Maximum class size: 20 or lower</b>  | Maximum class size: 20.   | Yes   |
| <b>Staff-child ratio: 1:10 or better</b>  | Required staff-child ratio: 1:10.   | Yes   |
| <b>Vision, hearing, and health screening and referral are required, along with <math>\geq 1</math> family support service</b> | Hawaii State law requires all students to meet health examination and immunization requirements before they may attend any public or private school in the state.       | Yes   |
| <b>At least 1 meal is provided per day</b>  | Lunch is offered daily. Families may also enroll their child in the breakfast program.  | Yes   |
| <b>Site visits are required as part of a monitoring/continuous quality improvement system</b>                                 | Structured classroom observations are conducted more than once a year and used to improve classroom practices.  | Yes   |
| <b>NIEER's Highest Quality Score = 10</b>   |   | <b>EOEL Public Pre-Kindergarten Program's Quality Score = 8</b> |

**7. The cost of each classroom**

| <b>Average Cost to Fund 1 Classroom in FY2018</b><br><i>(does not include cost of opening a new classroom)</i> |   |                 |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Salaries   | 10-month Teacher  | \$46,790        |
|  | 10-month Educational Assistant                                | \$27,614        |
| Substitute Teacher Days  | 10 days @ \$173/day*  | \$1,730         |
| Travel, Assessments & Other Current Expenses   | Travel (airfare, rental car, hotel, per diem)*                | \$2,500         |
|  | Pre- and Post-Assessments to improve classroom practices      | \$2,000         |
|  | Web-based Formative Assessment @ \$12/student (including tax) | \$240           |
|  | Classroom Expenses  | \$5,000         |
| <b>Total</b>   |   | <b>\$85,874</b> |

*\*for teachers and school administrators to participate in professional learning*

Notes:

- Does not include the time and resources provided by 1 Educational Specialist and 6 Resource Teachers who are dedicated full-time to providing professional learning support, including coaching and mentoring, to school teams.
- Does not include funds set aside for schools to address health and safety needs as requested by principals.

**8. Plans and costs for program expansion in fiscal years 2019 and 2020.**



**Facilities Assessment**

- ID locations with large populations of at-risk students who have limited pre-k access
- Work with HIDEO to determine space and improvement costs
- Work with interested principals



**Workforce Development**

- Require 30-36 credits of EC coursework for Program teachers & 9 credits for EAs
- Partner with higher ed to expand access to coursework
- Look for incentives (e.g., scholarships, stipends)



**Availability of Funds/Timing**

- Seek funding from the Legislature at the start of every biennium, which will allow expansion of the number of Program classrooms in the 2nd yr of the biennium



**Increase Quality Classrooms**

- Open 10 new classrooms every 2 yrs
- Continue to provide Early Learning Induction Program for schools opening new classrooms, Early Learning Academy, and coaching & mentoring

**Focusing on Access to High-quality Pre-kindergarten**