

April 4, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education Members
Hawai`i State Capitol Rm. 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for confirmation to the Hawai`i State Board of Education. Below is the information you requested. Kindly contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma

1. Why did I decide to apply to serve on the Board of Education?

I applied to serve on the Board of Education because I want to be a good steward of our educational system for Hawai`i's school children, their families, teachers and staff, especially in schools that have been identified as "low performing". As a product of Hawai`i public schools, and my work as a public health educator, I am keenly aware of the social determinants, disparities, and opportunities that affect access to and success in education for children.

2. In light of recent changes to the Board's composition, how do you perceive the role and responsibilities of individual members and the overall role of the BOE in regards to educational decision-making?

With regards to educational decision-making, the role and responsibilities of individual members and the overall role of the BOE are to set and clarify policies, based on a clear vision for Hawai`i's educational system. The Board also directs, holds accountable, and monitors the consistent progress toward advancing that vision by the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent's responsibility is to carry out these policies through principals at their respective schools statewide, including charter schools.

As an individual BOE member, I see my role as an active listener to all stakeholders. My responsibility is to assess and evaluate information and alternatives presented to the Board for decision-making.

Furthermore, the Board's educational decision-making process is enhanced by the passage of Act 05, which established specific Board composition criteria to assure that members are geographically representative and reflect the interests and make up of the

student body and parents of Hawai'i schools. As such, Governor Abercrombie appointed representatives from each island. In addition, two board members have children in public schools. One is a child with special needs. I bring to the table diverse perspectives and networks from minority, underrepresented, low income students and families, including immigrant and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Board members also comprise a former school teacher, attorneys, corporate executives, a UH administrator, and a media professional. The character of the board ensures critical thinking, rigorous and dynamic dialog, and a range of partnership networks, including Native Hawaiians and Filipinos, to set prudent policy and governance that will address the varied needs and aspirations of Hawai'i students and their families, from early childhood to higher education, and also for public libraries.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the BOE, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position?

I believe that I am qualified for a position on the Board of Education because I add critical community linkages to diverse groups of minority and underrepresented and underserved students and families. The combination of the individual Board members' varied knowledge base and expertise fosters synergistic, collaborative working relationships to advance the State's education vision. Below are Board qualifications established in the passage of Act 05, and my experiences that will complement other Board members well:

Record of integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical standards: I was awarded the 2011 Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights Martin Luther King, Jr. Award and the 2008 Humanitarian Award by the United Filipino Council of Hawai'i for my community and advocacy volunteer work to address social justice, civil rights, labor equity and health disparities issues in the Filipino community.

Availability for constructive engagement: I am committed to make the BOE a priority to be present and participate fully. I have strong support from family, community, professional organizations, and work. My experience with non-profit boards will help me in my new BOE role.

Knowledge of best practices in educational governance: I welcome training in best practices for educational governance, and will collaborate closely with Board colleagues whose expertise is greater in this area. I am committed to reading materials and attending BOE meetings.

Commitment to educational leadership: I have a clear understanding of the board's role in developing and safeguarding a long range strategic vision for Hawaii's public schools. I take seriously my role as a Board member to hold the Superintendent of education accountable for making consistent progress toward that vision.

Understanding of collective bargaining: I am a firm believer in Hawai'i's Constitution that provides workers in both the public and private sector the right to organize and have their concerns represented by a union. I welcome training to increase my understanding of the Board's roles and responsibilities with regard to collective bargaining. The State Constitution authorizes the Board of Education to represent the State's interest and enter into negotiations for collective bargaining with unions representing teachers, Dept. of

Education staff, charter schools and principals. The Board of Education is afforded two votes; the Governor one vote; and the Superintendent of Schools one vote. The Legislature's role is to reject or approve funding for the cost items agreed to by collective bargaining.

Experience governing complex organizations: While I have limited governing experience in complex organizations, I assisted in board development and staff support for the following groups in the public, non-profit and community sectors:

- Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training Advisory Council and Steering Committee, Staff
- Asian Pacific Islander Cancer Education Materials Governance Committee, Staff
- American Cancer Society Hawai'i Pacific Inc., Staff
- Susan G. Komen Asian and Pacific Islander National Advisory Council, Member
- Kalihi-Palama Community Mental Health Center Advisory Council, Staff
- Hale Mohala School Board, Member
- National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, Executive Board Member and Secretary
- United Filipino Council of Hawaii, Legislative Chair
- Oahu Filipino Community Council, Legislative Chair

Commitment to education: My strength is in my lifelong commitment to education. "Get a good education. Education is your ticket out." were the last words spoken to me by my mother, who died when I was 11 years old. Despite having only an eighth grade education, my mother's message still resonates nearly half a century later.

Today I serve as the associate director of the Graduate Professional Access program and the community director of the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training at the University of Hawai'i's Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity office. In this role I champion other minority, underrepresented students, who like me, are from low income backgrounds, and the first to go to college in their family. I link them to faculty mentors to conduct research and social justice community service that will benefit society and lead to completion of bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees. In previous years I implemented peer education programs to prevent substance abuse, teen pregnancy, teen suicide and other teen stress issues with students from Farrington, Moanalua, McKinley, and University Laboratory schools. I also served as a tutor for immigrant students from the Philippines through the Operation Manong Program based at Kalakaua Intermediate and Farrington.

As a Board of Education member, I am hopeful that just as my mother was a steward for me, I will play a vital role in policy making to safeguard a "ticket to a good education" for all of our millennial generation children. Education is a "ticket" to reach their aspirations in order to ensure the economic vibrancy of a resilient work force and healthy communities for the next 50 years.

4. Please identify one short- and one long-term goal you would have as a BOE member and how you would accomplish these during your term of service.

One short-term goal is to request the BOE and Superintendent of Schools to improve communication to parents, particularly with parents whose children attend schools identified as "low performing".

A long-term goal is for the board to stop micromanaging schools by decentralizing school administration in order to empower principals to manage their budgets and staff; provide training, incentives and recognition for administrators and exceptional teachers in all schools, including public charter schools; build upon innovation and best practices that can be replicated; and foster capacity building relationships with parents, civic groups, churches, community-based organizations, and socially responsible corporate partners.

These would be accomplished through clear policies set by the BOE that would direct and hold accountable the Superintendent of Schools for consistent progress made to advance these goals.

5. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Education? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any possible conflicts during my service on the Board of Education. But if a questionable conflict should arise, I will seek consultation and recuse myself from discussions and voting if appropriate.

GM655

Testimony

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara,
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Charlene Cuaresma
Gubernatorial Appointee to the Board of Education

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Thank you for the opportunity to be considered for confirmation to the Hawai'i State Board of Education. I applied to serve on the Board of Education because I want to be a good steward of our educational system for all of Hawai'i's school children, their families, teachers and staff, especially in schools that have been identified as "low performing". As a product of Hawai'i public schools, and my work as a public health educator, I am keenly aware of the social determinants, disparities, and opportunities that affect access to and success in education for all children and their families ~ from those who have more than enough to those who have not enough at all.

I congratulate the previous Board of Education members for their contributions to our school system, and for the progress made so far. I am confident in the leadership of our Superintendent of Schools and welcome the opportunity to support her fully with clear guidance and policies from the Board. That said, I am open minded, and will take seriously my responsibility to hear from stakeholders in order to evaluate the intended and unintended consequences of well-intentioned Board policies, especially during these times of grave economic uncertainties.

I believe that I am qualified for a position on the Board of Education because I bring to the table diverse perspectives from public health stakeholders, minority, underrepresented, underserved, low income students and families, including immigrant communities, inter-faith coalitions, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. The character of the board ensures critical thinking, rigorous and dynamic dialog, and a range of partnership

networks to set prudent policy and governance that will address the varied needs and aspirations of Hawai`i students and their families, from early childhood to higher education, and also for public libraries. The combination of the individual Board members' varied knowledge base and expertise fosters synergistic, collaborative working relationships to advance the State's education vision.

Below are Board qualifications established in the passage of Act 05, and my experiences that will complement other Board members well:

Record of integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical standards: I was awarded the 2011 Hawai`i Friends of Civil Rights Martin Luther King, Jr. Award and the 2008 Humanitarian Award by the United Filipino Council of Hawai`i for my community and advocacy volunteer work to address social justice, civil rights, labor equity and health disparities issues in the Filipino community.

Availability for constructive engagement: I am committed to make the BOE a priority to be present and participate fully. I have strong support from family, community, professional organizations, and work. My experience with non-profit boards will help me in my new BOE role.

Knowledge of best practices in educational governance: I welcome training in best practices for educational governance, and will collaborate closely with Board colleagues whose expertise is greater in this area. I am committed to reading materials and attending BOE meetings.

Commitment to educational leadership: I have a clear understanding of the board's role in developing and safeguarding a long range strategic vision for Hawaii's public schools. I take seriously my role as a Board member to hold the Superintendent of education accountable for making consistent progress toward that vision.

Understanding of collective bargaining: I am a firm believer in Hawai`i's Constitution that provides workers in both the public and private sector the right to organize and have their concerns represented by a union. I welcome training to increase my understanding of the Board's roles and responsibilities with regard to collective bargaining. The State Constitution authorizes the Board of Education to represent the State's interest and enter into negotiations for collective bargaining with unions representing teachers, Dept. of Education staff, charter schools and principals. The Board of Education is afforded two votes; the Governor one vote; and the Superintendent of Schools one vote. The Legislature's role is to reject or approve funding for the cost items agreed to by collective bargaining.

Experience governing complex organizations: While I have limited governing experience in complex organizations, I assisted in board development and staff support for the following groups in the public, non-profit and community sectors:

- Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training Advisory Council and Steering Committee, Staff
- Asian Pacific Islander Cancer Education Materials Governance Committee, Staff
- American Cancer Society Hawai`i Pacific Inc., Staff
- Susan G. Komen Asian and Pacific Islander National Advisory Council, Member
- Kalihi-Palama Community Mental Health Center Advisory Council, Staff
- Hale Mohala School Board, Member

- National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII, Executive Board Member and Secretary
- United Filipino Council of Hawaii, Legislative Chair
- Oahu Filipino Community Council, Legislative Chair

Commitment to education: My strength is in my lifelong commitment to education. “Get a good education. Education is your ticket out.” were the last words spoken to me by my mother, who died when I was 11 years old. Despite having only an eighth grade education, my mother’s message still resonates nearly half a century later.

Today I serve as the associate director of the Graduate Professional Access program and the community director of the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training at the University of Hawai`i’s Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity office. In this role I champion other minority, underrepresented students, who like me, are from low income backgrounds, and the first to go to college in their family. I link them to faculty mentors to conduct research and social justice community service that will benefit society and lead to completion of bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees. In previous years I implemented public health peer education programs to prevent substance abuse, teen pregnancy, teen suicide and other teen stress issues with students from Farrington, Moanalua, McKinley, and University Laboratory schools. I worked as a health aide at Liliu`okalani Elementary School, where I saw firsthand how children cannot learn if they are sick or dealing with family problems and poverty. I also served as a tutor for immigrant students from the Philippines through the Operation Manong Program based at Kalakaua Intermediate and Farrington, where I learned that teachers cannot teach students effectively if the teachers lack knowledge of their students’ worldview, culture, language, socio-economic background, historical and political relationship with the U.S. and their country of origin.

As a Board of Education member, I am hopeful that just as my mother was a steward for me, I will play a vital role in policy making to safeguard a “ticket to a good education” for all of our millennial generation children. Education is a “ticket” to reach their aspirations in order to ensure the economic vibrancy of a resilient work force and healthy communities for the next 50 years.

With regards to educational decision-making, the role and responsibilities of individual members and the overall role of the BOE are to set and clarify policies, based on a clear vision for Hawai`i’s educational system. The Board also directs, holds accountable, and monitors the consistent progress toward advancing that vision by the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent’s responsibility is to carry out these policies through principals at their respective schools statewide, including charter schools.

As an individual BOE member, I see my role as an active listener to all stakeholders. My responsibility is to assess and evaluate information and alternatives presented to the Board for decision-making.

Furthermore, the Board’s educational decision-making process is enhanced by the passage of Act 05, which established specific Board composition criteria to assure that members are geographically representative and reflect the interests and make up of the student body and parents of Hawai`i schools.

One short-term goal is to request the BOE and Superintendent of Schools to improve communication to parents, particularly with parents whose children attend schools identified as “low performing”. Keeping students’ parents and caregivers in the loop of meaningful communication is key to student success to achieve Race to the Top outcomes in learning, graduation, and college readiness to address Hawai`i’s work force needs.

A long-term goal is for the board to stop micromanaging schools by decentralizing school administration in order to empower principals to manage their budgets and staff; provide training, incentives and recognition for administrators and exceptional teachers in all schools, including public charter schools; build upon innovation and best practices that can be replicated; and foster capacity building relationships with parents, civic groups, churches, community-based organizations, and socially responsible corporate partners. Given this, I re-iterate that as a Board member, I take seriously the need to evaluate policies on their intended and unintended consequences for accountability and progress related to the success in student graduation rates, college readiness, and work force needs.

These would be accomplished through clear policies set by the BOE that would direct and hold accountable the Superintendent of Schools for consistent progress made to advance these goals.

I do not foresee any possible conflicts during my service on the Board of Education.

Although I am a HGEA member, I do not have a policy role. But if a questionable conflict should arise, I will seek consultation and recuse myself from discussions and voting if appropriate.

In closing, thank you for your consideration of my confirmation to the Board of Education. If given the opportunity, I will do my best to work well with my fellow Board members, the Superintendent of Schools and Hawai`i’s education stakeholders to serve the best interests of Hawai`i’s children, their families, schools and libraries.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Friday, April 8, 2011, 1:15 PM
State Capitol Room 225

Testimony of
Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Education Committee
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

GM655 Confirmation of **Charlene Cuaresma** to the
State of Hawai'i Board of Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to support the confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have appointed Cuaresma to represent the City & County of Honolulu for a two-year term ending June 30, 2013.

Since receiving her Master of Public Health from the University of Hawai'i Manoa School of Public Health in 1981, Cuaresma has worked as a health educator in numerous capacities, including as a School Health Aide at Lili'uokalani Elementary School, School Health Educator for the Queen Emma Foundation Making Choices for Health program, and as the Community Director for the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training (AANCART) Hawai'i.

A Waipahu High School Graduate and the first in her family to earn a college degree, Cuaresma has dedicated herself to improving public health through education. Among her responsibilities in current role as an Associate Director of the Graduate Professional Access Program (CPA) at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Cuaresma works to remove institutional and individual barriers to increase degree completion and coordinates support services to increase the number of minority researchers conducting research in their own communities.

Cuaresma is a grassroots community leader. She has been a staunch advocate for Hawaii's Filipino community and those that are the most vulnerable in our society. She has served on the Advisory Council of the Domestic Violence Action Center Pilipina Rural Project, and has volunteered with the Filipino American Historical Society of Hawaii, United Filipino Council of Hawaii, National Federation of Filipino American Associations, American Red Cross, Rainbow Ohana Coalition, American Friends Service Committee, and the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii, to name a few.

Cuaresma will bring her experience as public health leader, community organizer and parent to the BOE. I was thrilled to be able to appoint Cuaresma to the BOE. I am confident of the contribution that she will make to the board and to improving public education in Hawai'i. I know that you will find Cuaresma well qualified for the BOE and encourage you to confirm her.



KANEOHE
RANCH

April 6, 2011

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearings re GM651 through GM659

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

As a member of the business community engaged in the improvement of our State's public school system since at least 2002, I am writing to urge the Committee to confirm Governor Abercrombie's appointment to the State Board of Education of all nine individuals noted in GM651 through GM659.

Because of pressing matters that require policy leadership by the Board of Education in the next few weeks, it is crucial that the new Board be put in place as quickly as possible. Among these matters are the negotiation of new contracts with the teachers' and principals' unions, and the advancement of bold reform initiatives outlined in the State's winning Race to the Top plan.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

H. Mitchell D'Olier
President and
Chief Executive Officer



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM655

April 8, 2011; 1:15 P.M.; Conference Room 225

To: Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Senate Education Committee
Honorable Education Committee Members

From: Ron Menor, Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations
("NaFFAA") Region 12

Re: GM655

I serve as the Chair of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations ("NaFFAA") Region 12 which represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawaii, Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. NaFFAA Region 12 is an affiliate of the national NaFFAA. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories. I am writing in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee Charlene Cuaresma to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

I have had the privilege of working with Charlene for several years now through her involvement as Secretary of NaFFAA Region 12. Moreover, we both serve as members of the UNITE HERE! Local 5 community alliance.

I have been impressed with Charlene's intelligence and the dedication and commitment that she brings to her volunteer work. Moreover, she has an impressive grasp of the critical issues that are of concern to the residents of our State, including the challenges facing our public school system. Furthermore, Charlene has been a tireless and compassionate advocate for working people and the most vulnerable individuals in our society, including disabled persons and needy families. She also recognizes that the key to our future lies in promoting educational excellence in our schools to enable our young people to achieve their potential. For all of these reasons, I believe that Charlene will provide invaluable perspectives as a member of the Board of Education.

In closing, I respectfully request your favorable consideration of the nomination of Charlene Cuaresma to the Board of Education. Thank you for considering my views.



HAWAII FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS
3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

April 8, 2011

To: Honorable Sen Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education: Sen.
Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian
Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

FROM: Amy Agbayani, Co-chair

RE: GM 655 - Testimony in Support of Charlene Cuaresma for the
Board of Education

I am representing the Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights in support of Charlene Cuaresma. HF CR supports policies, programs and individuals who are committed to civil rights and equality. Ms. Cuaresma was one HF CR Martin Luther King Jr. 2011 awardees for her distinguished and a long track record of community service to our state and support of the goals of equality and social justice for all. She understands and appreciates diversity in our island state and the need to provide equal access to government services, including our public schools and the University of Hawaii. The Department of Education may be the most important public agency because an educated child will determine our social and economic status. Ms. Cuaresma will be an independent, thoughtful and responsible member of the BOE. I respectfully urge you to support her nomination.

UNITE HERE!

LOCAL  HAWAII

Eric Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Hernando Ramos Tan, President

Godfrey Maeshiro, Senior Vice-President

Wednesday, April 7, 2011

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
and Members
Hawaii State Legislature
Senate Committee on Education
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

On behalf of UNITE HERE Local 5, a local labor organization representing nearly 11,000 hotel, health care and food service workers employed throughout our State, I hereby register our organization's strong support of GM 655 and the confirmation of Ms. Charlene Cuaresma to Hawaii's State Board of Education.

As a proven and dedicated community leader, our organization has worked closely and has come to know Ms. Cuaresma in the last 6 years and it that time, we have observed first-hand her steadfast commitment towards defending the public's interest.

Since 2006, Ms. Cuaresma has participated and served as a member of Local 5's Community Committee – an alliance of 17 community leaders representing an array of interests and constituent groups brought together to support the efforts of hotel, health care and food service workers.

We know Ms. Cuaresma to be an outstanding member of our community with a distinguished record of community service. She has dedicated countless hours advocating for fairness and equality in our community. As a community leader, health care advocate, and strong supporter of Hawaii's public education system, Ms. Cuaresma possesses a unique set of skills and perspectives needed to serve the interests of Hawaii's public school students. We are confident that Ms. Cuaresma, if confirmed, will continue to serve in our community's best interest.

We stand in strong support of GM 655 and humbly ask for your Committee's support of Ms. Cuaresma's nomination.

Sincerely,

Cade Watanabe
Community/Political Organizer

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

THE SENATE
Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Friday, April 8, 2011; 1:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 655
CHARLENE CUARESMA
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The ILWU Local 142 strongly supports the confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma for the Board of Education.

Ms. Cuaresma traces her roots to the sugar plantation where her father worked to support his family, joined a union, and struggled to win respect and dignity from his employer. She has never forgotten those roots, which have shaped her into the person she is today. Ms. Cuaresma is forever grateful to her father for the sacrifices he made to provide her with opportunities and a college education. A product of public education at the K-12 and post-secondary level, Ms. Cuaresma herself has struggled as a single mother to give her own son a solid education and the opportunity for a brighter future.

What Ms. Cuaresma learned from her father and has conveyed to her son are values that have made her a strong fighter for social justice. She has taken up numerous struggles against injustice (like worker struggles against Pacific Beach Hotel), has worked to ensure equal opportunities for minority students (at the University of Hawaii's SEED program), and has brought awareness to her own Filipino community about health care (through her work with AANCART).

Ms. Cuaresma is well-suited to serve on the Board of Education, not only because of her own experience with public education, but because of her close ties with the community. She will have the pulse of the community, will have an open ear to their concerns, will work in collaboration with others on the BOE and the DOE to seek solutions, and will put students first and foremost. Ms. Cuaresma will be an advocate for students and parents and a voice for the underrepresented in their quest for quality education.

Ms. Cuaresma will bring to the Board of Education her passion for public education, her genuineness, and her gift of cooperation. The ILWU urges confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma for the Board of Education.

Thank you for considering our testimony.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 λ Fax: (808) 839-7106 λ Web: www.hsta.org

Wil Okabe
President

Karolyn Mossman
Vice President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer

Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: GM 658, GM 655, GM 656, GM 652 – Gubernatorial Nominees for State of Hawaii Board of Education, **NANCY JO-YAMAKAWA BUDD, CHARLENE CUARESMA, CHERYL KA'UHANE LUPENUI, KEITH AMEMIYA**

Friday, April 8, 2011

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports the appointment of **Nancy Jo-Yamanaka Budd, Charlene Cuaresma, Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui, Keith Amemiya**, to the Hawaii Board of Education.

Each of these nominees brings with them dedication, enthusiasm and a vast knowledge base to a Board of Education that will oversee the Department of Education with the Governor maintaining ultimate accountability.

Diverse backgrounds, hard working, experienced decision-makers, – these are all traits reflected in each of these individual nominees. These talents and abilities will join together to improve public education in Hawaii.

We urge your support in confirming Ms. Budd, Ms. Cuaresma, Ms. Lupenui, and Mr. Amemiya to the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President
P. O. Box 270126 ★ Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara,
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League
Hawaii Democratic Party

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Jake Manegdeg. I am the president of the Filipino American Citizens League. The Filipino American Citizens League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action. I am also a member of the Hawai'i Democratic Party.

I am proud to strongly support the confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma to the Board of Education. I was the one who first got her involved in serving in Filipino civic organizations. I can attest from my community work with her that she is bright, energetic, dedicated and has the mind and heart to make sure that policies work in the best interest of all of Hawai'i's school children.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and for your consideration to confirm her as a member of Hawai'i's Board of Education. I thank Governor Abercrombie for his faith in her abilities and contributions.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg
President
Filipino American Citizens League



CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATIONS

99-1325 Aiea Heights Drive, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM655, CONFIRMING CHARLENE CUARESMA
AS MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Education

FROM: Jane Clement
President

DATE: April 8, 2011 Hearing
1:15 p.m., Room 225

SUBJECT: GM655 – Confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma as Member of the
Board of Education

My name is Jane Clement, President of the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO), the statewide umbrella of more than a dozen organizations of Filipinos of Visayan ancestry in Hawaii.

In behalf of the officers and members of COVO, I strongly support the confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma as member of the Board of Education.

Charlene Cuaresma has devoted most of her life in the service of Hawaii's people, especially the immigrant community and the most vulnerable in our population. This is clearly shown in her work at the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training (AANCART) as well as her involvement in various community organizations such as the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations, the Coalition for Filipino Solidarity, the United Filipino Community Council, and others. Currently, she is an associate director of the Graduate Professional Access Program at the University of Hawaii.

She has been a strong supporter and advocate of immigrant rights and has shown compassion and fairness in her dealings with individuals and groups in the community. She cares a lot about our keiki and public education, and I am confident that she will bring new and fresh perspectives on the issues that beset our educational system in Hawaii.

I urge the committee to confirm her appointment as member of the Board of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Angela Sy, DrPH, President, UH School of Public Health Alumni Association

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

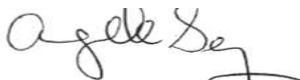
My name is Angela Sy, DrPH. I serve as the president of the UH School of Public Health Alumni Association (SPHAA). Charlene is a board member of the SPHAA, as a fellow alum of the UH SPH.

The SPHAA is submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because of her background as a community advocate and serving on numerous boards. Ms. Cuaresma has won many awards for her community advocacy and activism work. She is professionally and personally dedicated to promoting educational equity, and is passionate, persistent, and willing to serve in capacities that will support this goal.

Ms. Cuaresma, like those in the public health field, sees that the opportunity for all to attain a quality education, including in public health, supports in the long term, the health, strength, and well being of individuals and their communities. I am not surprised that she has agreed to be a candidate to serve on the Board of Education. For all the work that Ms. Cuaresma does, she maintains the highest standards of integrity and respect to everyone, and works collaboratively and collegially with everyone at all levels from decisions makers to students.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education. We are honored to be able to submit testimony in support of Ms. Cuaresma's confirmation.

Sincerely,



Angela Sy, DrPH
President

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jean Jeremiah
Director – Oahu Filipino Community Council
c/o 500 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 1-306A

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Jean Jeremiah, Director of Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC) and also Chairman of the Legislative Committee of OFCC wherein Charlene Cuaresma is my Co-Chair.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because I am confident that she will do a great job for this position. I have known Charlene Cuaresma for several years and have witnessed her passion and commitment in all her assigned work and projects. Charlene has always worked on the side of justice and fairness. She is a strong supporter of education as top priority for our students. She will work hard to improve our educational system and will not compromise or take away any opportunity from our students to learn in school.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah
Director
Oahu Filipino Community Council

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Beatrice Ramos-Razon
RN FACDONA
President, NAMI (Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc)

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN (Registered Nurse) and FACDONA (Fellow and Certified Director of Nursing Administration). Currently I am a Nursing Instructor at the Kapiolani Community College.

I am the Founding President of NAMI (Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc), a volunteer organization that coordinates free review classes for potential Registered Nurses. Charlene Cuaresma has been a consistent supporter of the mission of our organization. NAMI has partnered with AANCART (Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, Research and Training) in the promotion of education and research of cancer. With the leadership of Ms Cuaresma as the Community Director of AANCART Hawaii, NAMI has participated in numerous programs for the education, research and training to reduce cancer incidence, tobacco use, mortality, and improve the quality of life for undeserved Asian groups in Hawaii and US territories in the Pacific.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because with her experience and community involvement, she will be a good steward for Hawaii's educational system.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon
RN FACDONA
President NAMI-Nursing Advocates and Mentors Inc

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: **Pepito I Guevarra – Guevarra Appraisal Services, LLC**
P.O. Box 971419, Waipahu, HI. 96797
ga@hawaii.rr.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Pepito I Guevarra, President/Owner of Guevarra Appraisal Services LLC and an associate member of NAMI together with Charlene Cuaresma.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because I have known Charlene for the last 12 years when my children were still in high school. Charlene is a very caring person, never get tired of helping and inspiring others and me to try and do our best in any endeavor we pursue.

Every time we have gathering, Charlene always talks to my daughters discussing all different aspects of life including school chores and giving guidance, encouragement and motivational preaches to my kids.

My two daughters who are now college graduates from mainland universities were very proud of her and because of her encouragement, my younger one went back for her second degree at Northwestern University in Chicago (law degree (JD)) and will be graduating next year.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Pepito I. Guevarra
President – Guevarra Appraisal Services
Associate member of NAMI

Erin Conner

From: CNakamura@thelearningcoalition.org
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 2:57 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: GM 655: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013
Attachments: HEE Voting Members and Participants 20110301.pdf

HE'E Coalition

4224 Waialae Ave., Ste 322

Honolulu, HI 96816

Tel: 808-926-1530

Fax: 808-926-1533

www.HEECoalition.org

April 8, 2011

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, April 8, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Conference Room 225

GM 655: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

Hui for Excellence in Education, (HE'E), a statewide education coalition working to improve public education through family and community engagement, has reviewed the Governor's nominees for the Board of Education and found that all of the nominees meet the minimum qualifications required in the new law creating the appointed BOE (Act 5 of 2011).

HE'E is made up of voting, non-voting members (list attached), individuals and policy makers. HE'E's endorsement is supported by at least 75% of its voting members. This insures that any action taken by the group is of significant importance to the coalition as a whole.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura

HE'E Coalition Director



HE'E Coalition Voting Members (*) and Participants

*Academy 21

DOE Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Support

DOE Parent Community Networking Center

*DOE Windward District

*Faith Action Community for Equity

*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

Hawai'i Charter School Network

*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

*Hawai'i Education Matters

Hawai'i P-20

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

*Kanu Hawai'i

*Leaders for the Next Generation

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

*Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

UH College of Education

UH Law School

United States Army

Lyla Berg

Norman Sakamoto



Hawaii Education Matters
111 Hekili Street, Suite A1606
Kailua, HI 96734
Tel: 808-888-6922
www.hawaiieducationmatters.org

April 8, 2011

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Friday, April 8, 2011 at 1:15 pm
Conference Room 225

GM 655: Comments on Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

Hawaii Education Matters (HEM) is a non-partisan, non-profit parent advocacy organization dedicated to quality public education in our state.

We feel that the amount of information provided on Ms. Cuaresma by the Governor was limited. Please consider asking Ms. Cuaresma the following questions, taken directly from the new law (Act 5 Of 2011). We hope these questions will help the Committee better evaluate the candidate. In addition we have included a question related to community and family engagement and would ask that you also consider this question in your evaluation of the candidate.

1. Please have the candidate describe her experience with collective bargaining.
2. Please have the candidate describe her experience with complex organizations.
3. Please have the candidate describe her experience working among diverse colleagues and in developing consensus based policies.
4. Because HEM is a parent advocacy organization we would like to hear the candidate's thoughts on enhancing parent and community engagement in our public schools. Does the candidate know of any particularly effective community engagement models that could be

replicated?

HEM was recently named in SCR 145 by Senator Tokuda (a concurrent resolution to develop a statewide parent/community engagement policy) to work with BOE on developing this policy prior to the 2012 legislative session. What does the candidate feel is the role of community and family engagement is in the educational success of the public school student?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Davis, MPH
Executive Director

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara,
Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Alfredo Anatalio Cuaresma, Sr.
94-908 Kumua'o Place
Waipahu, HI 96797

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Alfredo Anatalio Cuaresma, Sr. I am the father of Charlene Cuaresma. I am proud to submit my testimony in strong support of her confirmation to the Board of Education. I support her because she will not forget where she came from. She understands the struggles of families and what it takes to improve their lives with education.

My wife, Cecilia Cuaresma, died when Charlene was 11 years old. Charlene became the "mother of the house" and took care of her brothers and sisters. I had five children at the time. The youngest was two. I worked two to three jobs in Oahu Sugar Plantation, as a waiter, and as a junk yard dealer. I was gone from home most of the time. Charlene cooked, cleaned, and walked her sisters and brother to school.

I am proud that she will be able to help our school children get a good education. Please give her a chance to be at the table. She will work hard for everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Alfredo Anatalio Cuaresma, Sr.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Eugene Dashiell, Husband
728 Nunu Street, Kailua, Hawaii 96734
dashiell.e@hawaiiantel.net - 254-1805

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Eugene Dashiell. I am Charlene Cuaresma's husband. I am the owner of a small business which provides environmental planning services in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands since 1984.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because she will add a strong voice to the Board which has goals of graduating more students from public schools who are better prepared to work, live and survive in our increasingly complex and difficult modern life.

Charlene grew up in a tough plantation environment, and benefited from Leeward Community College and UH Manoa. Against many odds, she attained a master's degree in Public Health. In her career she has worked with students to catch their interest so that they would be self-motivated for their own educational achievement.

One of Charlene's "careers" is as a health educator who works with a wide variety of people to engage them in improving and managing their own health: office workers, construction workers, neighbor islanders, church groups, young adults, college students, the disabled, and people with cancer, diabetes, smoking issues and other health problems.

She has a unique way of engaging people so that they participate and get involved in learning. In her own way she is a teacher with grand imagination and curiosity which she imparts to those with whom she speaks.

Charlene will always have the best interests of Hawaii's students and of those who wish to learn or who need to access resources such as libraries or adult classes. She is just amazing in her ability to get folks, young and old, involved.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Eugene Dashiell
Husband of Charlene Cuaresma

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Kris Cuaresma-Primm
728 Nunu Street, Kailua, HI 96734

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Kris Cuaresma-Primm. I am Charlene Cuaresma's son.

I never met my grandma, who passed away when my mom was a student at August Ahrens School. Helping to raise her four siblings since she was in the sixth grade gave my mom early insight into how Hawaii's public schools serve their most vulnerable students -- a unique perspective my mom could bring to the Board of Education (BOE).

My grandma's final words to my mom were, "Education is your ticket out of poverty." Inspired by this, my mom graduated from Waipahu High School, attended Leeward Community College, then became the first person in her family to graduate from a University, eventually earning a masters degree from UH's School of Public Health. Education from Hawaii's public schools lifted my mom, and by extension me, out of poverty -- a second unique perspective my mom, as a single parent, could bring to the BOE.

My grandma passed away from a preventable disease because information to save her life never reached our family. As a result, my mom dedicated her professional life to helping Hawaii's families access information that saves lives, prevents disease and promotes healthy living. Through working with students and families on issues such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes, mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse, my mom worked with families that spanned Hawaii's ethnic and socio-economic spectrum -- a third unique perspective my mom could bring to the BOE.

I strongly support Governor Neil Abercrombie's appointment of my mom because of her unique perspectives, which when combined with the perspectives of other board members will drive innovations that create a healthier school system.

Much Mahalo,

Kris Cuaresma-Primm
Proud Son

TO: Honorable Sen Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education: Sen.
Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian
Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

FROM: Laurel Cuaresma

**RE: GM 655 - Testimony in Support of CHARLENE CUARESMA
for the Board of Education**

I am writing to you today to offer my strong support of the nomination of my sister, Charlene Cuaresma, to the Hawai'i State Board of Education. I currently live Bellevue Washington (since March of 1980). Over the years, have followed my sister's professional and volunteer career and continue to be impressed by her endless energy and commitment to the people of Hawai'i.

In August of 1963, one week before our mom passed away, she had all five of her children brought to her hospital room and had advice for each of us. Her advice to Charlene was to get a "good education," and I'm proud to say my sister not only followed our mom's advice, but took it to heart and was the first in our family to graduate from college. She didn't stop there, going on to get her Master's degree. She has been an example and mentor for her own son, and all our family, always advocating the value of education.

From starting in public school when Hawai'i was still a U.S. Territory, to graduate at University of Hawai'i, Charlene has been an organizer, a teacher, an advocate and a supporter for the people of Hawai'i. I'm incredibly proud of her, and know she will be a tremendous asset to the Board of Education.

Thank you for time. Fondest aloha from Washington.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: **Kevin Akiyama, Program Director, Mānoa Educational Talent Search (METS)**
2600 Campus Road, QLCSS-414B
akiyamak@hawaii.edu, (808) 956 9442

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Kevin Akiyama. I am the director of a federal program serving 600 students at Nanakuli Intermediate & High School and Wai'anae High School with the aim of grade level promotion, retention, graduation, and post-secondary enrollment. Charlene is not only my colleague at the Student Equity, Excellence, Diversity (SEED) office here at UH Manoa, but serves as a consultant for the programmatic challenges that I, as a director, face on a daily basis.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because Charlene has demonstrated the attitude, knowledge, and skills set needed to succeed in her role.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

me ke aloha,

Kevin Akiyama
Program Director
Mānoa Educational Talent Search

Erin Conner

From: Pua Auyong [pua888@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 11:08 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony GM 655 Senate Committee on Education

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: **Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair**
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: **Pua Auyong-White, University of Hawaii Manoa**
3432 B2 Kalihi Street
pua888@yahoo.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Pua Auyong-White and I am a program administrator for the University of Hawaii SEED program. Our programs serve underrepresented students in higher education.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because her background and professional experience in higher education will have a positive impact on education policies.. Her commitment to education at all levels is outstanding and she is an advocate for all students.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

**Pua Auyong-White, University of Hawaii Manoa
Office of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Richard Y Okubo
2226 Aumakua St.
Pearl City, Hawai'i 96782

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Richard Y Okubo. I am a colleague of Charlene Cuaresma at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because she shares the same vision of how public education should be in this great State of Hawai'i. Her professionalism, knowledge and attention to details will be a great asset to this Board. Charlene's diverse background and her countless years as a community leader in health education will serve the Board with a perspective that is essential for its future success. As a Board Member, I believe that she will be a great liaison to our community and an excellent appointee in our Board of Education.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,



Richard Y Okubo
2226 Aumakua Street
Pearl City, Hawai'i 96782

Erin Conner

From: Claudia Shay [selfhelphawaii@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 10:34 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the State Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Charlene Cuaresma, for a term to expire 6/30/13

April 6, 2011

To: The Honorable Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Claudia Shay, Executive Director
Self-Help Housing Corporation of Hawaii

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawaii Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for term to expire 6/30/13

My name is Claudia Shay, and I am the Executive Director of the Self-Help Housing Corporation of Hawaii, a non-profit housing corporation teaching low income families how to build their own houses. I have known Charlene Cuaresma for more than 30 years. It is a great honor for me to submit testimony in support of Charlene Cuaresma's appointment to the Board of Education. Both Charlene and I received our M.P.H. Degrees from the University of Hawaii-School of Public Health, and Charlene did her field work for the School of Public Health at the Self-Help Housing Corporation of Hawaii in 1981.

Charlene is an intelligent, sincere, and diligent individual with a passion for social justice, and learning at all levels. Her professional background demonstrates her lifelong interest in education for youth, adults, the elderly, the disadvantaged, and people of all ethnicities. Ms. Cuaresma understands that diversity in Hawaii is what enriches our society, and enables us to use the diverse skills and approaches of all of us to solve problems. Her work demonstrates how she has applied these values to be inclusive with all individuals to generate solutions in a collaborative and creative manner. With this perspective Charlene will be a team player on the Board of Education motivated to work for the children of our State to build an educational system promoting academic standards while utilizing our cultural and ethnic diversity to adopt innovative approaches to solve problems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Valerie Y. O. Kim
137 N Larchmont Blvd. #673
Los Angeles, CA 90004
ykimjewel@aol.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Valerie Y O Kim. I am a 399 Location Manager, with a background in Public and Mental Health in Hawaii. My work in feature films include: Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl, Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End, The Rock, National Treasure, Princess Ka'iulani, and The Tempest. My MPH is from the University of Hawaii in Media Use in Primary Prevention, Mental Health. I have known Ms. Cuaresma since 1975 when we worked together in the community of mental health professionals and have kept close contact through these many years and many miles apart.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education. Ms. Cuaresma has shown by her work ethic, compassion and enthusiasm that she will champion our youth in these financial times. There will be difficult decisions to be made. The abilities of a clear mind for discernment yet a laser focus on the resource of our youth requires the kind of integrity and discipline that Ms Cuaresma has displayed throughout her health career.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Valerie Y. O. Kim

Erin Conner

From: G Ohta [gohtahpha@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 8:11 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Senate Education Committee confirmation hearing, GM 655

I support the appointment of Charlene Cuaresma to the Board of Education

Having been a product of the Public Schools myself and having taught in the public schools myself, it is always gratifying to know that the person looking after the interests of our students has the knowledge, background, perseverance, compassion and commitment to take on this daunting challenge.

Charlene is an acknowledged leader in education and public health who has always worked for equity, fairness, and opportunity for all students.

I mua Charlene!

Gerald Ohta
Wai ki ki Elementary
Kai muki Intermediate
Kai muki High
Ni u Valley Intermediate

Erin Conner

From: Romel Dela Cruz [ahufarm@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:59 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: ccuaresma@gmail.com
Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655, SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Date: April 6, 2011

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishikawa, Sen. Brian Taniguchi.
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Romel Dela Cruz, Retired Hospital Administrator
P.O. Box 28, Honokaa, Hawaii 96727
Phone: 808-775-0768 Email: ahufarm@gmail.com

My name is Romel Dela Cruz, a resident of Honokaa, Hawaii, a product of the Hawaii public school system and a retired hospital administrator of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation on Maui and the Big Island.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because she has the educational background and work experience related to perform the duties required of her as a member of the Board. Most importantly, she has strong ties to community programs dealing with education and she has been most active in the Filipino community, a segment that has been under-represented in matters related to education.

Her participation in matters related to education will enhance equity to all in the community because she represents a unique voice that has been missing and necessary all these years in deliberations of the BOE and the DOE.

Salamat and mahalo for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Ms. Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Romel Dela Cruz

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Name, Title, Organization
Address
Email, Phone (Optional)

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is _Lynne Gutierrez. I am the current president of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii an umbrella organization of all Filipino unit organizations of Hawaii with a total number of at least 2,000 + members in all 6 island councils.. Charlene serves as our legislative action chairperson for least 5 years.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because she is knowledgeable about the education and legislative systems of Hawaii. She also coordinates teen and adult health forums with regards to organ donation, tobacco usage, domestic violence, child abuse and cancer awareness. She is an advocate for civil and human rights as she served as the president of Filipino Coalition for Solidarity and an officer of the National Federation of FilAmerican Association of America. She was instrumental in voter registration projects in the Filipino community.

She is the most patient, kind, cheerful and understanding person I have ever met.

Thank you for hearing this hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Lynne Vilorio Gutierrez
President, United Filipino Council of Hawaii

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Mildred Macugay Asuncion
P. O. Box 4216
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
mil.asuncion@yahoo.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Mildred Macugay Asuncion. I have known Charlene Cuaresma for over 35 years as a personal friend, a colleague, and a fellow member in various community organizations.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because I believe that she possesses extensive real-world experiences in our community in the areas of public health, minority and diversity issues, civil rights, and, most importantly, education. These experiences combined with her passion and commitment for increasing the effectiveness and excellence of our educational system are the essential elements the Board of Education needs to move Hawaii forward for the benefit of our children and youth.

Additionally, as a public school educator, I would feel very comfortable and reassured that Charlene would be speaking on our behalf and looking out for our children's well being.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,



Mildred Macugay Asuncion

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Justin Ragasa

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Aloha,

My name is Justin Ragasa. I am a student and McNair Scholar at the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Board of Education Nominee Charlene Cuaresma has been my research mentor since June 2010.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because she is the product Hawaii's public school system. She has played various roles in the system as a student, parent, and mentor.

I fully support the consideration and confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma as a member of the Board of Education.

Thank you for hearing this hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Justin Ragasa

Erin Conner

From: Patricia Masters [pmasters@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:51 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of Charlene Cuaresma for the BOE

April 5, 2011

To: Honorable Sen Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Se. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Dr. Patricia Lee Masters, Ph.D.
Associate Director, SEED
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawaii Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013

My name is Patricia Lee Masters, I am Associate Director of Student Equity, Excellence, and Diversity at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am a colleague and friend of Charlene Cuaresma.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because I know that Charlene will make a wonderful contribution to the board and to our State. I have known Charlene for 35 years, as friends and as colleagues in the field of Public Health Education. Charlene has always been concerned about equity in all things and education is one of her main concerns. She champions the rights of the underdog, of the underrepresented, of the people who have little voice of their own. From her own beginnings on the plantation in Waipahu, she learned the value of education as a way out of poverty and as a way to become an active voice in the civil arena. Her education at the University of Hawaii (the first of her family to go to college), gave her the tools and knowledge to understand the system, to be able to effectively work with that system, and to fight for the rights of others.

Charlene brings many things to the Board of Education. Besides her tireless energy, she has an analytical mind that figures out solutions to problems that are understandable, compassionate, and doable. She always has the community interest at heart and she rarely gives up until she is able to see the success of her work. She can be counted on, works hard, and is respectful of many different perspectives on issues of importance. She is intelligent and passionate which is a great combination, and she writes and speaks well in public.

Her years of experience of working within the public and private not-for-profit sectors has afforded her the opportunity to see and understand how many systems work and how they differ in their approaches. She is able to navigate through bureaucracy and to offer fresh ideas to systems that need to hear a different voice. she has taken her education all the way to doctoral work and shows that she can manage reams of text without exhaustion or driving herself crazy. She can distill the major ideas and to articulate those ideas in a way that is comprehensible to others.

I think she will contribute a great deal to the Board of Education and that she will learn a lot as well. She will give 150% and will take on programs and projects that others might not. She is dedicated, honest, and hard working. I highly recommend her to you and I hope in your wisdom, you will see what a good candidate she is

and what a good member of the BOE she will be.

Aloha no,

Pat Masters

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Lito M. Asuncion
P.O. Box 4216
Hilo, HI 96720
litoasuncion@hotmail.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Lito M. Asuncion, a long-time community organizer who have known Charlene Cuaresma during our college days at the University of Hawaii and, in many capacities through our common and deep-rooted commitment to work with many community-based programs assisting marginalized populations to become contributing and progressive residents of this great state.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education not only because of her vast and professional experiences in education both in non-traditional community environments and institutional settings, but because of her personal attributes as an effective educator and her keen understanding of the many educational policies impacting the diverse populations of Hawaii. I strongly believe that Ms. Cuaresma will contribute fresh and constructive ideas on needed educational reforms for our children. Because Charlene's experiences have been tempered by her lifetime devotion to lifelong learning, her perspectives will undoubtedly generate serious but balanced discussions on educational matters facing Hawaii. Your committees' positive action towards Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation is a strong testament that government truly reflects the diverse population that it purports to serve.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,



Lito M. Asuncion

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, April 8, 2011
TIME: 1:15PM
PLACE: Conference Room 225

Testifier – Gary Hooser, 6585 Ohelo Road, Kapaa Hawaii 96746

Testimony in strong support of GM655 Charlene Cuaresma

It is my distinct pleasure to offer my testimony in support of the confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms Cuaresma for several years and have found her always to be professional, thoughtful and diligent in her approach to community issues.

It is without any reservation whatsoever that I support her confirmation and urge the Senate Education Committee to vote in support.

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Jo Ann Cuaresma, Network Engineer
94-548 Farrington Hwy. Waipahu, HI 96797
joannc@hawaii.rr.com, 808-352-4599

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Jo Ann Cuaresma. I am a Network Engineer for Affiliated Computer Services, a Xerox Company and a first cousin to Charlene Cuaresma.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because Charlene has worked tirelessly for the betterment of public health for our community stressing equal opportunities and rights for minorities. Her familial roots feed her compassion and determination to see change happen that will benefit underrepresented individuals starting with our youth.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Jo Ann Cuaresma
Network Engineer, first cousin
ACS, A Xerox Company

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Dioreme Amor Navasca, University of Hawaii-Manoa McNair Scholar
1214 Palama St. Honolulu, HI 96817
vinunkz@yahoo.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Dioreme Amor Navasca. I am a current student of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a McNair Scholar at the University of Hawaii at Manoa Chapter. I have been working with Ms. Charlene Cuaresma as one of my mentors for the McNair Program at University of Hawaii-Manoa, aiming to help under represented groups in Hawaii achieve higher education.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because she embodies important qualities essential for quality education for Hawaii's youth. She has the experience in dealing with and inspiring students from under represented groups to excel in school. As a student who has been working closely with her through the McNair Program, I have witnessed her passion on improving the quality of Hawaii's education system. Her background in public health as well, qualifies her to help address the declining health of the children in Hawaii today. Her presence in the Board of Education would truly be an asset for the entire future of Hawaii and generations to come.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Dioreme Amor Navasca
Student
McNair Scholar's Program- University of Hawaii at Manoa

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: CJ Ancheta
Publisher/Managing Editor
Fil-Am OBSERVER
784 Pomaikai St.
Kahului, HI 96732

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is CJ Ancheta. I am the Publisher of Fil-Am OBSERVER, a Filipino community based newspaper.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education. I have known Charlene through the National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region XII of which she is one of the active and committed leaders of the organization. The same strong leadership, passion and commitment for public service, dedication and sincerity, are what she's bringing to the board. She will be an asset to improving the quality of education to Hawaii's children.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

CJ Ancheta
Publisher/Managing Editor
Fil-Am OBSERVER
784 Pomaikai St.
Kahului, HI 96732

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Deanna Espinas
2103 Palolo Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96816
Email: espihawaii@juno.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Deanna Espinas. I am a member of the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii (FAHSOH) and NaFFAA (National Federation of Filipino American Associations) which Charlene is also a member.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because Charlene has worked very hard to address issues which impact our families, our community and the voices of those who are disenfranchised in society. She advocates to support our children, our elderly, ethnic minorities and is unafraid to speak out.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Deanna Espinas
Individual
Member of FAHSOH and NaFFAA

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 2:22 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM655 on 4/8/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/8/2011 1:15:00 PM GM655

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/3/2011

Comments:
Chair, EDN Committee
Honorable Members of the Senate
EDN Committee

We support GM 655 for the advise and consent for the appointment of Ms. Charlene Cuaresma to the State Board of Education.

Mahalo,

Arvid Youngquist
Founder/Editor
The Mestizo Association
Kalihi Valley resident

Erin Conner

From: Doris Segal Matsunaga [dsegalmatsu@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:14 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 655

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Doris Segal Matsunaga

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Doris Segal Matsunaga and I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education. As the mother of two children who attended public schools in Hawaii, I know first hand the importance of capable, caring and committed BOE members. Ms Cuaresma is fully competent to serve as a member of the board because she brings experience as an educator and administrator in both lower and higher education. Her background in public health education has made her a strong advocate for addressing health disparities and speaking out for those that have been marginalized in our communities. Ms. Cuaresma's commitment to serve the people of Hawaii is

unquestionable. Thank you for hearing this measure and for accepting public opinion on Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Doris Segal Matsunaga, MPH

98-897 D Kaonohi Street Aiea, Hawaii 96701

dsegalmatsu@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655
Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

From: Dr. Rosalind P. Harris

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Dr. Rosalind Harris and I am submitting testimony in strong support of Ms. Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education. Ms. Cuaresma is an exceptionally strong candidate for this position because she brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and understanding to addressing the formal and non-formal educational needs of Hawai'i's communities. Ms. Cuaresma grew up in Hawai'i facing many of the challenges that Hawai'i's children and adults still face in obtaining the knowledge and skills needed for contributing to the well-being of their families and communities that can ultimately translate into a multiplicity of vital resources for strengthening the human capital, social and economic resource base of the state of Hawai'i overall. I have worked with Ms. Cuaresma to address health disparities within the state through non-formal educational programs. Her deep grasp of the issues, ability to support the growth of networks and coalitions across the state to address issues and finally her creative-innovative approaches to community-based education have made her work distinctive and impactful. Ms. Cuaresma has served Hawai'i's communities with heart and commitment for over thirty years and her commitment to use her background and experience to continue to make a difference is unwavering. Ms. Cuaresma is deeply thoughtful, courageous, energetic and enthusiastic in her resolve to be of service to Hawai'i's communities. I commend her to you for confirmation to the Board of Education.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Ms. Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Rosalind P. Harris Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
University of Kentucky
1500 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington, KY 40506
859-257-6891
rharris@uky.edu

Testimony in Strong Support of GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011 1:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 225

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

To: Senate Chair Jill Tokuda, Senate Vice Chair Michelle Kidani and Members of the Committee

From: Jason T. Espero

My name is Jason Espero and I am the Shelter Coordinator at the Waikiki Health Center. I've known Ms. Cuaresma for about 3 years now. I first met Ms. Cuaresma when I was an intern at Unite Here Local 5. Currently, I sit as an elected member with Ms. Cuaresma for NaFFAA (National Federation of Filipino American Associations).

I am writing in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neal Abercrombie to the Board of Education because I believe that Ms. Cuarsema will be able to contribute to the Governor's plan on education to restore public confidence in our public schools.

I view Ms. Cuaresma as a mentor and influential leader in our community. Ms. Cuaresma is enthusiastic, passionate and committed to everything she's involved in. I have faith and confidence that with Ms. Cuaresma on the Board of Education, the children and families of Hawaii will be in good hands.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this much respected individual.

Mahalo,

Jason T. Espero
Private Citizen

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Raymund Ll. Liongson
91-892 Nohoihoewa Place
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
rliongson@gmail.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

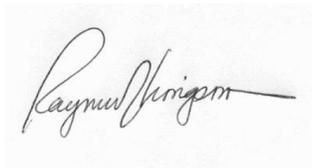
Honorable Senators:

My name is Raymund Liongson, assistant professor in the Arts and Humanities Division at Leeward Community College. I am submitting testimony in strong support of Ms. **Charlene Cuaresma** to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education.

I personally know Charlene as a dedicated and committed Hawaii resident who, for years, has given her time, energy and talent advocating for education and health. Her priorities of having the Superintendent of schools be made part of the Governor's cabinet, decentralizing school administration to empower principals and enable them to more effectively manage their budget and staff, and supporting the President's "Race to the Top" agenda are commendable and will help improve the education of our children in the public schools. I am confident that Ms. Cuaresma will be a productive member of the Board of Education.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation.

Sincerely,



Raymund Ll. Liongson
Arts & Humanities Division
Leeward Community College

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Health

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Angela Sy, DrPH, Assistant Professor, Office of Public Health Studies, John A. Burns School of Medicine, UH

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Angela Sy, DrPH. I am an Assistant Professor at the Office of Public Health Studies, John A. Burns School of Medicine at UH. I collaborate with Charlene Cuaresma on various community projects in her capacity with the UH Student Excellence in Equity and Diversity Program.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because of her background as a community advocate and serving on numerous boards. Ms. Cuaresma has won many awards for her community advocacy and activism work. I work with many professors, researchers, community health professionals, and students. Ms. Cuaresma is my ideal colleague because of her dedication, passion, and persistence in the work that she does, while still maintaining the ability to be highly collaborative and collegial with everyone.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education. I am honored to be able to submit testimony in support of Ms. Cuaresma's confirmation.

Sincerely,



Angela Sy, DrPH
Assistant Professor
Office of Public Health Studies
John A. Burns School of Medicine
University of Hawaii at Manoa

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Linda Engelberg

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Linda Engelberg and I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education. Ms Cuaresma is competent to serve as a member of the board because she brings experience as an educator and administrator in both lower and higher education. Her background in public health education has made her a strong advocate for addressing health disparities and speaking out for those that have been marginalized in our communities. Ms. Cuaresma s commitment to serve the people of Hawaii is unquestionable.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma s confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Linda Engelberg
3775 Anuhea Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Carol Canter

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawaii's Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Carol Canter and I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education. Charlene's impressive resume speaks for itself. I'd like to add a personal note, based on knowing Charlene for 35 years as a friend and colleague.

Charlene brings a powerful set of skills to everything she takes on: her intelligence, compassion, creative thinking and generosity of spirit are second to none. She's a tireless advocate, working to bring out the best in people at every level of society, encouraging, nurturing, supporting them.

Thanks to Charlene, I became a health educator with the Women's Health Center of Hawaii and a runner and swimmer that joined her in competitions ranging from the Hana Relay to a Waimea Bay Roughwater Swim. I even almost became a DJ with her encouragement! What I'm trying to say is that Charlene recognizes qualities in each of us that we ourselves may overlook. She's has a huge heart, great sense of humor, and unflagging energy to follow-through on her many ideas and projects.

Her impact is powerful and positive and she will make an exceptional contribution to the Board of Education.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Carol Canter
4035 Everett Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602
travel writer, educator
ncanta@comcast.net
510-531-2257

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. | Hawai'i State Legislature | Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Mr. Terry Visperas
PO Box 17934
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my strong and sincere support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education.

Aloha! My name is Terry Visperas, a friend and former colleague of Ms. Cuaresma, while at the College Opportunities Program (COP) and its sister program the Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP), where she served as Coordinator for this incredible program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The overall mission of these successful programs was to build diversity not only at the University, but also in the health work force by providing students from socially, educationally, or economically disadvantaged background an opportunity to develop the skills needed to successfully compete in, enter, and graduate from health professions schools. She was and continues to be very passionate about the use of education in achieving success in life. It was no secret that she was the best and most qualified person to lead this program. She was an inspiration to all, including staff and those selected students. Today, thanks to Charlene's commitment and consistent approach to mentoring and inspiring through higher education and opportunities, many of these students are practicing health professionals in the field of Medicine, Nursing, and also in Social Work.

I know that the reason the program was a huge success, is that Charlene does not rest on her accomplishments and she is in constant motion trying to walk, talk and reinvest her personal and professional talents and skills back into programs like this and many other organizations in the community from which she came. Her tireless efforts have helped her overall ability and credibility in understanding and gauging the "pulse" of the community...their history, on-going concerns and also their accomplishments.

In short, whether Charlene is inspiring the next generation of successful minority and underrepresented students into the University or walking the streets to support workers rights and or representing the hopes and dreams of the Filipino Community; she is a familiar, approachable

and a knowledgeable **“face and voice”** that will add greatly to the overall balance and success of the newly appointed Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Terry Visperas, MPH

To: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: GM 655 -- Testimony in Support of Charlene Cuaresma for State of Hawaii Board of Education

Dear Senators Tokuda, Kidani, and Committee Members:

With deep appreciation and sincere conviction in her potential for success, I am honored to support Charlene Cuaresma's nomination for the State of Hawai'i Board of Education.

I've known Charlene through her numerous volunteer work. She is a hard worker who always, in her quiet way, exceeds and surpasses expectations. Her sterling performance comes from a devotion to her responsibilities and the extra hours that she deems necessary to complete the tasks.

She is an extraordinary woman who is substantive in her thinking. Her keen mind were especially evident during discussions. She was amenable to all opinions but was quick to challenge dubious assertions. Her tireless commitment and hard work to serving the community are nothing short of inspirational and epitomizes the attributes which will serve her well as a board member.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jade T. Butay

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655
Senate Committee on Education

To: Hon. Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Hon. Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Hon. Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
& Sam Slom

From: Nakem Conferences & Guild of Ilokano Writers
94-390 Hoaeae Street, Waipahu, HI
Contact: 808-366-9000

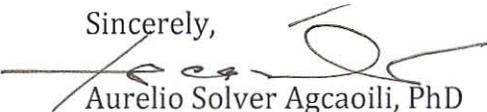
Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is Aurelio S. Agcaoili, President of Nakem Conferences, a cultural advocacy group with international linkage including the Ilokano Language and Literature Program of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and President of the Guild of Ilokano Writers Global/TMI Global, a civic organization involved in cultural production and promotion and in giving scholarship to our heritage students.

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because I am convinced that Ms. Cuaresma has the vision for what should education be in this state. I have worked closely with Ms. Cuaresma in various community education works and projects and I have seen up close the kind of competence and capability she has. She understands the extraordinary character of our state, the diversity of our people, and the pluralist vision that we need to pursue in our work to educate our young people and our community. Her work in health education has both given the rare opportunity to interact with our various communities and the rare chance to see what our larger community needs.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,


Aurelio Solver Agcaoili, PhD

President, Naked Conferences & TMI Global

Erin Conner

From: Jun ABINSAY [abnsy@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 3:12 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony for GM655

Testimony for GM 655
Senate Committee on Education
April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m., Rm. 225

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kodani, Co-Chair
Members: Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Sen. Clarence Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi, Sen. Sam Slom

My name is Jun Abinsay and I'm submitting this testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Charlene has a very impressive background of building partnership for empowerment, advocacy, education, and community service.

For many years, I have the opportunity to work with Charlene in addressing issues of the community even when I was serving as a member of the House of Representatives until 2006. I found Charlene to be an outstanding teamplayer and a very result-oriented leader. With her excellent academic background and very broad work and community experience, I personally believe that Gov. Neil Abercrombie made a right decision in recommending her as one of the members of the Board of Education. I have no doubt that she will be an asset to the Board, not to mention that she is also a product of the Hawaii public school system. Furthermore, she's very passionate about addressing the needs of schoolchildren whose parents consider English as their second language. Hence, her outstanding work in the passage of the creation of the Office of Language Access measure in 2006 which mandates various State Agencies to submit compliance reports to the Office.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma's Senate confirmation.

Aloha,

Jun Abinsay
Former State Representative

Testimony In Strong Support of GM 655

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Joyce Ahuna-Ka'ai'ai, teacher and also parent of child in DOE school
780 Akumu Street
Kailua, HI 96734
cmkaaiiai@hawaiiantel.net

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013

My name is Joyce Ahuna-Ka'ai'ai. I am a teacher in a private school and a parent of a student who attends Kailua High School

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education. Charlene would bring a much needed perspective to the board. She has a strong background of working with those who are disfranchised in our communities and understands their issues. She has an authentic passion for social justice for all. Charlene comes from humble beginnings experiencing the public school experience and has risen above adversity in her own life. I have had the opportunity to work with Charlene on the Kalihi Palama Mental Health Board. She was a tireless worker with a mission to educate others about mental health issues.

At present she is an advocate for college students who are the first to attend college in their families. These students come from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds. She see their potential and understands the "obstacles" they can encounter but she works tirelessly to support them in their quest for higher education.

Charlene is a team player, respecting different perspectives with a willingness to work and problem solve with others. Her long history of working in the Filipino community is a testament to this.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuarema's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Joyce Ahuna-Ka'ai'ai

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: Amado I. Yoro, UFCH Board of Governor, Chairman, UFCH Social Action Committee,
91-1339 Hoopio St., Ewa, Hawaii 96706
699-9824 E-mail: amenkesuska09@yahoo.com

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is AMADO I. YORO. I am a community volunteer and Board of Governor of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, currently the Chairman of the UFCH Social Action Committee which we organized and coordinate a monthly Feeding the Homeless that the nominee is a participant and very active in other community projects that I chaired or co-chaired like the Adopt a Hwy, Hawaii Food Bank Drive, the OFCC Convention, and many others.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because I believe Charlene Cuaresma is the right person to the position. She is reliable, dependable, outstanding community leader.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Amado

Amado I. Yoro

Board of Governor and Executive Committee Member
United Filipino Council of Hawaii
Chairman: Membership, Media and Golden Book
Chairman: Social Action Committee and Mission Day Service
Organizer/Coordinator: Feeding the Homeless, Adopt a Hwy, Hawaii Food Bank Drive
email: amenkesuska09@yahoo.com
blog: Amado I. Yoro Online www.iluko.com
blog: www.juntagobernador.blogspot.com
699-9814

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

From: DANNY VILLARUZ
PRESIDENT
ILOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII
P.O.BOX 29912
HONOLULU, HI 96820

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHARLENE CUARESMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

My name is **DANNY VILLARUZ**. I am **PRESIDENT** OF ILOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because SHE CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE BOE MEMBER LOOKING FOR THE BEST OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN HAWAII.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

DANNY VILLARUZ
PRESIDENT
ILOCOS SURIAN ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Erin Conner

From: Eva Rose Repollo [erepollo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2011 7:59 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: ccuaresma@gmail.com
Subject: Charlene Cuaresma BOE Appointment

To Whom It May Concern:

Charlene Cuaresma is a true leader and compassionate champion for the underprivileged. She listens carefully to every side of an issue and makes decisions that can help everyone move forward in finding and supporting resources and skills to resolve needs and concerns.

I have worked with Charlene in many community volunteer efforts as members of the Domestic Violence Advocacy Group, as delegates to the National Federation of Filipino Americans conferences, as actors in the Filipino version of the play, Vagina Monologues, and many other action programs for the students at the University of Hawaii.

In all those times that I witnessed her work, she has been consistently conscientious about time, talents, resources and most especially getting the goals and objectives of activities done. All these, while allowing everyone room to grow and contribute their own points of view.

Her appointment to the Board of Education will definitely allow the voices of the underprivileged to be heard as well as add to the the board a highly qualified educator who can fulfill the tasks she will perform along with the other excellent appointees.

It is a privilege to write this testimony to all the work Charlene Cuaresma does for our community.

Sincerely,

Eva Rose B. Washburn-Repollo, Ph.D
College Professor
Chaminade University

Nancy Atmospera-Walch, RN, BSN, MPH, LNHA, CHES, CCHN, CMC
1136 Union Mall, Suite 810
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 778-3832 * walchnancy@yahoo.com

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 655

Senate Committee on Education

April 8, 2011, 1:15 p.m. Hawai'i State Legislature Room 225

To: Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education:
Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland, Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Sen. Brian Taniguchi,
Sen. Sam Slom

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, **CHARLENE CUARESMA**, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Good Afternoon and Aloha!

My name is Nancy Atmospera-Walch, a self-employed Healthcare Entrepreneur, a colleague and a personal friend of Charlene Cuaresma.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Charlene Cuaresma to be appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Board of Education because we could not find a more dedicated and qualified candidate than Miss Cuaresma. I have known Charlene Cuaresma for about twenty-five years and I first met her when I was completing my Master's Degree in Public Health and she was my supervisor and mentor during my community healthcare experience at Palama Health Center. It was at this time when I first witnessed and experienced her professionalism, compassionate leadership and sincere friendship.

Ms. Cuaresma is very a knowledgeable, creative, sincere, fun and a dependable individual and these traits are the reason why I hired her to be one of my Associate Instructors when I was the Department Head of the Health Education and Wellness Department of The Queen's Medical Center. The students loved her as evidenced in their evaluation. She has the knack to communicate and get to the core of their belief that she was able to convince them to change their lifestyle in order to improve their health.

I humbly ask all of you to please confirm Charlene Cuaresma's nomination to the Board of Education for I believe that she will do a fantastic job for our children. If you are a parent, your kid attend the public schools, say YES to Ms. Cuaresma, and I can assure you that at the end of her term, you will be saying, "I am glad I confirmed her."

Thank you for hearing this measure and for the opportunity to support Charlene Cuaresma's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

submitted electronically

Nancy Atmospera-Walch, RN, BSN, MPH, LNHA, CHES, CCHN, CMC

April 7, 2011

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Wilfredo Tungol, Esq. 

Subject: **GM 65 – NOMINATION OF CHARLENE CUARESMA TO B.O.E.**
Hearing: April 8, 2011, 1:15pm Room 225

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing in support of confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma to the State of Hawaii Board of Education. Governor Abercrombie nominated an individual who is dedicated to serving the needs of our children in our public education system.

I have known Charlene for over 20 years and during all these years, she has dedicated herself to helping advance the health and education needs of our community. As a health educator with the Asian American Network for Cancer Awareness, she helped various ethnic groups who are predisposed to certain health ailments to get early screening in order to prevent more serious ailments from occurring. In her current position as an Associate Director of the Graduate Professional Access Program at UH-Manoa, Charlene mentors aspiring students, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds, to continue their professional studies by pursuing advance degrees. Charlene is also involved in the Filipino community as a leader and tireless advocate for social justice and decent working conditions for the less fortunate workers in our society.

Charlene also brings an understanding of the school public education system. She is a graduate of our public schools, having graduated from Waipahu High School, and

later attending and graduating from UH at Manoa. Her only son, Christopher, also attended a public school. As an undergraduate at UH, Charlene was also a volunteer for Operation Manong, a program which helped underrepresented students to succeed in UH-Manoa. Charlene's life experiences as a student, as a mother, as community organizer and leader, and as an educator will be invaluable to the Board of Education.

I respectfully ask that your committee recommend confirmation of Charlene Cuaresma to this important policy making body.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Charlene.

BRYAN P. ANDAYA

1939 Kuapapa Place - Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
(808) 542-9511 – bryan@hawaiianbarbecue.com

April 7, 2011

Testimony in Strong Support of GM655 – EDU – 4/8/11 1:15 p.m. Rm 225

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bryan Andaya and I **strongly support GM655 appointing Charlene Cuaresma** to the Board of Education.

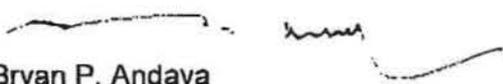
I have known Charlene for nearly ten years. I first met Charlene through my volunteer work with the United Filipino Council of Hawaii. Upon our first meeting, Charlene struck me as someone extremely passionate in helping those who faced substantial challenges, including young people of Filipino backgrounds and Filipinos battling cancer. She inspired me by freely giving of herself using her talents and taking personal time to fight for these noble causes.

Charlene's passion inspired me to become President of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, an organization with a membership of over 7,000 on every island in the State. We worked together to help young people in the Filipino Community achieve their fullest potential. We established a scholarship program that in 2006 awarded over \$100,000.00 to incoming college freshmen who indicated an interest in the Filipino Community. I consider this a remarkable achievement that could not be attained without Charlene's tireless and selfless dedication to helping the youth.

Charlene's passion for the youth continues until today. Her passion and commitment remains a never-ending source of inspiration for me and young people in our community. Today, even in my professional capacity as COO of L & L Franchise and in my leadership positions with various industry and community organizations, I go out of my way to try to work with Charlene to help Hawaii's youth.

Gov. Abercrombie's appointment of Charlene matches perfectly with her passion that will undoubtedly translate to success in our all-important public school system, from which I proudly hail. In summary, I strongly support Charlene Cuaresma's nomination to the BOE.

Very truly yours,


Bryan P. Andaya