

GM 784

Board of Education

Margaret Cox

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

April 17, 2015

This testimony is in support for GM783, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Margaret Cox, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Committee Members:

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

The Coalition supports Ms. Cox's nomination. We are pleased that she has experience as an educator and a former Board of Education (BOE) member.

One of HE'E Coalition's priorities is to provide the community voice to influence public policy that affects education. Therefore, we attend BOE meetings on a regular basis. The Coalition was active in providing its voice to the Department of Education's (DOE's) Strategic Plan, advocating that family-school partnerships and community engagement be included the plan. We are appreciative of the DOE and BOE's support of our advocacy, as many of our recommendations for the Strategic Plan have been included. We encourage incoming Board Members to be supportive of family and community engagement in our public education system. As the BOE is a policy-making entity, we also appreciate BOE member support in our efforts to give input and feedback educational policy issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. The support of this Governor's Message represents 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21

After-School All-Stars Hawaii

Alliance for Place Based Learning

*Castle Complex Community Council

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

*DOE Windward District

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Charter School Network

*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

*Hawaii State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Hawai'i P-20

Hawai'i 3Rs

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

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

Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members (*)

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM784 on Apr 17, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, April 12, 2015 10:47:53 PM

GM784

Submitted on: 4/12/2015

Testimony for EDU on Apr 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fred Rose	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Fred Rose. I am a recently retired administrator in the Department of Education with 25 of service at the school level. I also served multiple terms as HGEA Unit 6 Director for the Island of Kauai. I am submitting testimony in support of the nomination of Margaret Cox for a seat on the Hawaii Board of Education. When I was an administrative intern Mrs. Cox served as my mentor. Later I also served as her vice-principal at King Kaumualii Elementary School for five years. I believe Margaret Cox possesses the qualities that would make her an excellent Board of Education member. She consistently models hard work, honesty, integrity, professionalism, preparation and intelligence in her relations with others and towards the decisions she considers. I believe she would make decisions based on what is good for the children of Hawaii within the constraints of law and contract. Additionally she has the background and ability to understand the second and third level consequences for proposed policy changes. Her understanding of the logistics and inner workings of schools and the Department of Education would be an invaluable resource when considering the decisions within the purview of the Board of Education. I also believe she has the respect of all members of the education community - the parents, teachers, administrators, legislators, and unions. Her long history in leading successful schools gives her additional credibility.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for GM784 on Apr 17, 2015 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 7:50:20 AM

GM784

Submitted on: 4/14/2015

Testimony for EDU on Apr 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyle Tabata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair and members, Hearing notice GM784, I am submitting testimony in strong support of the nomination of Margaret Cox for the Board of Education. Her previous time spent as an elected member, former principal and experience in opening not only one new school here on Kauai but 2 schools, as member of the teaching staff, bring with her substantial expertise in the field of education. She is a no nonsense independent individual who is willing to give time to assist in creating the proper environment for learning in today's turbulent society. There are many ways that a person with her experiences will bring a solutions based approach to the role which is presented to her on this board. Please strongly consider her nomination as a positive during your deliberation and selections. Mahalo, Lyle Tabata

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6467 Kawaihau Road Unit-G
Kapa'a HI 96746

April 12, 2015

Committee on Education, Hawaii State Senate
c/o Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania St.,
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 784

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, April 17, 2015, 1:15 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Dear Chairperson Kidani and Education Committee Members,

I am honored to submit my testimony in favor of and excited for the possibility of having Margaret Cox return to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I got to know Ms. Cox in 1992, when she first hired me as a 4th grade teacher. A few years later, she introduced me to the role of a vice principal, which led to my 18-year tenure as a school administrator. I am the current Principal of Kapa'a Middle School on Kaua'i.

As my principal, supervising administrator, and colleague, I have always found Ms. Cox to be person of integrity with a strong focus on Student-Centered practices. As an instructional leader, she always kept herself and her staff current with all of the effective researched-based instructional strategies. Her professionalism and communicative skills proved highly successful in her many collaborative roles with teachers, classified staff, students, parents, community leaders, and state officials.

When Ms. Cox joined the State Board of Education in 2004, her wealth of experiences provided the members with a clear perspective of how prospective policies would support or hurt student learning in our public schools. Although she has stepped away from the Hawaii BOE for a few years, she continues to stay connected through her educational network. I am confident that her abilities as a life-long learner will quickly update her to the current DOE/BOE issues at hand.

I am in strong support of Governor Ige's candidate, Ms. Margaret Cox, as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education. Please feel free to contact me at 808-652-4745 or at the address listed above if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Nathan E. `Aiwahi

April 14, 2015

to: EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

re: Testimony to the Hawai'i Senate EDU Committee

Hearing Date: **April 17, 2015**

re: **GM 782, GM 783, GM 784**; *Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Education*

Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate EDU Committee,

I ask that the Senate approve Governor Ige's nominations for new Board of Education members *only* if they are willing to work toward improving DOE and BOE openness, transparency, responsiveness, and public involvement. This is a crucial value system our State BOE members must possess if we are going to be able to build a world-class education system.

Therefore, I ask the Senate to evaluate each candidate's ability and willingness to implement an open model of BOE / DOE operations.

Between now and the 4/17/15 EDU Committee Hearing, there is little time to ask the candidates to submit their plans for improving BOE operations to make the Board more available and responsive to the public. So, I suggest a simple test. Please ask each candidate:

- *"Will you support video recordings of BOE meetings made available to the public on the BOE web site within 5 days after each meeting?"*

A candidate who is unwilling to support this simple yet necessary change is not someone who should be appointed to the BOE.

Another crucial point I'd like to make about the composition of the BOE is diversity. I do not mean racial diversity, though that is desirable, too. I mean diversity in expertise and experience that will fill some gaping holes.

It is alarming that there is not one person on the appointed Board of Education who has experience teaching in a post-NCLB public elementary or middle school in Hawai'i. This would mean someone who was in the classroom, on the front lines dealing with education "reform" in a public school after NCLB was enacted nationally (2001), and after Act 51 was enacted in Hawai'i (2004). A good candidate would be someone who retired from teaching sometime after 2009 and thus has the time to devote to the BOE and a firm grasp of the reality of our public education system today.

I have no doubt there is a good candidate out there who fits this description, and I have a strong suspicion that the Governor and his staff did little if anything to proactively go out and find such a candidate. From their resumes, none of the nominees seem to have this experience.

Regarding Mr. Mizumoto's appointment.

I respectfully ask that the Senate not approve Mr. Mizumoto's appointment.

While experience in finance is valuable skill for at least one Board member, the BOE already has a banker on the Board, Chair Don Horner, whose Board membership doesn't expire until 2017. *Two* bankers who never worked in Hawai'i's public schools on a small Board of only 9 people is one banker too many. We need greater diversity of experience on the BOE

The overwhelming influence of First Hawaiian Bank is also a concern. Mr. Mizumoto was a V.P. for the First Hawaiian Bank; Don Horner is the retired CEO of First Hawaiian Bank. I don't think two people who've worked for the same powerful organization should simultaneously sit on the Board of Education no matter what the organization is. This is not diversity.

In summary:

- **Please do not approve any nominee to the Board of Education who is unwilling to work toward greater BOE / DOE transparency and public accountability.**
- **Please do not approve Mr. Mizumoto's appointment to the Board of Education (GM 783).**
- **Please ask the Governor to bring to the Senate and the People of Hawai'i a candidate who was an elementary or middle school teacher in a Hawai'i public school teacher as of 2009 or later.**

Mahalo,



Vanessa Ott

p.s. My editorial published by Civil Beat in January 2015 about video recordings of Board Meetings is available here:

www.civilbeat.com/2015/01/21st-century-schools-require-a-21st-century-board-of-education/

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GM784

Submitted on: 4/12/2015

Testimony for EDU on Apr 17, 2015 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William N. Arakaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the nomination of Margaret Cox for the position representing Kauai for the Board of Education. I have know Ms. Cox during my tenure as a teacher, vice principal, principal and complex area superintendent for Kauai. Ms. Cox knows and understands the DOE very well and is the best person to support and assist in the improvement of our department. You may contact me at 808-274-3502 or email at bill_arakaki@notes.k12.hi.us if you need more information. Mahalo!

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