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LATE

April 16, 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 be submitting testimony in favor of the appointment of Margaret Cox to Hawaii's Board of Education. I have been teaching in Hawaii's public schools for 25 years and throughout my career have experienced much in regards to celebrating student successes, rejoicing in school recognitions and being humbled with personal recognitions as 2001 Kauai District Teacher of the Year as well as 2000 Hawaii and National DARE Educator of the Year. Mrs. Cox has been the most impactful person in helping to shape my own philosophy and approach to teaching.

I feel fortunate to have worked with Mrs. Cox. Her leadership was based on always doing what was in the best interest of students, and she inspired her staff by being honest and compassionate. Having worked 12 years under Mrs. Cox's Principalship at King Kaumuali'i Elementary and then at Chiefess Kamakahalei Middle, professionalism was the standard and maintaining the status quo was not acceptable. Maggie continually challenged us to put into practice effective, research-based instructional strategies and truly fostered a positive environment of collegial respect.

Mrs. Cox, having been part of the State's Board of Education before, is no stranger to public education. In addition to her previous role of BOE member, she has also served Hawaii's public schools as teacher, administrator, and most importantly as parent. Her background, experiences and familiarity with DOE/BOE policies will continue to serve all of us well.

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 808-651-9002 or at the address listed above if you would like me to share more.

Sincerely,

Leah L. `Aiwohi