



LATE

April 15, 2016

To: Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Senate Education Committee

From: Jeannine Souki, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network

Re: **GM 836– Nominating Bruce Voss to the Board of Education for a term to expire June 30, 2019 - Support**
Conference Room 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – April 15, 2016, 1:15 P.M.

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), we are **writing in support of GM 836 and urge your committee's advise and consent of the Governor's nomination of Bruce Voss to the Board of Education for a term to expire June 30, 2019.**

HPCSN is supportive of Mr. Voss as he has a demonstrated strong commitment to improving public education in our state. We applaud his willingness to improve the physical learning environments at every school around the state and ask that this also be a priority for improving the physical learning environments within Hawaii's 34 public charter schools, which currently do not receive adequate per pupil funding and lack any facilities funding particularly for start-up charter schools. Research shows a significant relationship between the condition of school facilities and student performance. While the Executive's initiative to push for air-conditioning in DOE classrooms deserves support, consider that public charter schools also need funding for safe and adequate facilities. Every child is deserving of safe public schools facilities including those who chose an education in public charter schools.

Hawaii's public charter schools provide innovative models of how school communities can be more closely intertwined with schools to support student and teacher success.

HPCSN works to support Hawaii's public charter schools and to be a voice for children and families that seek choice in an independent public school setting. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Aloha Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Jan Yokota and I am in strong support of the nomination of Bruce Voss to the Board of Education. I have known Bruce personally and professionally for a number of years and have found him to be a person of strong conviction and values who truly cares about the community in which he was raised.

As a graduate of a local public high school, Bruce is committed to making a difference in the public school system. He is passionate about improving public school facilities, supporting teachers in the classroom and listening to the issues and concerns of students, parents and teachers.

Bruce will be a valuable addition to the Board of Education. His commitment and dedication to improving the public school system in Hawaii will truly make a difference. I urge the Committee to approve the nomination of Bruce Voss to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,



Jan Yokota