

Twenty-Ninth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017

THE SENATE

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Wednesday, April 12, 2017; 2:45 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 777  
NOLAN KAWANO**

The ILWU Local 142 supports G.M. 777 for the confirmation of the appointment of Nolan Kawano to the Board of Education.

Mr. Kawano is a well-respected and successful businessman. Currently the president of the insurance firm, IC International, Mr. Kawano has extensive experience in the insurance industry and was formerly the Chief Financial Officer for Island Insurance. Mr. Kawano is also a public school graduate and active with the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation, of which he is the past president. In his capacity with the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation, Mr. Kawano has developed a better understanding of public schools and what its teachers and principals need to make their schools successful. This knowledge and experience will serve him well as a member of the Board of Education.

The Board of Education is faced with huge challenges related to improving the quality of education in the public schools statewide as well as improving the physical infrastructure of the schools. With his background in business and his commitment to public schools, Mr. Kawano is an ideal fit for the Board of Education.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Nolan Kawano for the Board of Education.



Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII  
*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education  
Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 2:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES 776 AND 777 SUBMITTING FOR  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NOLAN KAWANO**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** the confirmation of Mr. Nolan Kawano to the Board of Education.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Nolan Kawano is currently president of IC International, providing strategic leadership and overseeing day-to-day operation of this Honolulu-based insurance company. He is a seasoned veteran of the insurance industry, with 20-plus years of experience, including various management roles at Island Insurance, First Insurance Co. of Hawaii and the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. He is a staunch supporter of public education in Hawaii, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation and spearheading efforts to develop business partnerships that not only help support teachers and students, but strengthen Hawaii's communities and ensure the overall health of the state's economy.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination.



April 10, 2017

To: The Hawaii Senate Education Committee  
From: Katie Chang, Executive Director, CTL  
R.E.: Confirmation of Nolan Kawano to the Board of Education

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

The Center for Tomorrow's Leaders is a local non-profit organization whose mission is to engage, equip and empower Hawaii's future leaders to make a difference now. We currently work with over 300 public school students around the state in partnership with 11 high schools.

We are proud to offer our support of Nolan Kawano to serve on the Board of Education. We have worked with Mr. Kawano in several capacities, especially in his role as a board member of the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation.

Most importantly, Mr. Kawano genuinely believes that Hawaii's students can achieve and be leaders. He enjoys interacting with students, and he is very kind in his approach. Whenever we invite him to mentor youth, he makes the time, and this speaks volumes.

Mr. Kawano has also been a strong advocate for elevating student voice. He supports *Raise Your Hand*, a monthly column in the Star Advertiser for public school students to write about issues that matter to them. This project has been inspiring to many young people, and shows that Mr. Kawano doesn't just talk about youth empowerment - he actively works towards it.

Finally, his background in business and particularly, insurance, will serve as an asset to the Board as this is an area that affects many in education.

We are proud to endorse Mr. Kawano, and we wish him the best on this journey.

Mahalo nui loa,

Katie Chang

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#### CTL LEADERSHIP

**Katie Chang**

Executive Director



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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

April 12, 2017

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for GM776 and GM777, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, NOLAN KAWANO, for a term to expire 06-30-2017 and 06-30-2020, respectively.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations, which promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education. Our member list is attached.

One of HE'E Coalition's priorities improving family and community engagement in our schools. We appreciate the fact that Mr. Kawano is active in the education community in his work with the Public Schools of Hawai'i Foundation, the New Teacher Center, Hawai'i 3R's and the Hawai'i Council on Economic Education. Mr. Kawano is a prominent member of the business community and we look forward to his help in strengthening the partnership between businesses and our schools.

We encourage the Committee to approve the nomination of Mr. Kawano to the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

## HE'E Members and Participants

Academy 21

After-School All-Stars Hawaii

Alliance for Place Based Learning

\*Castle Complex Community Council

\*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS

Coalition for Children with Special Needs

\*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawaii

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

\*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

\*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

\*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

\*Hawai'i Charter School Network

\*Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

\* Hawai'i 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

\*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

\*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

\*Native Hawaiian Education Council

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 (\*) Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*

## TESTIMONY OF ALISON UEOKA

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaialiʻi Kahele, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

2:45 p.m.

### GM 776 & GM 777

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee on Education, my name is Alison Ueoka and I am pleased to testify today in support of Nolan Kawano for the Board of Education, Governor's Message 776 for a term to expire June 30, 2017 and Governor's Message 777 for a term to expire June 30, 2020. I have known Nolan for 23 years since our paths crossed when he was working for the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund and I, as I am now, at Hawaii Insurers Council. I remain a close personal friend and professional colleague of his and have followed his esteemed career as he moved from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund to HIH, then to First Insurance, Island Insurance and now to IC International.

Nolan is impressive on paper in his career accomplishments and in his volunteer work with the public schools and education in Hawaii. However, I want to focus on what is not evident in his resume. Nolan is a person whom I seek for counsel, especially when solutions elude me. I knew from the beginning that this man is not your average CPA, CFO, or insurance professional. Even 23 years ago, I saw someone who questioned traditional thinking, asked questions of others, like "Why not?" and took risks. He challenges himself and others. I know that Nolan tests himself regularly. "Is there a better way?" "Is this the best I/we can do?" "What would happen if...?" This is the way he thinks and analyzes issues and life. Nolan is confident in his abilities and is courageous in his decision making. These are unusual traits for someone with his background and for a local boy, but exactly why I see so much value in him. Through my years at Hawaii Insurers Council, Nolan is always there for me. He gave me valuable perspectives from someone who worked on the government side and then on the industry side. He is always objective, but more importantly, he is a creative

thinker . a round thinker, high level, not at all linear. Nolan served on the HIC Investment Committee and served our group well. He consistently challenged a conservative group to consider pushing our boundaries.

I am so proud of Nolan for his years of service to the public school system and programs in Hawaii and I admire his dedication. I know that when Nolan undertakes work such as this, it is not to gain status or individual recognition . it is to raise the bar. It is to make a difference, it is to encourage strong decision making, it is to contribute in a meaningful way.

I feel strongly that Hawaii and the Board of Education is fortunate to have such a candidate as Nolan and I encourage your confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2017 4:58 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Itakayama@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM777 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM

**GM777**

Submitted on: 4/6/2017

Testimony for EDU on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Linda Chu Takayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Nolan has been a long-time advocate for public schools. With his strong background and expertise in financial matters, he would be an asset to the BoE.

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**Senate Committee on Education**

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chairperson

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

2:45 p.m.

State Capitol, Room 229

GM 776 & 777: Confirmation of Nolan Kawano: Board of Education

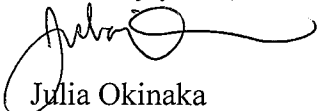
Dear Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in support of Mr. Nolan Kawano's nomination to the Board of Education.

My name is Julia Okinaka and I have known Nolan for almost ten years. I have had the honor and privilege to serve as a Trustee of the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation under Nolan's leadership. Nolan is a fair and compassionate community leader who has supported the progress of public school teachers, administrators and students through various programs, initiatives and grants. Nolan has the right balance of analytical and private sector experience, as well as, positions serving the public.

I humbly ask for Senate confirmation of Nolan Kawano and thank the committee for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely yours,



Julia Okinaka  
Accuity LLP, Managing Director  
808-531-3451  
juliaokinaka@gmail.com

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 7, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** monofrietti@islandinsurance.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM777 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM\*

**GM777**

Submitted on: 4/7/2017

Testimony for EDU on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Onofrietti	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 7, 2017 1:07 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** ikitajima@oceanit.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM777 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM

**GM777**

Submitted on: 4/7/2017

Testimony for EDU on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ian Kitajima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Kidani and members of the Committee: I am submitting testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Mr. Nolan Kawano's nomination to the Board of Education. My name is Ian Kitajima, and I have served on the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation for nearly 7 years, the first four years under the leadership of Mr. Kawano. Nolan is a caring, brilliant, and passionate advocate for public education. He had the vision and courage to bring Design Thinking to public education when no one knew what was Design Thinking. Today, more than 10,000 people have been touched by this process that empowers teachers, administrators, students, and the community to help transform education and in the process our home. I believe Mr. Kawano will bring that same courage and vision to public education as a board member. I could not think of a better choice for the Board of Education. Thank you to the committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Mr. Nolan Kawano's nomination. Mahalo, Ian Kitajima

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**Senate Committee on Education**

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chairperson

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

2:45 p.m.

GM 776 & 777: Confirmation of Nolan Kawano: Board of Education

Dear Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Mr. Nolan Kawano's nomination to the Board of Education.

During the past six years, I served with Nolan on the board of The Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation. While serving as President, Nolan was a visionary leader who placed a high value on preparing students for an increasingly complex and demanding 21<sup>st</sup> century work environment. As a result of his influence, many of our most innovative Foundation initiatives focus on preparing students for the day when artificial intelligence and robotics will either alter or replace many of the jobs that currently exists today.

For example, Nolan is one of the leaders behind Hawaii's Design Thinking movement. For the past six years, the Foundation has co-sponsored a Design Thinking summer bootcamp because it teaches educators and students how to use human-centered strategies to find creative solutions to wicked problems. In other words, Design Thinking develops human skills involving human empathy, creativity, intuition, collaboration and other human traits that machines do not possess and therefore cannot replace.

In addition, Nolan spearheaded the creation of the Waipahu High Biotechnology Science Scholars Program which is now entering its third year. This groundbreaking program involves a partnership between Rutgers University and Waipahu High School. This partnership allows Waipahu students the opportunity to study the DNA sequence of *Lemnoideae* (duckweed) and its possible medicinal benefits. Student results are published in a scientific journal providing students with the confidence to pursue science careers in medicine or research. It would not surprise me if one day a Waipahu Science Scholars graduate is credited with finding a cure for cancer, diabetes or Alzheimer's disease.

In summary, Nolan is both a visionary and dedicated leader who inspires those around him to do more. Nolan is highly qualified to serve on the Board of Education and I look forward to supporting his efforts in the future. I humbly ask that the committee look favorably upon his nomination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Hiraki