



GM706

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHRISTINE NĀMAU‘U, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023**
Senate Committee on Education

May 14, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Room 229

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** GM706, which appoints and submits for confirmation Christine “Kili” Nāmau‘u to continue serving as a member of the State Board of Education (BOE). OHA believes that Ms. Nāmau‘u’s exemplary service on the Board of Education over the past three years, her professional experiences, and her dedication to community service, make her highly qualified to serve on the BOE as it continues its efforts to oversee and address the needs of Department of Education schools and public charter schools, as well as the State Public Library System.

Ms. Nāmau‘u has proven to be an engaged and invaluable member of the BOE, and has demonstrated a strong commitment to the BOE’s critical role in educating Native Hawaiian and all keiki in our public and charter school system. Ms. Nāmau‘u currently serves as the vice-chair of the BOE’s Student Achievement Committee, and as a member of its Finance & Infrastructure and Human Resources committees. Throughout her tenure, she has enhanced the BOE’s movement toward increased openness and transparency, participating in community forums and actively soliciting the input of individuals and organizations about education policy. She consistently brings the voice of the Hawaiian immersion community to the Board’s policy discussion and adds significantly to the Board’s understanding of Native Hawaiian education. Ms. Nāmau‘u also brings ‘Aha Pūnana Leo’s successful educational philosophy of Kumu Honua Mauli Ola, in which children learn in a safe and secure environment through a family-focused model, to her service on the BOE. Finally, OHA notes that she continues to be a strong contributor to her Maui community, including serving for more than twenty-five years as the Director of Pūnana Leo o Maui, one of the preschools in the statewide ‘Aha Pūnana Leo program.

OHA believes that Ms. Nāmau‘u’s demonstrated commitment to education and to public service has enabled and will continue to enable her to contribute significantly to the BOE as it fulfills its important responsibilities.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM706.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

SMLO
South Maui Learning Ohana, Inc.
a 501 c3 educational non profit
Fed ID # 99-0341232

Testimony in Support of the nomination of Christine Namau'u
for a term on the State Board of Education to expire on June 30, 2023

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

May 12, 2020

Thursday, May 14, 2020
1:00pm
Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
GM 706

Aloha Chair Michelle Kidani, Vice-chair Donna Mercado Kim and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I enthusiastically support Ms. Christine Namau'u for a 3 year term on the State Board of Education.


South Maui Learning Ohana is the founding organization of Kihei Charter School and has been involved in Hawaii's public education for over twenty years.

I cannot say enough about how important it is to have a representative on the State BOE that is accessible, knowledgeable and responsive. Ms. Namau'u is all of that.

Ms. Namau'u is woven into the fabric of Maui, she understands our challenges and brings our message to Honolulu for us.

Please allow Ms. Namau'u the opportunity to continue the work she has started and vote in favor of her nomination to the State Board of Education.

Sincerely


Gene Zarro
CEO, SMLO



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

May 14, 2020

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN would like to provide comments on GM 706, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education (BOE), Gubernatorial Nominee, Christine “Kili” Namau‘u, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

We want to extend our gratitude to the committee for taking the time to address this important position. Our current COVID-19 health crisis has highlighted the critical role our public education system plays in our communities, from social-emotional supports to the distribution of food and digital devices.

We are also grateful to Ms. Namau‘u for her willingness to continue to serve on the BOE and support Hawaii’s diverse learners. She has been a positive presence as a member of the BOE, and her questions and comments make it clear that she has the best interest of students in mind. As she transitions to become a more senior member of the BOE, we would encourage her to feel empowered to speak up more and ask tough questions. Our schools will be facing some complex challenges in the coming year, and the BOE has a very important role in ensuring high need students and families don’t fall through the cracks.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances. Part of our kuleana is to serve as a resource for policymakers, including the BOE and legislature, as you work to build a better future for all kids. We look forward to continuing to work with Ms. Namau‘u and helping to share guidance we receive from students, parents, and educators on the challenges and opportunities facing our schools.



Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

May 13, 2020

Honorable President, Ronald Kouchi and Members of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

With pleasure, I offer my letter of support to reappoint Christine Kili Namau'u to a second term as the Maui County representative on the Board for Education. We first crossed paths when Kili was a student in the Master of Early Childhood Education program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in 2003. We have kept in contact over the years over policy matters. Kili has been a source of inspiration and leadership from Maui County for several decades.

The past few years have witnessed significant progress in our state in reenvisioning our institutions of education so they can more fully embody place and people and contemplate what it means to become a Hawaiian places of learning. The state's Hawaiian language and culture based education programs, including the Aha Punana Leo organization, have long been part of this leadership. The movement has revitalized the language and culture and perpetuated values central to life in these islands. Kili is integral to efforts in Maui County.

Kili is an important voice on the Board of Education that contributes several key perspectives and voices to conversations:

- her understanding as a neighbor island practitioners and leader,
- her role as a leader in the Native Hawaiian education community; and,
- her understanding of language and culture based programs for your youngest children in early childhood education.

Reappointing Kili to the position will provide continuity that allows us to maintain momentum and build on the work that she has contributed to over the past three years. Kili is gracious, wise, committed and collaborative. She is a steadfast leader in Maui County's Native Hawaiian community and an early childhood leader and I am most humbled to call my colleague. She is also a person committed to building bridges so that we may all lift the keiki and lahui together.

I heartily add my letter of support to her application for promotion.

Sincerely,



Robyn S. B. Chun, MEd
Director of Graduate Early Childhood Education Programs
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

RESPONSIBLE Markets

May 10, 2020

Senate Education Chair Michelle N. Kidani
Senate Education Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim

Aloha Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Kim:

I'm writing to express my support for Kili Namau`u to continue to serve as a member of the Board of Education for the State of Hawaii.

I have known Kili for more than two decades as a colleague, friend, and trusted advisor, consulting with her on educational issues, native Hawaiian concerns, and economic development.

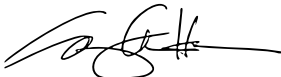
Most recently, Kili participated in our Maui ESG (Environmental, Social, Good Governance) Project by serving as a panelist at the Ahupua`a Investment Summit, a project of Responsible Markets on Maui. With Neil Hannahs as moderator, the panel was entitled "Ahupua`a Values and Examples of Kuleana Investment." Kili joined a diverse group of community members to discuss what ESG/impact investors can learn from the Hawaiian Ahupua`a system and the value of kuleana as a cross generational and holistic approach to fiduciary duty. Her contributions to the discussion were invaluable.

Kili is a dedicated hands-on member of our community who not only works directly with the youngest residents of our state in their formative years, but has also worked with our older students as a member of the School Community Council for King Kekaulike High School. She is aware of the issues facing a diversity of children as they navigate the public school system, with an intimate knowledge of those involved in the Hawaiian Immersion Program.

Given the challenges that students and their parents will face in the coming year as crucial educational decisions are made as a result of COVID-19, we need the perspective of a Maui resident whose children have attended public schools, who is herself directly involved in educating our keiki, and who is passionate, dedicated, principled, knowledgeable – and most importantly - who deeply cares.

As a parent of two boys who graduated from King Kekaulike High School, I continue to be reminded that what happens in our schools is vitally important to ensuring that we will all thrive. I strongly urge you to support the nomination of Kili Namau`u.

With aloha,



Shay Chan Hodges
Haiku, Maui

cc: Donovan Dela Cruz, Dru Mamo Kanuha, Kurt Fevella

Senator Michelle Kidani and the Senate Education Committee
Re: GM706 Submitting for consideration and confirmation the Board of Education
Governatorial nominee Christine Kili Namau'u for a term to expire 06-30-23
Hearing May 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 229

May 11, 2020

I am pleased to offer this letter of recommendation for Christine Kili Namau'u for a second term on the State of Hawaii Board of Education. Kili and I have been colleagues for over twenty five years, and her passion and commitment to the field of education have never wavered. She is a lifelong advocate for ensuring that teachers, children and their parents, and their support services are provided with the resources and compensation needed to keep our education system thriving. As this is an especially critical time for the Department of Education, her willingness to gain understanding of, and work fairly and diplomatically with all segments of the field of education is crucial to the department's continued success.

Kili takes it upon herself to study and learn in depth the issues, concerns, and developments in our education system. She engages with those whose expertise and experiences benefit her decision making and involvement in the educational process, from families and classroom teachers to administrative level staff. She devotes amazing energy and time to her commitments, and brings much needed early education and Hawaiian Immersion perspectives to the Board of Education that need to be continued, especially in light of the current transitions that must occur for the Department of Education.

I believe she is the proper representative for Maui on the Board of Education, and ask that you honor her work and efforts toward growth and sustenance for all of our county public schools by reappointing her to a second term.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at: cntand@gmail.com or at 808-283-9823.

With Aloha,

Charlene T. Doi, M.Ed.
Retired Early Childhood Educator

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 9:59:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheri Daniels	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our 'ohana strongly supports the nomination of Christine Namauu (Kili) to the Board of Education. She has continually advocated for the education of students not only in the traditional learning track but especially in the Hawaiian Immersion Education (Kaiapuni) which is a growing need from our community.

Kili helps provide a strong voice for our keiki and 'ohana not only for Maui but across the state.

Mahalo! 'Ohana Daniels (Maui) Ohai, Sheri, Kaleikoa, Apiki, Ohaikawiliula, Ilisapeti

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 10:21:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Antonio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

May 11, 2020

Aloha.

I am writing to support Christine Kili NÄ• mau'u for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education for her second term. Kili is committed to the success of all haumÄ• na in the public school system. She is also the perfect representative for Hawaiian Immersion education, having served as Kahu of the PÄ«nana Leo o Maui for the last thirty years and having been active in the Hawaiian community. She has dedicated the last three years to learning the kuleana of being an effective board member and has taken every opportunity to visit schools in Maui County for firsthand understanding of their needs and challenges. As a longtime educator myself, I have every confidence in Kili's work on the Board because I know that her priority is the student. I humbly ask that you consider her reappointment without delay.

Me ka mahalo,

Susan Kapulani Antonio

Maui

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 11:44:10 AM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Yamashita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha from Maui -

I am a retired professor in Early Childhood Education from University of Hawai'i Maui College. I storngly support Kili Namau'u's reappointment to the BOE.

Kili has effectively made use of her Hawaiian immersion and early childhood education knowlege to bring meaningful changes and initiatives to public education in Hawai'i.

Please confirm Christine Kili Namau'u's reappointment to the BOE.

Elaine Yamashita

105 Kamehameiki Rd., Kula, HI 96790

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 10:17:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nicole hokoana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a parent of two public school enrolled youth at the middle school and high school level. I've known C. Namauu since my children were in preschool. I do support her confirmation for several reasons. First, she has many years of experience working with families challenged with raising young children, working, saving and financing all the things families need to survive in Hawaii. She understands these challenges and is a fierce advocate for families in need. She is also very knowledgeable of resources. She is the phone book of our community. She listens to the concerns of parents and connects them with individuals and agencies that can assist them. She is passionate about education in general but especially Hawaiian medium education. She has directly contributed to the thriving Native Hawaiian speaking community on Maui and has intimate first hand knowledge of the systems of the DOE that support the education of all students. Her knowledge is derived from her own lived experience and commitment to Hawaiian medium education through public education. She has raised strong, intelligent, engaged adult children and is a model of how public education and parental involvement can be successful. In sum, I see the value she brings to this role and greatly support her confirmation. Mahalo

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 3:41:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gary Y. Okuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have known Christine "Kili" Namauu personally for 40 years. I strongly urge you to confirm her to another term of the Board of Education for the State of Hawaii.

Kili is a longtime educator and head of school of a Hawaiian Immersion preschool in Wailuku, Maui. She combines both intellectual ability (having received a M.Ed degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Hawaii at Manoa) and practical experience (being the person responsible for the day to day amangement of a school).

Kili's strength is being someone who brings people together. Teachers, administrators and citizens in the community seek her out, because they know Kili has no agenda except to educate our children and support our classroom teachers and principals.

As a leader in Hawaiian language education, Kili also provides a special and necessary link for engagement and input from the Hawaiian community.

Everyone else who meets her quickly realizes she genuinely listens to peoples' concerns. Kili gives out her personal cellphone number to anyone, and people do call her. Notwithstanding the time she is required to commit running her own school, Kili has spent hours visiting public schools on Maui, to gain knowledge and to show students, teachers and parents that she cares about their concerns.

I therefore respectfully request that you confirm Christine "Kili" Namauu for an additional term of the Board of Education.

GARY Y. OKUDA

(808) 375-7325

Statement of
Sandy Ryan

Before
THE SENATE
THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2020

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Thursday, May 14, 2020, 1:00pm
Conference Room 229, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

In consideration of GM706 for consideration and confirmation
to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee,
CHRISTINE NAMAUU, for a term to expire 06-30-2023

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and members of the Committee.

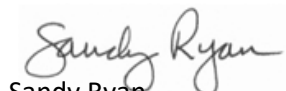
I am writing to express my support of the appointment of Christine Namauu to serve on the Board of Education representing the County of Maui, where she is a noted and respected member of the community.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Ms. Namauu in her support of Early Childhood Education and Hawaiian Language Immersion Education since my daughter, who turned 29 last week, was 2 ½ and accepted to her first year of preschool at Pūnana Leo O Maui where Ms. Namauu was newly installed as kahu/director.

Over the course of those two and a half decades, Ms. Namauu has been an instrumental force, nurturing the next generation of Hawaiian language speakers, and their parents, by helping them navigate not just their educational journey and aspirations, but encouraging them to grow in areas of civic engagement and community involvement. Ms. Namauu's ability to help build consensus among people with opposing viewpoints and to problem solve to overcome obstacles are just a few of the qualities that will serve the Board of Education well.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Sincerely,



Sandy Ryan
1071 Ulele Street
Makawao, Hawaii 96768
E. sryanmaui@gmail.com
Ph. 808-283-1267

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/10/2020 11:38:02 AM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leinaala Vedder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Christine Kili Namau'u by extending her term on the Board of Education representing Maui County. Kili has supported Kaiapuni and Immersion education for many years in Hawai'i and particularly PÄ«nana Leo o Maui, Kula Kaiapuni o Maui, and other Immersion schools statewide. In her capacity she has facilitated many working groups collaborating with teachers, students, principals, parents, community members, and other stakeholders identifying and achieving the DOE's Strive HI System and 2030 Promise Plan. As well as initiatives such as NÄ• Hopena A'o, Kumu Honua Mauli Ola, and Ka Papahana Kaiapuni. She listens to our concerns and find ways to solve the challenges and stumbling blocks that Immersion education face.

Kili Namau'u is a leader among our Maui community that I have called upon many times for ideas and ways to meet the expectations set forth by the DOE and Kaiapuni Education as a whole. I have fatih that she will continue to guide our schools in the right direction to meet the ever changing needs of our students and implement systems needed to achieve success in our Hawai'i schools.

Mahalo,

Leinaala Kuloloio Vedder, Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma PÄ• 'ia (5th grade kumu)

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 10:12:51 AM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia K Kanakaole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chairwoman Kidani and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Education...

Welina me ke aloha,

It is my honor to offer testimony in support of the reappointment of Christine Kilikina NÄ• mau'u to the Hawai'i State Board of Education for a second consecutive term. I am fortunate to know Ms. NÄ• mau'u in a professional and personal context, her deep aloha for Hawai'i's keiki and their families is genuine. Ms. NÄ• mau'u is a well-respected leader in both the Hawaiian and Early Education communities. She is responsible for the development of a successful P-20 Hawaiian medium education continuum on the island of Maui which is recognized nationally and internationally for its community engagement model. It is her magnetic personality and willingness to work collaboratively with her community that ignites a passionate fire in others to lend their best efforts to all that they do.

I am one who has been inspired by Ms. NÄ• mau'u's dedication to her community. As a former employee, I benefited from Ms. NÄ• mau'u's encouragement to pursue degrees in Hawaiian medium education. Through her diligence in securing tuition subsidies and instructors willing to teach a special cohort, my fellow staff members and I was able to secure undergraduate courses which contributed to a Bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Studies, a graduate certificate in Indigenous Education and recently a Master's degree in Hawaiian Language and Culture Education. Even though Ms. NÄ• mau'u ceased to be my direct supervisor nearly 19 years ago, her follow-up and support has never wavered and we have maintained a close connection over our 27 year relationship.

This is just one example of the quality of relationships that Ms. NÄ• mau'u cultivates. Her previous 2017 confirmation to the Board of Education, was an accomplishment for Hawai'i as it was the first time (to my knowledge) that a native Hawaiian, fluent speaker of Hawaiian, Hawaiian medium educator joined our State Board of Education. Ms. NÄ• mau'u offers a unique perspective and experience which is unparalleled and critical to the forward momentum of Hawai'i's education system. She understands the true struggle of Hawai'i's 'ohana as well as their dream for a solid educational foundation which focuses upon a growth rather than deficit-model perspective. Ms. NÄ• mau'u is a sincere listener who provides a necessary voice to students, families and teachers on the front-lines.

Hawai'i values education, since the creation of public education in 1841, Hawai'i is a leader in creative pedagogy, praxis and curriculae. I believe that no other current appointee understands Indigenous education as intimately as Ms. Nā• mau'u. Therefore, I strongly urge this committee to confirm the nomination of Ms. Christine Kilikina Nā• mau'u to a second term as a member of the Hawai'i State Board of Education. Mahalo nui loa.

‘O au iho nā• me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

P. Kanoë Nacua Kanaka‘ole

Community Member

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/11/2020 12:26:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Capsun M. Poe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/13/2020 6:56:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I have worked with Kili for 20 years in suporting Hawaiian Imersion Education here on Maui. I don't know of anyone who is more dedicated to education and Hawaiian Imersion education. She is able to grasp big issues and knows how to get things done.

I ask you please to confirm her appoitment to the Board of Education.

Mahalo,

Allen

GM-706

Submitted on: 5/14/2020 7:42:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 5/14/2020 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Christine Namauu has served on the Hawaii Board of Education as the Maui representative for three years. As an active Maui community member, public school parent and educator of over forty years, I hope you will continue to support her work by reappointing her to the Board.

I follow the BOE closely via the minutes and livestream, and have given testimony in several matters. I have conversed personally with the Maui BOE members and others over the last 40 years. Ms. Namauu is the first Maui BOE member who has actively sought input and knowledge about the day to day operations and needs of Maui schools by visiting many Maui campuses.

As the first BOE member charged with the kuleana for Hawaiian education, Ms. Namauu has shown her commitment through her own life work as Director of the PÅ«nana Leo o Maui Preschool. Most importantly, she is the first BOE member to have initiated and facilitated community meetings to gather input specifically for Hawaiian education. These meetings not only drew substantial crowds, they also brought out BOE members as well as the Superintendent to hear input from all schools regarding Hawaiian education. I believe the other Board members were hearing the concerns of this essential community for the first time.

By her own admission, it took time for her to get up to speed in order to fulfill her duties. She has now become a strong contributing member of the Board. I hope you will allow her to continue her work for Hawaii's children by confirming her reappointment.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Renee K. Adams