



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/08/2024

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: GM 0712 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, WILLIAM ARAKAKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

As the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) Superintendent, I support Bill Arakaki's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board).

Mr. Arakaki dedicated his career to public education in Hawai'i, both on 'Oahu and Kaua'i. He served as a teacher, coach, vice principal and complex area superintendent over his 42 year career, mostly on Kaua'i. Since his Board appointment in 2021, Mr. Arakaki has provided valuable insight to the Board, bringing his perspective and knowledge in representing Kauai County. Since Mr. Arakaki has been the Chair of the Student Achievement Committee on the Board this year, I have worked with him extensively on the academic issues facing the Department. Mr. Arakaki has consistently committed his time to learning about the needs and accomplishments of Department schools.

I appreciate the commitment that Mr. Arakaki has demonstrated as a Board member since 2021 and his willingness to serve another three-year term. I support Mr. Arakaki's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education and urge the State Senate to confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 712.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

April 8, 2024

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

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

HawaiiKidsCAN supports GM712, which Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, William Arakaki, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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.

The Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) is a critical organization for public education in Hawaii, with significant responsibilities including but not limited to formulating policy, ensuring oversight and accountability within the public education system, and monitoring progress on the State of Hawaii Public Education 2023-2029 Strategic Plan. Given the magnitude of issues facing the public education system, effective BOE members should be able to critically review data presented by the DOE, set a policy agenda that the DOE, legislature, and community partners can rally around, and look holistically at how schools are preparing kids for great careers and lives in Hawaii.

We urge all appointees consider the following questions:

- How will you find balance between supporting our public schools while holding leaders and schools accountable when students are suffering poor outcomes?
- How can the BOE better harness public charter schools and public libraries as part of our education system, given that the BOE also oversees the State Librarian and members of the State Public Charter School Commission?

- How can the BOE better engage families and community members?
- What is the ideal process for collaborative policymaking between the BOE, DOE, legislature, and community partners?
- How can the BOE and DOE better target supports to students to close achievement gaps and long-standing inequities?
- How can our education system better harness the abundant non-traditional learning opportunities in Hawaii offered by local non-profits, employers, and community organizations?

We support the nomination of Bill Arakaki, as he has proven that he is an engaged board member who consistently speaks out in support of kids and families. In particular, we appreciate his willingness to broaden his perspective by meeting separately with organizations like HawaiiKidsCAN and Code.org to learn more about issues like computer science education. He has demonstrated leadership as the chair of both the Student Achievement Committee and Legislative Ad Hoc Committee, and he is poised to promote collaborative leadership between the BOE, DOE, legislature, and community partners.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



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

April 8, 2024

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is submitted in support for GM712, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, William Arakaki, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

As one of HE'E Coalition's priorities is influencing policy that affects public education, the Coalition staff attends Board of Education meetings on a regular basis. We continue to advocate strongly on family and community engagement as well as equity in education in our public school system.

HE'E appreciates Mr. Arakaki's work on the Board as the Chair of the Student Achievement Committee. We expect that Mr. Arakaki will continue to not only highlight the bright spots but also address challenges with respect to academic achievement for our school system. We encourage the Committee to confirm his nomination.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21
Alliance for Place Based Learning
American Civil Liberties Union
Atherton YMCA
Education Institute of Hawai'i
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawai'i
*HawaiiKidsCAN
*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 Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Education Association
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
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
Special Education Provider Alliance
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
* Youth Service Hawai'i
Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the Coalition.*

April 6, 2024

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair Senate Committee on
Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair Senate Committee on
Education

Members Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Kate Stanley (retired)

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of confirming Governor's appointments to the Board of Education: GM 520, GM 710, GM 711, GM 712, GM 713, and GM 714

I am Kate Stanley testifying in my individual capacity in support of the confirmation of the Governor's appointments to the Board of Education (BOE).

I have retired once again and now volunteer to work on projects for the Department of Education and speak on other issues that effect the State of Hawaii. In past years I have worked as an analyst for the House Committee on Finance assigned to analyze the budget of the Department of Education and assigned to work with then Chair of the House Education Committee, Roy Takumi assisting in drafting Act 51 of the 2004 Session; and I have worked for Superintendents Pat Hamamoto, Kathy Matayoshi, and Keith Hayashi. I have assisted the superintendents with implementing Act 51, budget preparation, and working with the Legislature. In the course of these years I have had the opportunity to attend many BOE meetings including those of both an elected and appointed BOE.

Personally I have an undying commitment to public education. Public education and its improvement is an obligation we all have in order to secure the best possible Hawaii.

The reason that I am speaking for these particular appointments as a group is that I see them as a group bringing many diverse experiences and abilities to the BOE. They will create a strong Board that will move public education forward.

GM 520 Kahele Dukelow.

Kahele Dukelow brings continuity as she currently serves on BOE . Dukelow also brings the perspective of the island of Maui and concern for the Hawaiian community.

GM 710 Mary Hattori

Mary Hattori brings the perspective of the many Pacific Islander Communities whose children attend our public schools. Hattori's work with the East West Center and her other experiences as an author, poet, public speaker and philanthropist add to the diversity of experience that these new members bring to the BOE.

GM 711 Ken Kuraya

Ken Kuraya also brings continuity as he currently serves as an at-large member of the BOE. Kuraya brings his experience in working with the budget of the DOE. I have known Ken for many years having worked with him during my many years working full-time and part time with the DOE. His experience in administration makes his contribution to the BOE valuable.

GM 712 William Arakaki

Bill Arakaki brings; continuity as he currently serves on the BOE , a neighbor island perspective (Kauai), and the experience of a teacher, Principal and Complex Area superintendent. Bill also brings a certain grace and steadfastness to the meetings of the BOE. He is conscientious, thoughtful and kind.

GM 713 Wesley Lo

Wesley Lo brings his prior experience as a member of the BOE and his extensive experience in the health industry. As you know DOE serves students who have many physical and mental health challenges. I have known and worked with Wes since 2010 and know that he brings diligence, thoughtfulness, and persistence to everything he undertakes.

GM 714 Elynne Chung

Elynne Chung brings many years of experience; as a student in our public schools and at UH and as a Principal of Mililani Middle School. The BOE and the Superintendent have recognized that the middle school years are often the make or break point for many of the DOE students. Chung's experience with middle school will be of great value to the BOE and the DOE as they strive to improve the performance and experience of the DOE middle school student.

In conclusion I wholeheartedly urge that the Senate Committee on Education recommend to the full Senate confirmation of all the above appointments to the Board of Education.

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:34:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Kahea Faria | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha Senator Kidani (Chair), Senator Kim (Vice Chair), and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing in strong support of confirming Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM ARAKAKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2027. Mr. Arakaki has served Hawaii's educational system for as long as I can remember, and he has always been supportive of students, teachers and communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support, and for your consideration.

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 2:40:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Curt Otaguro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim:

My name is Curt Otaguro and I am asking for your consideration to reappoint Mr. William Arakaki as a member of the Board of Education. I have had the pleasure to get to know Bill over the year and found him to be very engaging and committed to education. Being a former educator, he has a keen sense of what it takes to run a successful educational system and his contributions as a board member have been impactful and meaningful for our schools, students and faculty. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
OFFICE OF THE COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT
KAUAI SCHOOLS
3060 EIWA STREET, ROOM 305
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766

April 3, 2024

Dear Hawaii Senate Education Selection Committee

It's a pleasure to recommend Kauai Board of Education member William Arakaki for your strong consideration and reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Education, Kauai Representative. Throughout his tenure as a Board member, Mr. Arakaki was instrumental in accomplishing a number of key initiatives. Most notable was the 2023 – 2029 Strategic Plan Phase II Implementation Plan. He remains very visible in our schools and participates in classroom visits with our Kauai Complex Area team. Mr. Arakaki's role as the Chair for the Student Achievement Committee continues to ensure that there is clear focus and direction in supporting the schools as they implement the Strategic Plan. This clarity is appreciated by our teachers, support staff, and administrators.

Thank you for your consideration of the reappointment of Mr. William Arakaki. His 30 plus years of experience as an educator and administrator will continue to benefit our students, schools, and community in building an educational system that Hawaii truly deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Hamada".

Daniel S. Hamada
Interim Kauai Complex Area Superintendent

April 4, 2024

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Mr. William Arakaki's nomination as a member of the Hawaii State Board of Education. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Arakaki for several years, and I believe that he possesses the qualities necessary to excel in this important role.

Mr. Arakaki has a deep commitment to education and a strong commitment to service. His experience as a former educator and administrator at all levels, combined with his leadership skills and passion for educational reform, make him an ideal candidate for this position. Mr. Arakaki has a proven track record of working collaboratively with others and the larger community to achieve positive outcomes for our students.

In addition to his professional qualifications, Mr. Arakaki is a person of integrity and character. He is deeply committed to ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality education, and he will work tirelessly to make sure that the voices of students and families are heard at the state level.

I wholeheartedly endorse Mr. William Arakaki as a member of the Hawaii State Board of Education. I believe that he will bring a fresh perspective and a wealth of experience to the board, and I am confident that he will serve with dedication and distinction.

Sincerely,



Rochelle Mahoe, Ph.D.
Farrington-Kaiser-Kalani Complex Area Superintendent
Hawaii State Department of Education

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 7:08:31 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Linell Dilwith | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

April 5, 2024

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Bill Arakaki for a second term on the Hawaii Board of Education. As a former educator deeply committed to the betterment of our education system, Bill Arakaki has proven himself to be an invaluable asset to Hawaii schools.

During his tenure on the Board of Education, Bill Arakaki has demonstrated a profound understanding of the current needs and challenges facing our education system. His experience as an educator has equipped him with firsthand knowledge of the issues affecting students, teachers, and schools across the state.

Bill Arakaki's dedication and tireless efforts have been instrumental in supporting Hawaii schools and promoting initiatives that enhance educational opportunities for all students. His collaborative approach and ability to work effectively with stakeholders have contributed significantly to the positive progress we have seen in our education system under his leadership.

I firmly believe that Bill Arakaki's reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Education is crucial to ensuring continued progress and success in our schools. His passion for education, combined with his experience and expertise, make him exceptionally qualified for this role.

I urge you to support Bill Arakaki's nomination for a second term on the Hawaii Board of Education. His continued service will undoubtedly benefit our students, educators, and communities statewide.

Thank you for considering my input on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Linell Dilwith, KMR Complex Area Superintendent

Hawaii DOE

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Dear Chair Kidani and Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to offer my support for GM712 and my endorsement of William Arakaki's candidacy for the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE). As a longtime educator and former Complex Area Superintendent, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Arakaki as a colleague and in his current capacity as the BOE Student Achievement Committee Chair. I can attest to his exceptional leadership qualities and unwavering commitment to advancing student achievement.

Mr. Arakaki has been an invaluable mentor in my journey as a Complex Area Superintendent. I have looked to him for guidance and inspiration on multiple occasions. His wealth of experience as an educator and administrator has equipped him with a deep understanding of the challenges facing our schools and his unwavering advocacy for educational equity and excellence.

Mr. Arakaki's input and expertise are invaluable assets to the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE) as it works to meet the ambitious goals outlined in its strategic plan. His leadership and vision are instrumental in guiding the DOE to develop students who are globally competitive and locally committed. I have witnessed firsthand the positive influence he has had on shaping educational policy and fostering collaboration among stakeholders, I am confident that he will continue to make meaningful contributions to the State Board of Education.

In conclusion, I support GM712 and the confirmation of William Arakaki's appointment to the Hawaii State Board of Education. His unparalleled dedication, expertise, and commitment to student success make him the ideal candidate to provide the leadership needed to propel our education system forward. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I respectfully request your support for Mr. Arakaki's candidacy.

Sincerely,



Sean S. Tajima
Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area Superintendent
Hawaii State Department of Education

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:55:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Paul Zina | Testifying for Kapa'a Middle School, Hawai'i Department of Education | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature,

I am writing to support the reappointment of Mr. William Arakaki to the Hawai'i Board of Education. Having worked closely with Mr. Arakaki for many years as he has moved through the ranks of the Hawai'i Department of Education, I have had the privilege of his service as a Vice Principal, Principal, Complex Area Superintendent, and Kaua'i Representative of the Board of Education. Few people have the benefit of serving in all those roles and the unique perspective that comes with that.

Mr. Arakaki's deep connections within the Department of Education, as well as, his most recent work with the Board of Education are a testament to his ability to bring a strong and clear perspective to the leadership of the Board of Education. Mr. Arakaki has always and continues to remain connected at the school level with administration, certificated and classified staff alike. His volunteerism is pervasive across our island home of Kaua'i. Mr. Arakaki's deep commitment to strong relationships would do great service to the Board of Education with his continued service.

It would be a great lost opportunity should Mr. Arakaki not be reappointed. Please reappoint Mr. William Arakaki to another term as a member of the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Paul Zina, Principal Kapa'a Middel School, Kaua'i

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KING KAUMUALI'I ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
4380 HANAMAULU ROAD
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766

April 4, 2024

Dear Hawaii State Senate Education Committee,

I would like to submit testimony on behalf of Kauai Board of Education Member William "Bill" Arakaki. I have known Mr. Arakaki for the past 20 years as an educator, mentor, and leader. I would like to highly recommend Mr. Arakaki's reappointment as the Kauai Board of Education Representative. Mr. Arakaki brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and understanding of school processes, policies, and procedures that impact schools and student success. He brings with him experience as a public school student, teacher, Athletic Director, Vice Principal, Principal, and Complex Area Superintendent in our public school system.

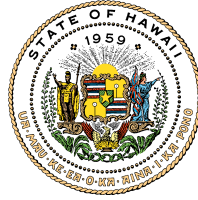
He is respected as a community member and has spent many years as a head football coach dedicating his time to students and the community. I would wholeheartedly endorse Mr. Arakaki to represent Kauai as a Board of Education member.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Yoshida".

Jason Yoshida
Principal

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STACEY BELLO
COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
KA'Ū/KEA'AU/PĀHOA COMPLEX AREA
16-588 KEA'AU-PĀHOA ROAD
KEA'AU, HAWAII 96749

OFFICE OF THE COMPLEX AREA SUPERINTENDENT

April 6, 2024

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Kidani and Senator Mercado Kim,

My name is Stacey Bello and I am the Complex Area Superintendent for the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Area. I am writing to express my sincere appreciation and support for the invaluable contributions of Mr. William Arakaki as a member of our Hawai'i State Board of Education.

Board Member Arakaki has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the improvement of our state's educational system and has been instrumental in setting a positive direction to ensure the success of our Hawai'i schools. Board Member Arakaki not only brings a wealth of educational experience and expertise to the Board, but also the passion and dedication needed to serve our students, educators, and the broader community throughout the State of Hawai'i, not just for the island of Kauai, which he represents.

I fully support the reappointment of Board Member William Arakaki to the Hawai'i State Board of Education. I am confident that he will continue to have a positive impact on our schools and the future of our educational community as he has proven to be an exemplary leader, an involved stakeholder and a true advocate for public education.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Bello".

Stacey Bello
Complex Area Superintendent
Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Area

AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

LATE

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 4:43:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Matthew Ho | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my full support for the reappointment of William Arakaki to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mr. Arakaki for six years, during which time he has served as a complex area superintendent colleague. Throughout our professional relationship, Mr. Arakaki has consistently demonstrated the qualities of a true learning leader. He not only possesses a deep understanding of educational principles but also exemplifies a genuine commitment to the advancement of education in Hawai'i.

One of Mr. Arakaki's most admirable traits is his unwavering dedication to representing the island of Kaua'i, its culture, values, and people, with the utmost respect and dignity. His advocacy for the unique needs and perspectives of Kaua'i's communities has been instrumental in fostering a sense of inclusivity and equity within the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Furthermore, Mr. Arakaki embodies the core values of the Hawai'i Department of Education - integrity, excellence, and collaboration - in all aspects of his work. He is widely regarded as a respected leader within the Department, known for his integrity, professionalism, and ability to foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

Given Mr. Arakaki's expertise, values, experience, and education, I wholeheartedly recommend him for reappointment to the Hawai'i Board of Education. I am confident that he will continue to serve with distinction, ensuring that the decisions of the Board always prioritize the interests of the keiki of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of William Arakaki's reappointment. Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Matthew C.W. Ho

Complex Area Superintendent

Castle-Kahuku Complex Area

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:00:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Alicia Miyashiro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am submitting my testimony in support of the reappointment of Kauai's Representative on the Hawaii Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, Mr. William Arakaki. Current Board Member Mr. Arakaki consistently visits our schools here on the island of Kauai. He knows firsthand what is going on in our schools and the issues and concerns faced by our educators. He is an informed Board member who maintains open lines of communication with all involved parties. I highly recommend his reappointment for the next term on our Hawaii Board of Education.

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:34:32 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Corey Nakamura | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support the reappointment of Board of Education member William Arakaki. Mr. Arakaki has represented the island of Kauai and the State Hawaii as a Board of Education member in a positive way. He is visible, accessible and values my role as the principal of Wilcox Elementary School. Thank you for allowing me to provide this written testimony.

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:29:57 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mushtaq Ikramullah | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Senate Education Selection Committee

It's a pleasure to recommend Kauai Board of Education member William Arakaki for your strong consideration and reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Education, Kauai Representative. Throughout his tenure as a Board member, Mr. Arakaki was instrumental in accomplishing a number of key initiatives.

Most notable was the 2023 - 2029 Strategic Plan Phase II Implementation Plan. He remains very visible in our schools and participates in classroom visits with our Kauai Complex Area team. Mr. Arakaki's role as the Chair for the Student Achievement Committee continues to ensure that there is clear focus and direction in supporting the schools as they implement the Strategic Plan. This clarity is appreciated by our teachers, support staff, and administrators.

Thank you for your consideration of the reappointment of Mr. William Arakaki. His 30 plus years of experience as an educator and administrator will continue to benefit our students, schools, and community in building an educational system that Hawaii truly deserves.

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 3:03:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Esther Kanehailua | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Letter of Support for Mr. Bill Arakaki's Reappointment to the Board of Education

4/4/2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strongest support for the reappointment of Mr. Bill Arakaki to the Board of Education, specifically representing the island of Kaua'i.

Mr. Arakaki's experience makes him an invaluable asset to the Board. His distinguished career as a former principal and complex area superintendent for Kaua'i schools provides him with a deep understanding of the educational system at every level – from the individual school to the complex area and the state as a whole. This comprehensive perspective is essential for making informed decisions that impact our students.

Beyond his experience, Mr. Arakaki brings a unique combination of passion and dedication. As a native of Kaua'i, he understands the specific needs and challenges faced by students on neighbor islands. His commitment to the public school system in Hawai'i is personal – not only as an educator, but also as a parent and grandfather whose children and grandchildren have benefited from these schools.

Having had the privilege of working alongside Mr. Arakaki as a complex area superintendent, I can personally attest to his valuable qualities. He possesses a rare combination of humility and critical thinking, allowing him to accurately assess the state of our schools while always seeking solutions. He is a true collaborator, fostering open communication and working effectively with diverse stakeholders.

Mr. Arakaki's reappointment would ensure continued strong representation for all neighbor island schools on the Board of Education. His experience, dedication, and collaborative spirit make him an ideal candidate to guide our public school system toward a bright future.

Sincerely,

Esther Kanehailua

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 4:45:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kyle Shimabukuro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for Board of Education Nominee William Arakaki. He has the personal qualities and professional experience that would make him an excellent member for the Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Kyle Shimabukuro

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 10:12:13 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alice Luck | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I know Mr. Arakaki to be an honest and trustworthy public servant who is dedicated most of his life to the children of Kauai. I look forward to working with him to improve educational outcomes for Kauai's youth in the next term.

Mahalo,

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 10:02:21 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Disa Hauge | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Monday, April 8, 2024 3:00 PM

Dear Chair Kidani and Vice-Chair Kim,

I am writing Testimony in enthusiastic support of GM 712 regarding the reappointment of William (Bill) Arakaki to the Board of Education.

As a life-long educator deeply involved in our education system and community, I have had the privilege of witnessing first hand Mr. Arakaki's exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to the betterment of our schools and the students they serve.

Bill Arakaki embodies the ideal blend of school-level leadership and community focus that is essential for effective governance in education. His extensive experience as both a special education teacher and administrator has equipped him with invaluable insights into the needs and challenges facing our schools and students. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a steadfast dedication to ensuring that every child receives the support and resources necessary to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Moreover, Mr. Arakaki's active involvement in the Kauai community further exemplifies his commitment to serving others. He is able to forge meaningful connections and foster positive change beyond the walls of our schools.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Bill Arakaki for reappointment to the Board of Education. His wealth of experience, compassionate leadership, and dedication to our community make him an invaluable asset to our education system.

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Bill Arakaki's reappointment. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Disa Hauge

RE: GM712

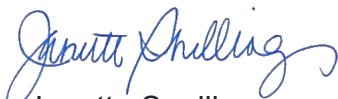
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILLIAM ARAKAKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

It is my distinct pleasure to offer my strongest support for consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee William Arakaki to the Board of Education (BOE) for reappointment of another term.

During my tenure as a principal, I recall the impression that BOE member Arakaki left me with multiple contacts. I interacted with him at state meetings and visited his complex area where he shared the responsibilities of the Complex Area Superintendent and the resources and relationships that he cultivated to support his schools. More recently, I was fortunate to work with BOE member Arakaki during the initial year of my service as the Complex Area Superintendent for the Honokaa-Kealahou-Kohala-Konawaena Complex. In both circumstances, BOE member Arakaki has been a valued mentor.

One of the most noteworthy assets that he brings to the Board of Education is his keen knowledge of the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) at all levels given his years of service. He keenly understands the areas of strength and areas that need improvement within the HIDOE. Importantly, he understands the necessity of both support and accountability. His actions and decisions have always been driven to ensure the best education for the children of Hawaii. This is the lens that he continues to use in his position on the Hawaii BOE. I humbly ask for your confirmation of William Arakaki's reappointment to the Hawaii Board of Education.

Sincerely,



Janette Snelling

HKKK Complex Area Superintendent

GM-712

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 8:41:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mahina Anguay | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of GM 712, William Arakaki’s reappointment to the Board of Education.

I’ve known Mr. Arakaki for 14 years, since returning home to Kauai. As Complex Area Superintendent, Mr. Arakaki prioritized students first and foremost. He always looked for ways to offer students more opportunities and experiences. As my school transitioned to a wall to wall academy school, Mr. Arakaki supported our efforts by paying for professional development and travel for my staff. He worked closely with the Kauai Economic Development Board to create the Academies of Kauai Advisory Board, which offers advice on industry requirements and provinces externship opportunities for our teachers. Mr. Arakaki has always been a huge supporter of high school athletics, serving on our KIF Executive Board and the HHSAA Board. He spends much of his free time attending games and supporting all students on Kauai.

Mr. Arakaki has served Kauai as both teacher and administrator at the school, complex, and state levels. I feel his extensive career in the HDOE makes him a valuable member of our Board as he understands the tri-system. He knows what schools need in order to be successful and advocates for that. Mr. Arakaki exudes passion and a deep commitment to serve Hawaii’s students, families, and our school system. I highly recommend his reappointment to the Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Mahina Anguay

Principal, Waimea High School