



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 0714 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

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

Throughout Ms. Chung's 34 years with the Department, she has held various positions, such as district educational specialist, school administrator, and teacher. In particular, she was the principal of Mililani Middle School, the state's largest middle school, and one of four year-round multi-track schools at the time. In 2014, the Hawaii Association of Secondary Administrators recognized Ms. Chung and I as Principals of the Year for middle and high school, respectively. Ms. Chung was recognized for leading students' improvement in math, reading, and science proficiency at Mililani Middle School. Additionally, Ms. Chung has served the Department in other important roles on key education-related committees and boards. The subjects of these committees and boards include issues that the Board frequently encounters such as school accreditation, weighted student formula funding, bell schedules and school calendars, and telework.

I appreciate Ms. Chung's willingness to serve on the Board. I support Ms. Chung's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education and urge the State Senate to confirm her appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 714.



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 GM714, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Elynne Chung, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

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 Elynne Chung, as we believe she has the right background to be an effective BOE member. She has a distinguished career as a school leader, and she has demonstrated the ability to improve student achievement, work with parents and community members, and manage complex challenges like multi-track scheduling. We also pledge to be a partner as she and the rest of the BOE work to improve outcomes for students and our broader state.

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 GM714, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Elynne Chung, 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 Ms. Chung's experience as a career DOE educator and in particular, her tenure as principal of Mililani Middle School, which was one of the few multi-track schools in our system. As someone who knows the DOE intimately, she will be in a good position to create policy and assess the qualities of an effective educational leader. We encourage the Committee to confirm her 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.

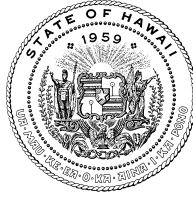
GM 713 Wesley Lo

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.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of
Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the
Senate Committee on Education

Monday, April 8, 2024
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229, and Videoconference

In consideration of
Governor's Message No. 714

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 714, appointment of Elynn Chung to serve on the Board of Education.

Elynn Chung is a retired educator who had more than 40 years of service with the Department of Education including 20 as an administrator. She served as long-time principal of Mililani Middle School (2010-2022). When she was the principal, Mililani Middle served more than 1,500 students. The Hawai'i Association of Secondary School Administrators recognized her as the 2015 Principal of the Year for improving academic achievement at the school.

Elynn is an efficient problem solver, knowledgeable of problem-solving techniques. She oversaw a successful Special Education Program for the Central District. She also expertly managed fiscal requirements for Special Education programs.

Elynn is a member of the College of Education Alumni Association as the current vice-president. She earned her bachelor's in Elementary Education and master's in educational administration from University of Hawaii Mānoa.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 7:50:54 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 Senator Kouchi and Members of the State Senate,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the nomination of Elynne Chung to serve on the Hawaii Board of Education. Elynne Chung's background as a former educator, coupled with her deep understanding of the current needs of our education system, makes her an excellent candidate for this vital role.

Throughout her career in education, Elynne Chung has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving educational outcomes for students and supporting Hawaii schools. Her experience and insights into the challenges facing educators, students, and families will be invaluable assets to the Board of Education.

Elynne Chung's dedication to education reform and her proactive approach to addressing critical issues align perfectly with the goals and priorities of our education system. She has been instrumental in supporting initiatives that promote equity, diversity, and inclusivity in Hawaii schools, ensuring that every student has access to quality education.

I am confident that Elynne Chung's leadership, expertise, and passion for education will contribute significantly to the continued success and improvement of our education system. Her appointment to the Hawaii Board of Education will benefit students, educators, and communities across the state.

I urge you to support Elynne Chung's nomination and confirm her appointment to the Hawaii Board of Education. Her vision, experience, and dedication make her an outstanding choice for this important position.

Thank you for considering my support for Elynne Chung's nomination.

Sincerely,

Linell Dilwith, KMR Complex Area Superintendent

Hawaii DOE

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 4:13:24 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GM714

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Aloha,

My name is Bob Davis and I am a lifetime resident of Hawaii. I have attended public schools in our DOE system from K-12, have worked as a teacher, coach, counselor, vice principal, principal and complex area superintendent for 30 years in the Hawaii public school system and I am a strong supporter of the HIDOE. I believe our department is able to prepare our students for their future and are major contributors to the growth and success of our state. Having strong individuals on the Hawaii Board of Education is paramount to the success of the HIDOE. Having individual members of the Board work collaboratively together and with the Hawaii state superintendent is critical to the continued success of our HIDOE system. I strongly believe Ms. Elynne Chung is the right person for this kind of appointment and I strongly support her confirmation to the Board of Education.

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,
Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair of the Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Michelle Kidani

Bill/Resolution/Draft Number: GM 714

Day/Date of Hearing: April 8, 2024

Time of the Hearing: 3:00 pm

Place of the Hearing: CR 229

In Support of the Selection of Ms. Elynne Chung to the Board of Education.

I am Shannon Tamashiro and I am Principal of Mililani Middle School. I am testifying in favor of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawaii Board of Education.

The reason I am taking this position is that I have known and worked with Ms. Elynne Chung for over 10 years and I believe she has demonstrated leadership skills conducive to performing her role as a member of the Board of Education. Ms. Chung had demonstrated the highest ethical standards, record of integrity and civic virtue during our service together as leaders in the school community.

Ms. Chung's leadership emulates the highest standards of collaborative decision making, engenders a team approach and ownership when pursuing school improvement goals and the ability to work through complex issues on the journey to success. Many accolades resulting from the school improvement project stems from her collaborative leadership skills of bringing the right people together to achieve common goals.

In her daily work she is always viewed as a tough but understanding, professional leader and mentor. She is regarded by many as an excellent mentor and takes the time to help up and coming administrators with the finer points about Educational Leadership. I am proud to say that I was mentored by her and am thankful for the leadership lessons she taught me. Lessons about collaboration, common goals, understanding, patience, listening, and acting when necessary. Most importantly, about developing the whole child, academically, developmentally, and socially.

Ms. Chung's tenacity in demanding the highest of standards of excellence resonated from employees to students. Her belief that it takes a village to successfully educate a child is translated to each and every member of the school community, collaboratively doing their work with fidelity. She believed that students' need to make "connections" to learning, teach with fidelity, and look more than academics, were reflected in her approach to education. Ms. Chung diligently supports the High Interest (after school) Programs (HIP); facilitated by teacher volunteers and funded by the parent organizations. The HIP program engaged over 700+ students in a safe, after school learning environment for preteens and teenagers.

There are many school improvement accomplishments that we collaboratively worked during our 10+ years together as an effective administrative team. I can recall as stressful as

being a new Administrator at the largest Middle School in the state, Ms. Chung's leadership and mentorship reflected and created an enjoyable, professional environment for me to work. She brought out the best of people and her high expectations made for a successful place for students to build their dreams. Her belief that all should take care of themselves, take care of family, then take care of work demonstrates (to me) a mature approach to collaborative leadership and a much appreciative work environment.

My sincerest and strongest recommendation for her confirmation as a Board of Education member. Ms. Chung demonstrated the highest of integrity, civic virtue and ethical standards. She had the highest expectations that we do the same. She demonstrated excellent leadership traits, knowledge of educational best practices, and commitment to improving education in Hawaii.

In conclusion, I am Shannon Tamashiro and I am in support of selecting Ms. Elynne Chung as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

Name: Shannon Tamashiro

Organization: Department of Education, Mililani Middle School

Contact Information: Shannon.Tamashiro@k12.hi.us

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,
Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair of the Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Michelle Kidani

Bill/Resolution/Draft Number: GM 714

Day/Date of Hearing: April 8, 2024

Time of the Hearing: 3:00 pm

Place of the Hearing: CR 229

In Support of the Selection of Ms. Elynne Chung to the Board of Education.

My name is Jacob Kardash and I am Principal of Mililani Uka Elementary School. I am writing to express my unwavering support of Ms. Elynne Chung to be selected to the Hawaii Board of Education.

I have been working closely with Ms. Chung for more than 14 years and I can confidently attest to her outstanding qualifications, dedication, and passion for public education. I believe Ms. Chung has demonstrated the highest ethical standards, record of integrity and civic virtue during our service together as leaders in the school community.

During her tenure as a principal at Mililani Middle school, Ms. Chung demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities that significantly contributed to the academic and personal growth of our students. Ms. Chung was responsible for transitioning the largest middle school in the state to single track which increased instructional minutes for students. Ms. Chung collaborated, bringing a multitude of people together to overcome barriers and her tenacity to reach long-term goals are noteworthy.

Ms. Chung believes in developing the whole child, academically, developmentally, and socially. Making connections to learning is a high priority in her repertoire of educational strategies. Under Ms. Chung's leadership, the school developed innovative educational programs such as STEM exploratory courses where 100% of students were exposed to the engineering design process and computer science standards years before the requirement in 2021. Ms. Chung supported and expanded after school programs where over 800 students participated in enrichment activities that furthered their education.

Ms. Chung has exhibited a genuine commitment to supporting the professional development of educators. There are many who have benefited from Ms. Chung's mentorship; and, I can personally attest my growth and development to her. Ms. Chung provided me with invaluable feedback, ample opportunities, and thorough guidance which has positively impacted our students and directly grew my leadership skills. I am in the role of Principal today because of

her teachings. Ms. Chung sees the potential in others and empowers them to be better educators.

My sincerest and strongest recommendation for her confirmation as a Board of Education member. Ms. Chung demonstrated excellent leadership traits, knowledge of educational best practices, and commitment to improving education in Hawaii and capable of garnering the support of the education community.

In conclusion, I am in support of selecting Ms. Elynne Chung as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education. I greatly appreciate the committee's time to read my letter of recommendation.

Name: Jacob Kardash

Organization: Principal, Mililani Uka Elementary School

Contact Information: jacob.kardash@k12.hi.us

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:43:10 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhameel Duarte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sir(s):

Please consider Elyne Chung for the Board of Education. I have had the honor of working with Ms. Chung for over a decade as an educator and as a colleague. She is a fantastic asset that will add value and perspective to the board. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jhameel Duarte

Steve Nakasato, Ed.D.
99-241 Iini Way
Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Aloha Chair Kidani and Senate Education Committee:

I am writing to highly recommend Ms. Elynne Chung, with whom I have had the pleasure of working for over 20 years. Throughout our professional journey, I have witnessed Ms. Chung's exceptional leadership skills, unwavering dedication, and profound commitment to excellence. Her contributions have been invaluable to Mililani Middle School, the Mililani community, and the Hawaii Department of Education.

Ms. Chung has consistently demonstrated her capabilities as an esteemed leader, particularly in her role in spearheading district and state initiatives. Her strategic vision, coupled with her ability to inspire and motivate her team, has resulted in the successful implementation of numerous projects and programs that have significantly impacted student achievement.

One of Ms. Chung's most admirable qualities is her innate ability to foster collaboration and consensus among diverse stakeholders. Her inclusive approach ensures that all voices are heard and considered, leading to the development of comprehensive solutions that address complex challenges effectively.

In addition to her professional competence, Ms. Chung is known for her integrity, professionalism, and strong work ethic. She leads by example, consistently upholding the highest standards of ethics and accountability in all her endeavors.

Overall, I have the utmost confidence in Ms. Elynne Chung's abilities and believe that she would be a tremendous asset to the Hawaii Board of Education. Her leadership, expertise, and passion for making a difference are truly commendable, and I wholeheartedly endorse her without reservation.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or clarification regarding Ms. Chung's qualifications. Thank you for considering her candidacy.

Sincerely,

Steve Nakasato, Ed.D.

The Very Proud Retired Principal from Mililani Uka, Pearl Ridge, Mililani 'Ike, Mililani Waena, and Wheeler Elementary

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:11:47 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Horstman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Bill/Resolution/Draft Number: GM714

In Support of the Selection of Ms. Elynne Chung to the Board of Education.

I am Jeff Horstman, an Assistant Principal at Mililani Middle School. I am testifying in favor of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawaii Board of Education.

The reason I take this position is that I have worked with Ms. Elynne Chung for over 10 years as a counselor and assistant principal. I believe Ms. Elynne Chung has always demonstrated the highest ethical and moral standards as a school leader.

Ms. Chung demonstrated her ability to perform in a complex work environment as she recently led Mililani Middle through a transition from a multi-track calendar to a regular school calendar; not only ensuring the faculty was prepared, but strategically collaborating with community and government agencies to secure land and construct a new building, which were essential for the transition process.

In her daily work, she is always viewed as tough, but understanding, a professional leader and positive mentor. She developed leadership capacity within faculty members and fostered school leaders out of her teachers and counselors. She helped myself and others to develop the finer points of educational leadership. Much of my career as a school level leader is due to her mentoring and coaching during the 10+ years I spent working beside her. Her guidance in relation to collaboration, common goals, understanding, patience, listening, the focus on the development of the whole child, and acting when necessary have served students, teachers, and leaders like myself well. She brought out the best in me and her high expectations for excellence created a positive working environment for our administrative team and subsequently impacted student and teacher success in a positive manner as well.

In conclusion, I am in support of selecting Ms. Elynne Chung as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

Jeff Horstman

Assistant Principal, Mililani Middle School

Jeffrey.horstman@k12.hi.us

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:37:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerry Kawamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for retired Principal Elynn Chung's candidacy for selection as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education. Having worked with Mrs. Chung for several years, I can confidently attest to her exceptional leadership qualities, unwavering dedication, and profound commitment to improving our schools and communities.

As Principal at Mililani Middle School, she has demonstrated a passion for fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Her visionary leadership has transformed Mililani Middle School into a school of educational excellence.

Mrs. Chung's collaborative decision-making approach and ability to unite diverse stakeholders to achieve common goals were instrumental in driving positive change within our school community. She possesses a deep understanding of the challenges facing her school and is adept at developing strategic initiatives to address them effectively.

Furthermore, Mrs. Chung's extensive experience in education, coupled with her strong advocacy for equitable access to quality education for all students, qualifies her to serve on the Board of Education. Her insights, expertise, and commitment to serving students' best interests make her an invaluable asset to the board.

I am confident that Mrs. Chung will bring the same dedication, integrity, and excellence to her role as a member of the Board of Education as she did during her distinguished career as a Principal. Her leadership will undoubtedly contribute to advancing educational opportunities and the overall success of students across Hawaii.

In conclusion, I strongly support Elynn Chung's candidacy for the Board of Education and urge you to consider her for this position. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kerry Kawamura

School Renewal Specialist - Leilehua/Mililani/Waiialua Complex



April 3, 2024

**Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation of Elynne Chung, GM-714
State of Hawaii Board of Education

Dear Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair and Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair and Members of Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing to express my support for my sister, Ms. Elynne Chung, to the Hawaii Board of Education. Ms. Chung is a highly respected administrator in the educational community as a retired Principal of Mililani Middle School and past Principal of Pearl Harbor Kai Elementary School. She has played a vital role in enhancing overall student success at both schools based on her exceptional dedication, passion, and expertise in the field of education.

I have served as a past volunteer judge for the Mililani Middle School VEX IQ district robotics competition for elementary and middle school students while Ms. Chung was the Principal of the school and have personally witnessed her dedication to activities in broadening student and community involvement. Her passion, commitment, and insight into her students' engagement with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) activities is just one fine example of her understanding of one of the challenges facing Hawaii's education system. She firmly believes that every student, regardless of background, deserves access to high-quality STEM based education, opportunities, and resources.

Ms. Chung will bring valuable professional experience and insight to this position and will be a great asset to the Hawaii Board of Education. Her expertise and passion make her very qualified to serve in this critical role. I endorse Ms. Chung's confirmation to the Board and am confident that she will continue to be a champion for students, educators, and administrators in Hawaii.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ron E. Iwamoto'.

Ron E. Iwamoto, P.E.
President
Iwamoto Engineering Consultants, Inc.
Consulting Structural Engineers

98-029 Hekaha Street, Suite 37 * Aiea * Hawaii * 96701
Ph: (808) 486-5202 * Fax: (808) 486-5206
Email: mail@iecstructural.com

Senate testimony in support of Ms. Elynne Chung (GM714)

I am thrilled to endorse Ms. Elynne Chung's nomination for the Board of Education. As an educator within the Hawai'i public school system, I couldn't contain my pride and excitement upon discovering her nomination.

Having had the privilege of working closely with Ms. Chung for 7 years since 2010 as her district support team member, I can attest to her exceptional leadership qualities and unwavering dedication to our schools. I am confident that her presence will elevate the Board's deliberations and decision-making processes instantaneously.

Ms. Chung's passion for driving positive change aligns perfectly with the aspirations we hold for our students, educators, and the community in general. Her leadership will undoubtedly bridge the gap between reality and our aspirations.

I am witness to Ms. Chung's remarkable ability to translate vision into action as a school leader. Clear communication, thoughtful inquiry, and unwavering commitment to excellence are some of her traits that come to mind right away. She supported a culture of shared instructional leadership that has positively impacted her school community. What truly sets Ms. Chung apart is her genuine care for students and educators alike.

I wholeheartedly endorse Ms. Elynne Chung's nomination and respectfully urge you to confirm her appointment. She is the leader we need to champion the interests of our students, educators, and community members on the Board of Education.

Sincerely,



Rampal Singh
Educational Specialist
School Transformation Branch
Hawaii Department of Education

Email: 808rampal@gmail.com

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:27:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayna Noelani Dabis-Tom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,

Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair of the Senate Education Committee

The Honorable Michelle Kidani

Bill/Resolution/Draft Number: GM 714

Day/Date of Hearing: April 8, 2024

Time of the Hearing: 3:00 pm

Place of the Hearing: CR 229

In Support of the Selection of Ms. Elynne Chung to the Board of Education.

Introduction:

Aloha mai kākou. I am Shayna Noelani Dabis-Tom. I am the Hawaiian Studies teacher (Kumu) at Mililani Middle School. I am also a parent of a child that had attended Mililani Middle School. I am testifying in favor of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawa‘ii Board of Education.

The reason I am taking this position is that I know Ms. Chung is a person of the highest level of integrity, civic virtue, and ethical standards. She is knowledgeable of a myriad of educational best practices, understands educational governance, and a proven educational leader who fully supported our Hawaiian Studies & Hula program. I know that she is an effective community leader who has earned the highest recommendation to serve on the Hawai'i's Board of Education.

Ms. Chung is a solid supporter of our hula dancers. She had made many opportunities for our students to expand and engage in their heritage and the uniqueness of Hawaiian culture. I know that she will continue to brighten the lives of students in her service to the Board of Education.

In conclusion, I, Shayna Dabis-Tom, am in support of selecting Ms. Elynn Chung as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

Name: Shayna Dabis-Tom, Teacher, Hawaii Studies

Organization: Mililani Middle School

Contact Information: Shayna.Dabis-Tom@k12.hi.us

Cell Phone: 808-729-6035

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Monday, April 8, 2024

GM 714 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the Committee on Education,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Elynne Chung for the vacant Board of Education position. Having known Ms. Chung for many years and witnessed her exceptional leadership firsthand, I can confidently attest to her qualifications, dedication, and passion for education.

During her 18-year tenure as a principal, Ms. Chung consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and a deep commitment to the academic and personal growth of her students. Her outstanding performance was recognized when she was awarded the prestigious title of Middle School Principal of the Year in 2014. This accolade speaks volumes about her ability to inspire and motivate both students and staff alike.

Ms. Chung's leadership extended beyond the walls of her school as she served as a vice principal at three different schools and as a District Educational Specialist in Special Education. In each role, she exhibited remarkable professionalism, resourcefulness, and a genuine concern for the well-being of all stakeholders.

One of Ms. Chung's greatest strengths is her adeptness at building cohesive teams and fostering a positive working environment. Despite the challenges inherent in managing a school with over 1,700 students and 200 staff members, she consistently prioritized collaboration, communication, and problem-solving. Her inclusive approach and ability to leverage the skills and knowledge of her team members resulted in tangible improvements in student achievement and school climate.

Ms. Chung's extensive experience, coupled with her proven track record of success, make her an ideal candidate for the Board of Education position. Her insights, leadership acumen, and unwavering commitment to educational excellence will undoubtedly benefit the entire community.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Elynne Chung for the Board of Education position and am confident that she will excel in this role. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Sincerely,

Bruce Naguwa
Retired School Administrator

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:56:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Shiraki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon. My name is Steven Shiraki. May I first thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of Ms. Elynne Chung, nominee for the Hawaii State Board of Education. I am a retired DOE administrator and a professional colleague of Elynne Chung for over 24 years.

I truly believe that Elynne will bring a valuable perspective to the Board, as an educator, teacher, leader, parent, and member of the community. She has always been an advocate of public education, having sent three of her children through public schools. Additionally, she possesses the positive mindset of an educator, teacher, and leader, in focusing on the needs of our youth, their parents, and families.

She is a highly respected principal, who has been nationally and locally recognized for her outstanding work. It is her personality and nature to interact well with others, always helping others embrace multiple perspectives and different approaches to problem solving. She also possesses the heart and mind of a mentor, working diligently with faculty and other administrators, to build their collective capacity to support the organization and the broader frame of student learning and achievement in support of the goals of the Department. As a result, many of her former teachers and vice principals are now serving as principals and other leaders within the realm of public education.

Additionally, she must be commended for her commitment to education. In her most recent position as principal of Mililani Middle school, she moved the school community to a single track schedule with the construction of a new, innovative classroom building. Clearly, the foundational motivation was that it was what would best serve the students and the entire school community. This type of broad vision is something that must be acknowledged and admired.

Finally, as a leader, she maintains a clear vision and is willing to work with others to achieve goals that will support students, families, school and the larger public education system. Personally and professionally, she is both dedicated and diligent in working collaboratively and collegially with others to address and solve a range of issues, such as those that may come before the Board.

May I ask that you consider Ms. Chung for this vital role as a member of the Board of Education. Thank you again for the opportunity to share my perspective on such a worthy nominee. Thank you very much.

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education
Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire
06-30-2026.

Chair of the Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Michelle Kidani

Bill/Resolution/Draft Number: GM714

Day/Date of Hearing: April 8, 2024

Time of the Hearing: 3:00 pm

Place of the Hearing: CR 229

In Support of the Selection of Ms. Elynne Chung to the Board of Education

I am Errol J. Hahn and I am a Retired Officer of the U.S. Army and Retired Administrator from the Department of Education. I have worked with Ms. Elynne Chung for over 14 years. I am testifying in favor of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawaii Board of Education.

The reason I am taking this position is that Ms. Chung has demonstrated the highest level of integrity, civic virtue and ethical standards throughout the 14 years I have worked as one of her Assistant Principals. She is a consummate educational leader with talent to assist with attaining the vision of Hawaii education goals cited in the Strategic Plans. She is knowledgeable of a myriad of educational best practices, understands educational governance, and is a dedicated educational leader. She demonstrated a strong work ethic and engendered strong working and supportive relationships with diverse professional groups and led these groups to overcome many barriers to effective education. Most noteworthy is her ability to bring together stakeholders to take ownership for educational challenges and find collaborative resolutions. Her astute leadership behaviors epitomizes for many an effective community leader who has earned the highest recommendation for a seat on the Hawaii's Board of Education.

In all my years of service, 21 years in the federal military and 28 years in the DOE I have never met such an outstanding, knowledgeable, dedicated and yet sensitive and understanding leader. Ms. Chung is a superb leader of whom many have benefited from her mentorship. She has, on many occasions, engaged in negotiations with various labor groups to overcome barriers to good educational practices and guided workers to a higher level of professionalism. As Principal, her school's high interest program engaged 50+ percent of the school's population of students (800+), solely run by teacher volunteers, and funded by parent fundraising to support the program. This HIP program provided a safe and healthy after school environment, a place to learn, for developing teens and pre-teens. Her understanding of what students need at various stages of educational development is noteworthy.

Ms. Chung had been selected as Hawaii's 2014 Middle School Principal of the Year, traveled to Washington DC and was recognized as one of the top educational administrators in

the nation. During her tenure as principal, she was also recognized locally for being selected as one of the finalists in the Tokioka Principal of the Year recognition program. Her subordinate leadership members, three Assistant Principals under her mentorship, were selected as Hawaii's Assistant Principals of the Year in 2017, 2021, and 2024. Furthermore, her school custodial team was recognized in 2022 as the Governor's selection for the Team of the Year award. Her attention to the school's vision of "making connections..." exemplifies the vision of the academics movement in the state's high schools; relevant education with students taking ownership of their learning.

There are many more highlights in the list of Ms. Chung accolades, too many to voice in this short testimony. In simple words, my strongest recommendation for Ms. Chung's selection on the Board of Education. In conclusion, in consideration of her demonstrated passion for education in Hawaii, I am Errol J. Hahn and I support the selection of Ms. Elynne Chung as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

Name: Errol J. Hahn

Organization: U.S. Army (Retired)

Contact Information: ehahn@hawaii.rr.com

TESTIMONY ON THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ELYNNE CHUNG - GM 714

Testimony of Lauren Matsumoto

Before the: Senate Education Committee

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2024

Time of the Hearing: 3:00 pm

Location of the Hearing: CR 229

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

I writing to testify in strong support of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawaii Board of Education. The reason I am taking this position is that I have known Ms. Chung to be a person of the highest level of integrity, civic virtue and ethical standards. Throughout my acquaintance with her, she has consistently displayed these qualities. Her expertise spans a wide array of educational best practices, establishing her as an exemplary educational leader. Moreover, her adept understanding of educational governance further underscores her suitability for the position.

Personally, I've witnessed Ms. Chung's remarkable ability to foster strong, supportive relationships across diverse professional groups. She has a proven track record of leading these groups to surmount obstacles hindering effective education. Her talent lies in uniting stakeholders to address educational challenges collectively, making her an invaluable asset to our community. One notable achievement was her instrumental role in the transition of Mililani Middle School from a multi-track to a single track institution. Over seven years, Ms. Chung adeptly navigated various challenges, including legislative coordination, land acquisition, budgeting, and construction planning. As a legislator working alongside her on the project I was able to see firsthand how instrumental she was to making a positive change for her school and never giving up despite the many setbacks. Her leadership ensured a seamless transition without compromising student achievement, earning accolades from numerous stakeholders.

Throughout her tenure, Ms. Chung has demonstrated unwavering dedication and leadership, earning respect from all quarters of the community. Her genuine concern for students, staff, and the wider community has been evident. Under her leadership, Mililani Middle School was recognized as a top public school in Hawaii. Her accolades, including being

named Principal of the Year in 2014 and being a finalist for the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award, underscore her exceptional leadership abilities. Ms. Chung's influence extends beyond her own recognition; three of her Assistant Principals have been honored, with two earning significant awards for their outstanding leadership. Her infectious leadership style reflects her commitment to fostering a sustainable future for Hawaii's schools.

I firmly believe that Ms. Chung's professional attributes will greatly benefit the Hawaii Board of Education in its mission to enhance education through constructive engagement and the implementation of our strategic vision. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support her appointment to the board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide support.

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,
Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair of the Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Michelle Kidani

Bill/Resolution/Draft Number: GM 714

Day/Date of Hearing: April 8, 2024

Time of the Hearing: 3:00 pm

Place of the Hearing: CR 229

In Support of the Selection of Ms. Elynne Chung to the Board of Education.

I am Dr. O'Neil Gardner, and I am a parent and member of the US Department of Defense, Indo-Pacific Command. I am testifying in favor of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawaii Board of Education.

The reason I support Ms. Elynne Chung is due to her professionalism and care for her students and staff while she was the Principal for Mililani Middle School. My family and I had the immense pleasure of having our children attend Mililani Middle School during Ms. Chung's tenure and they benefited tremendously because of her leadership and the academic standards she helped instill. Having served in the US military as a Special Forces Operator and supporting the broader Department of Defense for almost 30 years, I have been exposed to numerous leaders and leadership styles. I trust Ms. Elynne Chung. I trust her leadership and the wisdom that guides her decisions. Our families have known each other for over six years, and I believe Ms. Elynne Chung has demonstrated the highest ethical standards, record of integrity and civic virtue during her service as a leader in the school community.

Ms. Chung demonstrated her ability to perform in a complex work environment during the recent school transition from Multi track to single track. She did a phenomenal job keeping the over 1600 students 200 staff members of Mililani Middle School engaged and on track during the Covid-19 outbreak.

Most importantly, Ms. Chung cares about developing the whole child, academically, developmentally, and socially.

My sincerest and strongest recommendation for her confirmation as a Board of Education member. Ms. Chung consistently demonstrates the highest of integrity, civic virtue, and ethical standards. She embodies excellent leadership traits, knowledge of educational best practices, and commitment to improving education in Hawaii.

In conclusion, I am Dr. O'Neil Gardner, and I am in support of selecting Ms. Elynne Chung as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

Name: Dr. O'Neil Gardner, DMgt

Organization: US DOD Indo-Pacific Command

Contact Information: Dr.oneilgardner@gmail.com//oneil.c.gardner.ctr@us.navy.mil

Dear Hawaii State Senate Committee on Education,

It is with great pleasure and sincere pride that I offer this testimony in support of my mother, Elynne Chung, who has been appointed to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education. As her daughter, and community member, I have had the privilege of witnessing first hand her unwavering dedication to education and the betterment of our community.

Throughout her distinguished career as a Principal, my mother has exemplified the qualities of leadership, compassion, and integrity. Her commitment to fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment has positively impacted countless students, teachers, and families. In 2014, her visionary approach to education and ability to inspire others was recognized as she humbly accepted her recognition as NASSP Principal of the Year.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, my mother's character is defined by her kindness, empathy, and resilience. She possesses a rare combination of wisdom and humility, always willing to listen, learn, and collaborate for the greater good. Her unwavering optimism and passion for lifelong learning serve as a source of inspiration to all who know her.

I have no doubt that my mother will bring the same level of dedication and excellence to her role on the Hawaii State Board of Education. Her insights, expertise, and advocacy for students and educators alike will undoubtedly make her a valuable asset to the Board. As she embarks on this new chapter of service, I am filled with pride and admiration for her unwavering commitment to shaping a brighter future for our state's education system.

In closing, I wholeheartedly endorse my mother, Elynne Chung, as an exceptional candidate for the Hawaii State Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Kristen Higashiyama
Chief, Inspections Planning
Pacific Air Force

April 3, 2024
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Confirmation of Elynne Chung, GM-714
State of Hawaii Board of Education**

Dear Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair and Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, and Members of Senate Committee on Education:

As the proud daughter of Elynne Chung, I wholeheartedly endorse her candidacy for the State of Hawaii Board of Education. With over two decades of dedicated service within the Hawaii Department of Education, including her exceptional tenure as the principal of Mililani Middle School from 2010-2022, my mother has exemplified unwavering commitment and leadership in shaping the future of education in our state.

Having witnessed firsthand her passion for fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment, I can attest to her dedication to our public education system. Her commitment to ensuring equitable access to quality education for all children is essential for our state's continued growth and prosperity.

With her proven track record of leadership, integrity, and innovation, she is undeniably the ideal candidate to represent the interests of students, educators, and communities on the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

I fully support Elynne Chung as a candidate for the State of Hawaii Board of Education as she is a steadfast champion for the future of education in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Maertens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Allison Maertens
94-382 Keaolani Street
Mililani, HI 96789
(808) 551-1916

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:19:44 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Senate Education Committee,

On behalf of Elyne Chung, I would like to submit my support for her appointment to the Board of Education. I believe her extensive experience both as a teacher and as an Administrator throughout her career will provide the Board with valuable insight for the Board into the everyday experiences of an educator. She has worked tirelessly for many years for students, teachers, and staff. Her appointment to the Board would be a great honor and privilege to her and allow her to continue to work for Education in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Reid Chung

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:08:45 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa DeLong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am delighted to offer my enthusiastic endorsement for Mrs. Elynn Chung, a retired public school principal, to serve on the State Board of Education. With a distinguished career in education spanning she has demonstrated unwavering commitment, exceptional leadership, and a profound dedication to the betterment of public education in Hawaii. As a former principal, she possesses invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing our schools, coupled with a visionary approach to curriculum development, student welfare, and teacher support. Her collaborative spirit, sound judgment, and passion for fostering an inclusive learning environment make her an ideal candidate to contribute meaningfully to the advancement of education policy at the state level. I wholeheartedly endorse Mrs. Chung for this important role and believe she will excel in guiding our state's educational initiatives with wisdom and integrity.

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 4:43:04 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 Elynne Chung. She has the personal qualities and professional experience that would make her an excellent member for the Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Kyle Shimabukuro

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 5:48:22 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernest Muh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing in support of Elyne Chung for the Board of Education. Her years of experinece with the Department of Education will be a great asset to the BOE.

Thanks,

Ernest Muh

GM-714

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 9:17:55 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avis Nanbu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair of the Senate Education Committee, The Honorable Michelle Kidani

I am Avis Nanbu a district educational specialist in the Central District and former principal of Mililani Mauka Elementary and I am testifying in support of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawaii Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Elynne Chung for 20 years as colleagues in the Central District and I believe Ms.Chung has a record of integrity and demonstrated high ethical standards during her tenure as Principal of Mililani Middle School. As a school leader, she exhibited poise and professionalism in interactions with colleagues, students and their families, and individuals in the community. Due to her wealth of experiences, she is knowledgeable about the diverse needs of Hawaii’s keiki as well as the demands faced by schools and its administrators. She is dedicated, organized, and very mindful of the best interest of the students and what it takes to bring people together to collaborate and overcome barriers in the best interest of education.

I strongly recommend her for confirmation as a Board of Education member. She demonstrated excellent leadership traits, is knowledgeable of educational best practices, has a commitment to improving education in Hawaii and is capable of garnering the support of the education community.

Respectfully,

Avis Nanbu

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,
Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair of the Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Michelle Kidani

Bill/Resolution/Draft Number: GM 714

Day/Date of Hearing: April 8, 2024

Time of the Hearing: 3:00 pm

Place of the Hearing: CR 229

In Support of the Selection of Ms. Elynne Chung to the Board of Education.

Introduction:

I am Tony Gaston and I am and have been the Chair of the Mililani Middle School, School Community Council for over 12 years. I am testifying in favor of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawaii Board of Education.

The reason I am taking this position is that I have worked with Ms. Chung for over 12 years on the School Community Council. Throughout my tenure as chair, I have known Ms. Chung to be a person of the highest level of integrity, civic virtue and ethical standards. I am personally cognizant of her demonstrated ability to engender strong working and supportive relationships with diverse professional groups and leading these groups to overcome barriers to effective education. She demonstrates knowledge of a myriad of educational best practices and is a proven consummate educational leader who understands educational governance. Her demonstrated ability to bring together stakeholders to take ownership for educational challenges and find collaborative resolutions epitomizes for many an effective community leader who has earned my highest recommendation to serve on the Hawaii's Board of Education.

Amongst the many school improvement initiatives we faced, the most challenging and complex task was Mililani Middle School's transition from a multi-track to a single track school. Throughout this 7-year journey, Ms. Chung exemplified the task of bringing professionals together and achieving a community desired educational goal. The complexity of transitioning the largest multi-track school in Hawaii to a single track school required coordination and actions for land acquisition and transfer from the City & County of Honolulu (Dept. of Parks and Rec.) to the State (DOE), legislative budgeting coordination, construction planning, as well as overseeing the DOE facilities and engineers' involvement in designing and monitoring the construction of the 15-classroom building.

There was also intensive coordination with HSTA and HGEA representatives, shredding of employees' payroll, aligning of specific educational requirements within the school, as well as acquiring student and staff furniture and installing teaching technologies. Most importantly, Ms. Chung kept parents and community stakeholders informed of progress along the way. All of this highlights Ms. Chung's versatility and professional competence to accomplish highly

complex tasks. The resulting superb outcome and smooth transition within the school exemplifies Ms. Chung's collaborative leadership skills and abilities. Numerous laudatory remarks from many stakeholders applauded her efforts and the accomplishment of this herculean task with little or no impact on student achievement.

Ms. Chung has proven herself to be a dedicated, consummate educational leader/mentor in our community. She is highly respected within the ranks of all stakeholders. She portrayed dedication, sincere concern for students, employees, and the general community. Highlighted throughout her tenure as an educational leader at MMS and the Community, was the recognition of MMS as a top public school in Hawaii. Additionally, her selection as the 2014 Principal of the Year for the state of Hawaii, together with being recognized as a semi-finalist for the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award in 2009 and 2017 emulates superb educational leadership.

I am personally aware of students' annual achievement scores which soared above state average throughout her tenure at the school. She is a consummate innovator as she garnered the award of \$65,000 through the REACH grant to fund the school's High Interest Programs, together with numerous grants for school improvement programs. On a personal level, both of my children attended MMS, graduated from MHS, and attended college with academic scholarships. This goes back to Ms. Chung's exceptional leadership.

In 2022, the classified custodial group also won the Governor's Team award. Ms. Chung also led the educational challenge during the COVID pandemic and most notably, as an astute mentor. Of special note is that three of her Assistant Principals were recognized and selected as 2017, 2021, and 2024 Assistant Principal of the Year. Two of her mentored Assistant Principals were recognized for outstanding leadership at the Department's annual leadership conference and awarded \$4,000 each.

During her tenure she had always demonstrated sincere concern for the improvement of the school to benefit the students, families, employees, and community at MMS. Ms. Chung's infectious leadership attributes epitomizes her dedication to build a sustainable future for all Hawaii schools.

I am confident that Ms. Chung's professional attributes can only benefit the BOE's journey to improve education in Hawaii through constructive engagement and implementation of our long term vision found in the approved strategic plan. Her commitment to education is marked with a deep and abiding interest in education and the development of students' social, academic and character development. In conclusion, I am Tony Gaston, Chair Mililani Middle School, School Community Council and I am in support of selecting Ms. Elynne Chung as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

Name: Tony Gaston

Organization: Mililani Middle School, School Community Council

Contact Information: tony.gaston@huntcompanies.com>

LATE

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,
Gubernatorial Nominee, ELYNNE CHUNG, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Chair of the Senate Education Committee
The Honorable Michelle Kidani

Bill/Resolution/Draft Number: GM 714

Day/Date of Hearing: April 8, 2024

Time of the Hearing: 3:00 pm

Place of the Hearing: CR 229

In Support of the Selection of Ms. Elynne Chung to the Board of Education.

Introduction:

I am Roger Babcock, Director of the Honolulu Department of Environmental Services. I am also a parent of three children that attended Mililani Middle School. I am testifying in favor of Ms. Elynne Chung being selected to the Hawaii Board of Education.

The reason I am taking this position is that I know Ms. Chung is a person of the highest level of integrity, civic virtue and ethical standards. She is very knowledgeable of educational best practices, understands educational governance, and is a proven consummate educational leader. I am personally cognizant of her demonstrated ability to engender strong working and supportive relationships with diverse professional groups and leading these groups to overcome barriers to effective education. Her ability to bring together stakeholders to take ownership for educational challenges and find collaborative resolutions epitomizes for many an effective community leader who has earned the highest recommendation to serve on the Hawaii's Board of Education. I served as the Chair of Mililani Middle School's School Community Council from 2009-2016 and worked closely with Ms. Chung. I have worked with other DOE schools and as a professor at UH Manoa for 25 years, and can state, emphatically, that Ms. Chung is one of the most professional and talented leaders that I have met in my career.

The transition of Mililani Middle School from a multi-track to a single-track school is an example of bringing professionals together and achieving community educational goals. The complexity of transitioning the largest multi-track school in Hawaii to a single-track school was a community inspired goal for over 7 years. Ms. Chung led this highly delicate transition resulting in a superb outcome and smooth transition. Numerous laudatory remarks from all stakeholders applauded her efforts and accomplishment of this herculean task with little or no impact on student achievement.

Ms. Chung has proven herself to be a dedicated, consummate educational leader-mentor in our community. Highlighted throughout her tenure as an educational leader in the community is her selection as the 2014 Principal of the Year for the state of Hawaii, together with being

recognized as a semi-finalist for the Masayuki Tokioka Excellence in School Leadership Award in 2009 and 2017.

I am confident that Ms. Chung will bring to the Board of Education professional attributes that will result in constructive engagement and implementation of our long-term vision found in the approved education strategic plan. Her commitment to education is marked with a deep and abiding interest in educating students and the development of students' social, academic and character development.

In conclusion, I am Roger Babcock and I am in support of selecting Ms. Elynne Chung as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

Name: Roger Babcock

Organization: City & County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services, Director

Contact Information: roger.babcock@honolulu.gov