



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

April 5, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: G.M. No. 720 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KAU'I BURGESS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2027.
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Conference Room 229

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

Aloha, I am Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the nomination and confirmation of Kau'i Burgess to the Early Learning Board (ELB).

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development and administration of the State's early learning system, which shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality early learning opportunities for children from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children.

The ELB was established as a governing board through Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii'i (SLH), Regular Session 2017, and is responsible for directing the EOEL on how best to meet the developmental and educational needs of children from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten; providing recommendations to the EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs; promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and appointing and evaluating the EOEL director on an annual basis.

Executive Office on Early Learning
G.M. No. 720 – Relating to the Confirmation of
Kau'i Burgess to the Early Learning Board
April 5, 2024
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Ms. Burgess retired as the Director of Government Relations at Kamehameha Schools (KS) and served as a leader in KS' operations for a number of years, during which time Ms. Burgess worked to align key stakeholder groups and the community with KS' mission and activities in supporting educational opportunities for children of Hawaiian ancestry across the State.

Ms. Burgess satisfies the requirements of HRS § 302L-1.65, which provides, in relevant part, that the ELB nominees shall demonstrate integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical standards and be willing to hold fellow members to the same; commit to being a conscientious and attentive board member; have an understanding of best practices in early learning governance or be willing to be trained in best practices in early learning governance; and have a clear understanding of the board's role in developing and protecting a clear, long-term strategic vision for early learning.

As demonstrated by her resume, Ms. Burgess possesses a wealth of experience in government relations and legislative advocacy. Her experiences indicate a valuable ability to function among diverse colleagues as a member of an effective team and provides substantial support of her deep and abiding interest in early learning and the support of families and children across Hawai'i.

Ms. Burgess' experience will add great value to the Early Learning Board. Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Burgess' nomination and for the opportunity to testify in support.

Objective

To be selected as a member of the Early Learning Board of the State of Hawai'i

Experience Summary

- More than 24 years of direct involvement in serving and working with Native Hawaiian communities.
- Developed under the leadership of and benefitted by a direct working relationship with the CEO of Kamehameha Schools, Jack Wong, elevating my leadership experiences and understanding.
- Fifteen years of leadership and supervisory experience
- Extensive experience in recommending and providing strategies for community and government relations, lobbying & policies, communications plans, issues management and general community engagement.
- Skilled in monitoring and convening community to collectively strategize around federal, state, and local legislative issues
- Adept in meeting facilitation and Ho'oponopono (*conflict resolution*)
- Competent in Hawaiian language, culture, and practices and knowledgeable of application and importance to Hawai'i's communities
- Eight years of ministry leadership experience and three years of rigorous pastoral leadership training

Professional Experience

12/2015 – 10/2023

Government Relations Director – Kamehameha Schools

- Direct the Government Relations team in advancing Kamehameha's advocacy strategies and strengthening community relationships.
- Direct the Government Relations Division initiatives to garner community support for KS' legislative and community efforts and vice-versa.
- Ensure that relationships and engagement with key stakeholder groups in the community, the government and Hawaiian-serving organizations are thriving and aligned with KS' mission and brand.
- Work closely with the CEO to direct Kamehameha's government relations function and manage the decision making of the Government Relations Committee (executives) to drive and focus organizational strategies; provide executive reports on community advocacy and government actions.
- Ensure the coordination of cross-functional teams throughout the organization to gather a broad range of thoughts and input; assess and propose strategies and positions, as proposed by cross-functional teams, on relevant topics of legislation to promote and address community needs.
- Create an environment that promotes collective community action and advocacy for issues that impact the people of Hawai'i.
- Lobby on behalf of and direct all lobbying activities of Kamehameha Schools, including strategizing to mitigate risks, identify opportunities, and achieve organizational goals for a thriving lāhui Hawai'i.
- Serve as the liaison between Kamehameha and key Native Hawaiian-serving organizations, government and community entities.
- Set organizational standards and frameworks for shared goals, communication, information-sharing and transparency.
- Present and facilitate executive leadership discussions related to strategic analysis, challenges and issues that impede or provide opportunity for strategic progress.
- Provide consulting to senior executives, internal clients and, upon direction, to KS trustees.

Achievements/Highlights

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Over the past three years, I created and convened a hui of more than 30 Native Hawaiian organizations to collectively strategize on legislative issues impacting Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i. We gathered to support the legislative priorities of each organization and submit testimony on issues that impact the lives of Hawai'i's people. Since the establishment of the Native Hawaiian Legislative Hui, we've successfully created joint letters, testimonies and efforts of support that successfully secured and increased funding for Native Hawaiians and Hawai'i, demonstrated the solidarity of the Native Hawaiian organizations, secured consensus of Native Hawaiian serving organizations, supported the leadership of Hawai'i's Congressional Delegation, and spurred positive feedback and hope in the future of our Native Hawaiian community.

- **EARLY LEARNING:** At the end of 2019 and in the 2020 legislative session, my priority was to advocate for a Universal Public Preschool system in Hawai'i. I successfully supported the writing of, advocacy for, and enactment of Act 46 collectively with Native Hawaiian serving organizations, business leaders and state government leaders.
- **EARLY LEARNING FUNDING:** In 2022, my priority during the legislative session was to advocate for the enactment of Act 257, which appropriated \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the School Facilities Authority (SFA) to expand access to pre-kindergarten to eligible children of the State of Hawai'i, as identified in Act 46. I achieved my goal with the collective help of business and state leaders and the support of members of the Native Hawaiian Legislative Hui.
- **STUDENT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:** Our team's goal is to increase civic engagement in Hawai'i and our strategy is to start with the youth. In school year 2019-2020, while other senior students around the nation were coordinating school "walkouts", Kamehameha Schools seniors had a pre-planned fieldtrip to vote and be civically engaged due to the efforts of my team. Because of this effort, Kamehameha Schools' students ended up in CNN's online publication, bringing positive attention to Hawai'i.

07/13 – 12/15

Integrated Strategies Manager - Endowment & Community Engagement - Kamehameha Schools

- Plan communications and outreach strategies and tactics to garner public and stakeholder support for KS initiatives.
- Manage a communications team to drive communications strategies for Kamehameha Schools' Endowment Group and the newly created Community Engagement and Resources Group (CER) in 2015.
- Provide communication consultation to support entitlements and permitting processes for different commercial real estate and agricultural projects – Hale'iwa Store Lots, Waiawa Solar project, Hawaii Kai rezoning, and Kaka'ako Master Plan approvals.
- Provide strategies for change management approaches to help staff, divisions and the organization transition to a new strategic plan.
- Manage communications and community outreach budget.
- Draft communications plans inclusive of key messaging, strategies, and tactics.
- Drive communications of KS' re-organization efforts in consultation with clients; determine strategies and ensure leadership and staff are well informed of roles, talking points, and Q&A.
- Identify and consult clients on best practices for integrated community outreach and communications planning and implementation.
- Provide crisis and issues management services.
- Media relations

02/07 – 07/13

Community Relations Specialist - Commercial Real Estate – Kamehameha Schools

- Facilitate all cultural consultation meetings with lineal and cultural descendants of Kaka'ako; acted as a liaison between KS and the Kaka'ako cultural stakeholders (lineal and cultural descendants); managed communication with Kaka'ako lineal and cultural descendants.
- Coordinate and facilitate meetings of the Kaka'ako Community Alliance – a group created by KS comprised of large and small Kaka'ako landowners, business owners and other stakeholders with mutual interests in preventing legislative and regulatory exactions on Kaka'ako properties.
- Support the Commercial Group in gaining HCDA approval for KS' Kaiāulu 'o Kaka'ako Master Plan.
- Contribute to legislative discussions and community outreach efforts to mitigate harmful legislative outcomes.
- Manage all integrated communications efforts of KS' corporate strategic planning SP 2020 efforts; provided outreach and communications strategies, wrote talking points and presentation scripts for KS' executive leadership incorporating key messages; executed national outreach to Native Hawaiian communities.
- Implemented communications efforts that integrated public relations, community relations, video production, design and production of materials and websites, advertising, marketing, article writing and strategic placement of articles to promote awareness of KS land-related initiatives.

10/01 - 02/07

Program Manager – Hui Mālama o ke Kai a program of UHM's John A. Burns School of Medicine

- Create a youth leadership development curriculum steeped in Hawaiian values and oversee its delivery.
- Design and implement approaches to monitor and evaluate student and program progress.

- Supervise professional and paraprofessional employees and community volunteers in daily program delivery of a youth leadership development curriculum steeped in Native Hawaiian cultural values and practices.
- Oversee program service budget and manage program spending.
- Work with community organizations, including schools, libraries and businesses to deliver youth leadership development experiences.
- Prepare comprehensive quarterly reports on the progress of students and means of progress.

Education **University:** *B.A. in Communications*, University of Hawaii at Hilo
High School: Aiea High School

Leadership Training

- Pastoral Leadership Forum – New Hope Leeward, Waipahu, HI** *01/11 – 11/13*
- This three-year course is offered by invite only and is designed to develop current and future leaders via secular and orthodox leadership teaching and principles. After the leadership forum is completed, graduates are certified to serve, lead and provide pastoral support to the home church and others as representatives of New Hope Leeward. Training courses involve mandatory, ongoing monthly meetings, blogging, reading, report writing and a 100-hour practicum.
- Board Member Training – Trained by Glenn Miyataki** *02/21 and 04/24*
- This multiple day long course, provided by Glenn Miyataki, offers training on how to serve as a board member of non-profits, awareness of kuleana relating to governance, policies, decision making, fundraising, relationship building and overseeing organizations.
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Volunteer Work

- Ministry Overseer – Inspire Church** *2017 – 2020*
- Support youth ministry leader in organizing youth classrooms and volunteer needs
- Ministry Coach – New Hope Leeward** *10/12 – 6/16*
- Attend ongoing leadership development training related to the development and coaching of leaders.
 - Nurture ongoing relationships and coach women who serve as small group leaders in the church.
 - Equip and develop each leader so they can facilitate and manage small groups effectively.
 - Minister to and edify each leader in a way that will help them reach their leadership and small group goals.
 - Support and encourage the growth and development of each leader to transform them into confident and competent coaches.
- Youth Ministry Volunteer – New Hope Leeward** *04/09 – 10/12*
- Develop and implement lesson plans for middle school children about their faith, individual value and leadership potential.
 - Support New Hope West Coast Homeless Ministry in creating a plan for a new youth service program; act as a consultant for youth ministry planning, curriculum development, ministry structure and delivery support for homeless youth in Makahā.
- Youth Ministry Leader - New Hope Hawaii Kai** *11/07 – 04/09*
- Lead the 5th and 6th-grade ministry; coordinate schedules, oversee the planning of community events, prioritize budget.
 - Develop ministry curriculum and provide all lesson plans to be implemented by the team and myself.
 - Assign tasks and job duties, according to talent, to others on a ministry team.
-

Community Involvement

- 11/18 - present*
- Board of Directors – Hui Mālama o ke Kai Youth Leadership Development Program**
- Board Vice Chair
- Board of Directors - Ma'i Movement Hawai'i**
- Board Chair

Board Member – Aloha Stadium Authority

07/20 – present

Native Hawaiian Civic Club – King Kamehameha Hawaiian Civic Club

09/19 – present

Ka ‘Ahaui Siwila Hawai‘i ‘o Kapōlei

10/12 – 12/18

- Participate in club meetings to plan and draft resolutions that support the advancement of Native Hawaiians
- Identify policies necessary for Native Hawaiian advancement to be discussed and introduced at the State Legislature.
- Fundraise: volunteer at various events to fundraise for civic club scholarship funds

Senate Committee on Education
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Date: April 10, 2024
Location: Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY

By: Kau‘i N. Burgess
RE: **GM720**

Aloha e ka Luna Ho‘omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalua Kim, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao o ka ‘Aha Kenekoa.

I submit this testimony requesting your support for my nomination to the Early Learning Board.

Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui (*Nurture the children and the people will thrive*) is a saying used to clearly demonstrate the priority at Kamehameha Schools, which is where I spent my last 18 years of employment, most recently as the Director of Government Relations. In my opinion, this saying is a very meaningful ‘ōlelo no‘eau, or Hawaiian proverb, which also defines my belief of what is needed in Hawai‘i in order for Hawai‘i, and its people, to thrive. Based on what I learned while working at Kamehameha Schools, I strongly believe that if Hawai‘i is unified in prioritizing the care and wellbeing of its children, our economy and everyone in the state will thrive.

I am now a retired grandmother of my two-year-old mo‘opuna, and I provide her with early learning in my home, where my home now looks like a mini preschool. I am a mother of three adult children. However, when they were 3 and 4 years old, I was a very young mother and wife. We lived in Hilo, and we were struggling to make ends meet. But both my husband and I believed in strongly in early learning for our children, and we sacrificed to put all three of them in preschool. When my oldest went to Haili preschool in Hilo, I was a middle school teacher at Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u, a Hawaiian language immersion Public Charter School in Kea‘au, and my husband worked for the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. We were struggling financially, and it’s safe to say that we were one of the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed) households living on Hawai‘i at the time. There were nights that we ate PB&J sandwiches or rice and eggs for dinner. I share this as a demonstration of my understanding of the struggle that is required to participate in early learning. And this is one of the reasons I so strongly pushed and lobbied for Act 46 (2020) and Act 257 (2022). I was so passionately involved in each legislative measure to change the system not only because of my own experiences but because of the many, like me, who either must choose between eating well or sending their children to preschool. I don’t believe that should be the case for Hawai‘i’s families. As we know, many are struggling, and some elect to not send their keiki to preschool. Why is this the case? It should not be the situation for young families. Equity in education should never be questioned and our families should never have to choose between education or food. I believe our early learning system can be better in helping to uplift all of Hawai‘i. One generation at a time.

My passion for keiki and my love for Hawai‘i are the reasons why I’d like to be a member of the ELB. I also believe in Hawai‘i’s ability to achieve its early learning goals and I know that I can kōkua.

My previous work in systems change through policy, and my work in education can support the EOEL and ultimately the families and keiki of Hawai‘i. I will bring with me my experiences in Community Relations, Government Relations, communications, policy, and collaborative work to help advance the goals of the EOEL, specifically the coordination of the early childhood system, which requires collaboration between State departments and leaders for the simplicity of sharing information and data.

I am known as a person who “gets things done,” and I’m excited to see the backgrounds of the other nominees who have been selected to serve on the ELB. I believe that in serving with this group, I can bring my passion, skills, experiences and relationships to the board to help achieve the state’s goals and advance education and the wellbeing of Hawai‘i’s people throughout the pae‘āina.

Mahalo nui for your consideration in supporting my nomination to the Early Learning Board.

Aloha,
Kau‘i N. Burgess



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Ka Papa Alaka'i
Board of Directors

Kauano'e Kama'nā
 Pelekikena

Larry Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki'ope Raymond

Huilau Wilson

Keawe Lopes

Ka Luna Ho'okele
Chief Executive Officer

Ka'iulani J.K.N. Laehā

Ka Luna Ho'okō
Chief Operating Officer

K. Sean Kekina

Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo

Pūnana Leo Programs

Aukukui

Ne'epapa

Kula Kamali'i

- Pūnana Leo o Hilo
- Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i
- Pūnana Leo o Maui
- Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i
- Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae
- Pūnana Leo o Kona
- Pūnana Leo o Waimea
- Pūnana Leo o Mānoa
- Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko
- Pūnana Leo o Lahaina
- Pūnana Leo o Hāna
- Pūnana Leo o Nu'uuanu
- Pūnana Leo o Wai'alu

April 10, 2024

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
 Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
 Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Ka'iulani Laehā
 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc.

Re: GM 720 Consideration and confirmation of Kau'i Burgess to the Early Learning Board

Hearing: Wednesday, April 10, 2024, Conference Room 229, 3:00PM

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is Ka'iulani Laehā, CEO of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo ('APL) is the sole statewide provider of early care and education in the medium of Hawaiian language. Established in 1983, the 'APL advocates for access to early learning opportunities for keiki and 'ohana in Hawaiian medium.

Ms. Kau'i Burgess is an excellent candidate as demonstrated by her years of service to our communities as a professional and as a volunteer. Kau'i is a bilingual speaker of Hawai'i's two official languages and will bring the perspective of Hawaiian speaking families and children to the early learning board.

'Aha Pūnana Leo is in strong support of Kau'i Burgess serving on the state Early Learning Board. Please confirm GM 720.

Mahalo,

Ka'iulani Laehā



Parents And Children Together

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS
THAT MATTER MOST

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GM 720

TO: Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim, & Members
Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO
DATE: April 10, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Parents and Children Together (PACT) supports GM 720, the gubernatorial nomination of Kau'i Burgess to the Early Learning Board. Kau'i is a passionate supporter of the nonprofit sector, having served on the board of the Hawaii Alliance for Nonprofit Organizations. Her many years of experience supporting the mission of Kamehameha Schools and its early learning programs in addition to her comprehensive systems knowledge will offer valuable insights for the Early Learning Board.

Founded in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



Kamehameha Schools®

Senate Committee on Education

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Date: April 10, 2024

Where: Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona
Kamehameha Schools

RE: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAU‘I BURGESS, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

E ka Luna Ho‘omalu Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho‘omalu Kim, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike Ho‘ona‘auao o ka ‘Aha Kenekoa, aloha kākou! My name is Dr. Wai‘ale‘ale Sarsona, Vice President of Hi‘ialo at Kamehameha Schools.

Kamehameha Schools **supports** the nomination of Kau‘i Burgess to the Early Learning Board.

In Hawai‘i, the shortage of early learning opportunities is the greatest inequity in education that occurs before a keiki starts kindergarten. Preschool access provides young children a strong foundation for their future learning and development.

Kau‘i Burgess is dedicated to ensuring equitable and quality access to early learning for all of Hawai‘i’s keiki. Her staunch advocacy of landmark measures, including Act 46 (2020), which expands statewide access to preschool for 3 and 4-year olds, and Act 257 (2022), which designated \$200 million to build and renovate preschool facilities, are a testament to her ability to effectuate substantive progress for early childhood development and learning system opportunities.

While at Kamehameha Schools, Kau‘i approached her work with purpose as an advocate to improve the lives of young Native Hawaiian students and all early learners in Hawai‘i. Throughout her tenure, she passionately advanced preschool and early learning initiatives. She often extended her commitment beyond mere duty, as evidenced by her demonstrated ability to work with both the Native Hawaiian community and other organizations that love and serve Hawai‘i. Kau‘i approached her work with a deep sense of care, consistently aligning her actions with the values and beliefs of our founder, Ke Ali‘i Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

Kamehameha Schools believes that Kau‘i Burgess will faithfully carry out her duties as a member of the Early Learning Board. We know that she will ‘auamo this kuleana well and bring the highest levels of aloha, pa‘a hana, and government experience to serving all the keiki of Hawai‘i. **Please confirm the nomination of Kau‘i Burgess to the Early Learning Board.**

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

Hānai i ke keiki; ola ka lāhui. Nurture the child and the people thrive.

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come
kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com



Committee on Education

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Time: 3:00pm

Place: Room 415

Measure: GM 720 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE **KAU'I BURGESS**, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2027

Strong Support

Aloha Senators,

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a hui of Hawaiian Homes Commission Act kūpuna farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i, submit this testimony in strong support of Gubernatorial Nominee to the Early Learning Board, **KAU'I BURGESS**.

Kau'i Burgess' nomination to serve as a member of the Early Learning Board is great news for Hawai'i's early childhood education providers and participating families. Her extensive experience in the public and private sectors, for-profit and nonprofit, as a team member and a team leader, in English and Hawaiian medium education, makes Ms. Burgess uniquely qualified to serve on the Early Learning Board. We are confident that Ms. Burgess will bring a balanced perspective to the Early Learning Board as an advocate for those families who desire quality early childhood educational opportunities in both of Hawai'i's two official languages, in both of Hawai'i's educational pathways.

We appreciate Ms. Burgess' continued passion to be of service to the people of this state by seeking to serve on the Early Learning Board. From her early beginnings as a kumu in the classroom to her current duties in leadership, Ms. Burgess' versatility and selfless dedication to positively impact the well-being of the next generations to come is gratefully acknowledged.

We urge this Senate Committee on Education to move GM 720 Kau'i Burgess forward with a favorable recommendation. Mahalo nui loa!

GM-720

Submitted on: 4/6/2024 8:31:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/10/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Cunha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Michelle N. Kidani and Senator Donna Mercado Kim,

My name is Danielle Cunha and I have been an Early Childhood Educator for the past 14 years, in many positions including Assistant Teacher, Assistant Director, Director and Programs Manager positions. I am writing today in strong support of consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board for Gubernatorial nominee, Kau'i Burgess.

Kau'i has proven to have been an integral advocate for our ECE community. Her leadership skills, community engagement, and heart for the people of Hawai'i and specifically the education and well-being of our youngest keiki has been evidenced in all she has done to support and further the expansion of access to education for preschool age children. Her experience and knowledge will be a valuable asset to the Early Learning Board. She has proven to be able to collaborate with agencies and stakeholders that serve young children, formulate well written policies, as well as provide valuable knowledge and recommendations with regard to improving the quality, availability and coordination of early learning programs.

Please consider her confirmation to the Early Learning Board as I believe she will be a valuable addition.

Mahalo nui,

Danielle Cunha

Ross I. Yamasaki
222 S. Vineyard St., Suite 401, Honolulu, HI 96813
Ryamasaki808@gmail.com

April 9, 2024

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SUPPORT for GM 720 – KAU’I BURGESS, Early Learning Board

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

I write in strong support for Governors Message 720 Nominating Kau’i Burgess to the Early Learning Board.

Ms. Burgess is a personal friend and I have had the opportunity to work with her over the years through her role at Kamehameha Schools, the Stadium Authority and her involvement in volunteer work. She is a strong and caring advocate for the community and her body of work is a testament to her success.

Her perspective on engaging the future, honoring the past, and serving the community was of great value to the Stadium Authority, and will also benefit to the Early Learning Board. She brings a wealth of experience in the area of education as well as leadership, advocacy and passion specific to early learning.

I strongly urge the Committee on Education to advise the Senate to confirm Ms. Burgess’s nomination to the Early Learning Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Respectfully Yours,



Ross I. Yamasaki

GM-720

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:41:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/10/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahea Faria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senator Kidani, Senator Kim, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am submitting testimony in support of confirming to the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAUI BURGESS, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

Mahalo!