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TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: GM 658 – Kristi Miyamae, Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

Position: Comments/Concerns

Hearing: Monday, March 30, 2026, 1:00 pm, Conference Room 229

Submitter: Osa Tui, Jr., President - Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) offers comments with **deep concern** regarding the nomination of Kristi Miyamae to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. While we acknowledge Ms. Miyamae's teaching experience and current role as Chairperson of the board, her leadership is directly tied to recent board decisions and policy stances that negatively impact the educator workforce in our state.

With Kristi Miyamae as chairperson, we are deeply concerned with direction the board has taken on a number of issues. First is the board's position opposing legislative efforts that would extend the allowable time for emergency hires from three to five years. During a period of severe educator shortages, it is counterproductive to oppose measures that would give dedicated and desperately needed emergency hires the necessary time to complete their licensure requirements while continuing to serve our students. It's illogical and hurts our keiki to remove these educators who are making a good faith effort to obtain their certifications in an especially financially terrible time and replace them with long-term substitutes.

Furthermore, we have deep concerns regarding the board's moratorium on all out-of-state Educator Preparation Providers seeking initial program approval to become a State Approved Teacher Education Program in Hawai'i. This moratorium, which began in late 2023 and is set to remain in effect until December 31, 2026, restricts vital avenues for credentialing. At a time when we should be expanding pathways into the teaching profession, blocking institutions willing to prepare future educators only exacerbates the staffing crisis in our public schools.

Additionally, for teachers making progress towards earning their certifications to teach in our kaiapuni classrooms, the board has put up new barriers and hoops which are negatively impacting their ability to earn licensure. When the demand for kaiapuni education is far outpacing the system's capacity, the standards board continues to be barrier and not the partner they should be in the area of Hawaiian education.

Given the urgent need to recruit and retain teachers in Hawai'i, the state needs a regulatory board that prioritizes flexible, supportive solutions over restrictive barriers. Because the recent actions of the board under her leadership have sought to limit rather than expand these vital pathways, we must register our serious concern regarding this nomination. Therefore, the Hawai'i State Teachers Association must respectfully oppose her confirmation to the board.

Mahalo.

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 8:31:02 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope McKeen	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

I am writing to you today as a veteran classroom teacher who has dedicated my career to the students of Hawai‘i. I speak from a unique historical perspective: I was among the first generation of educators required to hold a formal teacher license in this state. I still vividly remember the personal financial burden of paying out-of-pocket for my first two five-year licenses at a time when pay as a new teacher was still significantly low. I have seen the HTSB evolve from its infancy, and it is because I value the integrity of our profession so deeply that I must respectfully, but firmly, oppose the nomination of Kristi Miyamae.

While I acknowledge Ms. Miyamae’s years in the classroom, her tenure as Chairperson of the HTSB has been defined by a restrictive philosophy that actively harms our current workforce and deters the next generation of educators.

Ms. Miyamae’s leadership has raised several concerns for me, particularly regarding actions that undermine the teaching profession. Specifically, I would like to highlight two significant issues that illustrate this lack of support.

I am deeply concerned by reports regarding the revocation of the temporary Praxis waiver that was established during the COVID19 Pandemic. This waiver was originally implemented to allow teacher candidates to complete their clinical student teaching during a period when testing centers were largely inaccessible.

It has come to my attention that candidates who were unable to pass the Praxis within a specific window, despite successfully serving as emergency hires in their own classrooms, are now being directed to repeat their student teaching. As a veteran educator, I can attest that the most rigorous and authentic professional development occurs during solo classroom instruction. Requiring experienced emergency hires to repeat a clinical requirement they have already surpassed in practice creates an unnecessary and redundant barrier. This policy choice actively destabilizes our workforce at a time when retention should be our highest priority.

In addition, I believe the board failed in its duty of due diligence by neglecting to engage ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i stakeholders before mandating that all Hawaiian Immersion (Kaiapuni) teacher candidates complete their student teaching exclusively under the two state-approved Hawaiian Immersion preparation programs.

While this policy may appear logical in theory, its immediate implementation without a transition plan has created a crisis for current educators. Many of our prospective Kaiapuni teachers—already embedded in immersion classrooms and enrolled in general teacher preparation programs—suddenly found themselves ineligible for licensure mid-stream. By failing to provide a clear implementation bridge, the board has effectively penalized the very educators who are most committed to our immersion schools, leaving them again with a massive hole of Immersion teachers that we are in desperate need to fill.

The HTSB's dual mandate is to uphold standards while simultaneously supporting the teaching profession. However, under Ms. Miyamae's leadership, the board has prioritized restrictive barriers over the creation of essential pathways that our schools urgently require. We need a regulatory body that champions flexible, compassionate solutions reflecting the difficult reality of our current educational landscape. Furthermore, the board requires leadership that recognizes the necessity of clear implementation plans when introducing new policies, ensuring that those currently pursuing licensure are not subjected to unnecessary stumbling blocks that they have to find solutions for.

As a teacher who has invested a lifetime (and my own hard-earned money) into the licensing system of Hawai'i, I cannot support a leader whose recent actions have sought to limit the growth of our profession.

I urge you to decline the confirmation of Kristi Miyamae to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Hope Pualani McKeen

Waiākea, Hilo, Hawai'i

RE: GM658 – Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board Nominee (Kristi Miyamae)

Position: OPPOSE

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

My name is Shawna Nishimoto, and I am a 7th-grade science teacher at 'Ilima Intermediate School, located in 'Ewa Beach. I am submitting testimony in **opposition** to the confirmation of **Kristi Miyamae** to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

I do not make this decision lightly. I am speaking today because I am no longer willing to remain silent out of fear of retaliation, when what is happening is impacting not only me, but other educators as well.

For the past four years, I have been teaching at 'Ilima Intermediate. I have dedicated my career to my students, my school community, and to the profession of education in Hawai'i. During this time, I have been evaluated annually under the Educator Evaluation System (EES) as an emergency hire. This system requires administrators to review lesson planning, standards alignment, and conduct multiple classroom observations focused on instructional practice and student engagement. I have been rated **proficient or higher every year**, and have received **distinguished, the highest possible rating, for the past two years**.

I have completed all required steps to obtain my teaching license. Despite this, I have been required to repeatedly "jump through hoops," meeting shifting expectations and additional requirements that go beyond what has already been completed.

This process has not been transparent, consistent, or fair.

Because of the continued denial of my license, I have been forced to work as a substitute teacher during the 2025–2026 school year. Substitute teachers receive no benefits, no pay during breaks, and no stability during emergencies such as natural disasters. This has resulted in significant financial hardship and has taken a serious toll on my mental health.

Despite this, I chose to stay.

I stayed because I love teaching. I love my students, and I strive every day to be the person in their lives who pushes them to want more for themselves and their future.

During COVID, the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board allowed me to complete my student teaching before passing my Praxis content exam. There was no stated deadline or sunset clause attached to this allowance. Despite fulfilling the licensure components, I am being required to redo **450 hours of student teaching**, which is both unreasonable and inconsistent with prior guidance.

Additionally, the Hawai'i State Department of Education formally supported my licensure and urged the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board to give favorable consideration to suspending Hawai'i Administrative Rules to honor my previously completed student teaching and to issue a Biology 6–12 license. Despite this, my license has still not been granted.

The process has also not been timely. After receiving my passing Praxis score report from ETS on October 15, 2025, I should have received my license shortly thereafter. Instead, the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board informed Chaminade University that my license would not be issued due to my student teaching and Praxis being completed "out of order," despite following all guidance provided to me.

I completed all steps required to submit an appeal. However, the Board did not meet in December due to scheduling conflicts, delaying any review. My case was not brought before the Board until January 16, 2026, three months after I had passed the Praxis. A denial decision was issued on January 21, 2026.

That same decision indicated that I should be awarded a 4th emergency hire permit. I received this notice through the HTSB portal on January 21 and responded the following day, January 22, requesting to proceed with the permit. After receiving no response, I followed up again on January 28. I did not receive a reply until February 3, asking if I wanted to apply for the permit. I responded again on February 12, confirming my intent, submitted my application on February 13, and the permit was not approved until February 18, 2026.

These repeated delays and lack of responsiveness directly impacted my ability to secure a stable teaching position. By the time the permit was approved, the Teacher Assignment and Transfer Program (TATP) period had already begun, and emergency hires are not eligible to be hired. As a result, I am now unable to secure a stable teaching position for the upcoming school year.

Because I was not placed into an emergency hire position before February, I will also not receive any pay over the summer months. I am now forced to seek alternative employment simply to maintain financial stability, rather than using that time for professional development, attending conferences, or continuing my work supporting keiki through programs such as summer camps at the Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center.

Despite these challenges, I have remained committed to my students and to the teaching profession.

I am also the President of the Hawai'i Science Teachers Association (HaSTA), and have presented the place-based work of 'Ilima students at the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) conferences for the past two years.

In addition, I volunteer my weekends and many holidays with the Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center. My love for teaching extends beyond my classroom and into my community. I help lead community workdays and teach students ecology, biology, marine science, and conservation when school groups and camps visit the site. I do this entirely on my own time, without pay, because of my deep love for our 'āina and for the keiki who will become the future stewards of Hawai'i.

I have received letters of support from the following individuals who can speak to my qualifications, dedication, and impact as an educator:

- Shayne Greenland, Principal, 'Ilima Intermediate School
- Kerry Tom, Human Resources Director, Personnel Management Branch, Hawai'i Department of Education
- Evan Song, Curriculum Coordinator, 'Ilima Intermediate School
- Former students, now attending Campbell High School

I share all of this to make one point clear:

Educators who are deeply committed to this profession should not be blocked, discouraged, or pushed out by a system that lacks consistency, accountability, and support.

My experience with the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, specifically in relation to this nominee, reflects a pattern of decision-making that raises serious concerns about fairness, transparency, and the treatment of qualified educators. I am not the only teacher experiencing these challenges.

At a time when Hawai'i is facing ongoing teacher shortages, we cannot afford to lose committed, qualified teachers due to systemic barriers within our own licensing process.

When dedicated teachers who have done everything asked of them are still denied the ability to fully enter this profession, the issue is not the teacher; it is the system. I urge you to carefully consider whether this nominee represents the kind of leadership Hawai'i's educators & keiki deserve.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Shawna Nishimoto
7th Grade Science Teacher
'Ilima Intermediate School

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI‘I SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

ITEM: GM 658 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KRISTI MIYAMAE.

POSITION: OPPOSE

HEARING: Monday, March 30, 2026, 1:00 pm, Conference Room 229

SUBMITTED BY: Wendy Kalaekoa Akioka, Kumu Kaiapuni, Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Pū‘ōhala

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

In my thirty years as an educator in the Hawai‘i Department of Education (HIDOE), one thing has remained constant: we never have enough teachers. I originally became a kumu kaiapuni because I held a Secondary English license and I could ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. Pū‘ōhala Elementary was desperate for someone who could teach in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. I went where I was needed. While I have tried to leave a couple of times, I have always felt compelled to return, because the need has only grown as interest in Hawaiian language immersion education expands across the state.

I do not know Ms. Kristi Miyamae personally; however, her leadership at the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) necessitates this letter of opposition to her reappointment. At a time when we are losing teachers and graduation rates for new educators are low, her decisions have created barriers that prevent viable candidates from completing their pathways to licensure.

Sudden Rule Changes Without Transition Periods: Language of Teacher Pathways

I am testifying because teacher candidates have reached out to me for help. One candidate—a kaiapuni graduate and longtime classroom helper—was nearly finished with their teacher preparation program. In the summer before their final semester of student teaching, the HTSB implemented a sudden rule change which disallowed teacher preparation programs from giving credentials if the language of instruction does not specifically match the pathway. For the past 20 years, this has been allowed. A change such as this one does not account for the numerous students already in the pipeline, leaving no time for candidates or programs to find an alternative. Consequently, this person put their studies on hold, putting another potential teacher farther from completion. Under Ms. Miyamae’s leadership, the guidance of workgroups and committees steeped in community experience has gone unheeded.

Sudden Rule Changes Without Transition Periods: The Revocation of the Praxis Waiver

Another barrier is the rigid revocation of the Praxis waiver. While the waiver was originally a response to COVID-19, any change in procedure should include ample time for response and alternatives.

One of my colleagues, an emergency hire, worked full-time while diligently completing a preparation program over three years. Due to the sudden waiver change, the candidate could not pass the Praxis within a specific, narrow window. The HTSB has now informed this candidate that they must **repeat their student teaching** to become licensed. This is illogical. The order in which a candidate completes requirements does not affect demonstrated qualifications and dedication.

A Culture of Fear and Retaliation

In preparing this testimony, I was dismayed to find that educators with similar concerns were unwilling to testify due to a **fear of retaliation**. While I am not here to question Ms. Miyamae's character, I am deeply uneasy about the atmosphere she has created where professionals do not feel safe enough to exercise their democratic rights.

Conclusion

I believe uplifting teacher quality is imperative for student success in Hawai'i nei. That being said, building arbitrary barriers does NOT result in higher-quality educators. Licensure standards must account for the unique needs of our island home and the innovative pathways necessary to solve our teacher shortage. Rigid scrutiny of creative initiatives and low-cost scholarship pathways only hurt our keiki in the long run.

I urge the Committee to **decline the confirmation** of Kristi Miyamae to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Wendy Kalaekoa Akioka

Kumu Kaiapuni, Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Pū'ōhala

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 8:03:28 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Lacar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have had the honor of knowing Kristi Miyamea since around 2013. She is a voice for ensuring others to be heard and for quality education. She is grounded in her beliefs and wants to do the best job she can do, in any position. She is not afraid to ask the hard questions, always willing to hear other perspectives and opinions and the decisions she makes are not what is best for her but best for those she is representing. I highly recommend having Kristi to continue serving on the HTSB.

Mahalo,

Amanda

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 8:18:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Oh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii public school teacher for 33 years, I fully support Kristi Miyamae position on the HSTB. I have known her many years and she is supportive of and works well with teachers, and listens to our concerns and feedback. I have every confidence that she will continue to be a valuable board member. Thank you.

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 8:32:04 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiku catania	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Ms. Miyamae, being confirmed for the HTSB nomination. She is a great choice and knows the Hawaii Public School system.

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 8:47:50 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn M Yoshioka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While working at Mililani Middle School, I have known Kristi for more than 15 years. She is a passionate teacher who builds strong, positive relationships with her students. She has also served for many years as our HSTA representative and as Central Chapter President, demonstrating her commitment to supporting both educators and the profession as a whole.

Kristi is always seeking ways to improve Hawai'i's education system. In our many conversations, she has emphasized the importance of maintaining high licensing and professional standards for public school educators. She firmly believes that these standards are essential to ensuring quality education for student success and promoting excellence in teaching.

I strongly believe Kristi should continue to serve on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. Her dedication, experience, and commitment to maintaining the integrity of the teaching profession make her an invaluable advocate for Hawai'i's keiki.

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 9:05:58 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Distinguished gentlemen and gentlewomen,
Kristi Miyamae should be reappointed to HTSB. I had known her for almost four years as we are colleagues. She has always placed the needs of her students first. She has also been the type of colleague who focuses more on collaboration and is solution-based in her approach to all work matters. Additionally, I have seen her ensure that she is a bridge between colleagues and administration. In all of these capacities, Kristi, I believe, exudes the characteristics needed to continue to be reappointed in her position in HTSB. Thank you for your time.
--Angie D. Smith

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 9:32:09 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Cambonga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813**

March 25, 2026

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appointment of Kristi Miyamae to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Ms. Miyamae brings a deep commitment to education and a clear understanding of the needs of Hawai'i's students, educators, and communities. Her professional experience reflects a strong dedication to maintaining high standards in teaching, supporting educator development, and fostering student success across diverse learning environments.

She has demonstrated leadership, integrity, and a collaborative approach in her work—qualities that are essential for effective service on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. Her ability to thoughtfully engage with stakeholders and advocate for policies that strengthen the teaching profession will be an asset to the Board's mission.

At a time when Hawai'i continues to address teacher recruitment, retention, and professional excellence, Ms. Miyamae's perspective and expertise will contribute meaningfully to advancing quality education statewide.

I respectfully urge the Senate to confirm the appointment of Ms. Miyamae to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Leila Cambonga, M.Ed.

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 10:09:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elwyn Watkins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the appointment for Kristi Miyamae to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. She is passionate about the teaching profession in Hawai'i and will continue to be a guiding voice on this Board setting positive high standards for this noble profession.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Elwyn Watkins

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 1:35:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steffany Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in strong support of confirming Kristi Miyamae to the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board. After working with Kristi for the last four years, I know how much she values her work with HTSB to support our students. While her position with HTSB requires her to look at things from a different perspective than everyday teachers, Kristi is always willing to listen and collaborate on how we can best serve students. She is a proven leader who truly cares about students and her fellow educators.

Thank you for your time,

Steffany Pacheco

Educator, Mililani Middle School

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 5:23:53 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Justo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ms. Kristi Miyamae is a dedicated teacher at Mililani Middle School. She always looks at what is best for her students. She had two of my daughters as her students and they loved her! She cares for her students and does engaging learning opportunities in her class. She understands what teachers need to have to create a safe, engaging, and positive learning classroom. Being on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, she will advocate for having high standards for quality teachers in our state's classroom!

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 6:47:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cara Dote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou! My name is Cara Dote and I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Ms. Kristi Miyamae for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board for a term to expire June 30, 2028.

I had the privilege of experiencing Ms. Miyamae’s leadership firsthand while she served as Hawaii State Teachers Association’s (HSTA’s) Central Chapter President while I served on the elections committee. During that time, she consistently demonstrated professionalism and integrity in all that she did. She carried herself with confidence and respect, led meetings efficiently, and ensured that all processes were organized and purposeful. Her depth of knowledge and clear communication made her an effective and trusted leader.

What stood out most to me was her willingness to invest in others. She took the time to share her experiences, offer guidance, and mentor me throughout my service. Her encouragement and example played a meaningful role in my own growth as an educator.

Today, I serve as a school-level leader, instructor for teacher professional development, currently working toward becoming a trained mentor for new teachers, and will be serving again as an HSTA convention delegate. I am grateful for leaders like Ms. Miyamae who intentionally build others up and create pathways for future leadership. Her ability to develop people while maintaining high standards is a quality that will serve the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board well.

Ms. Miyamae brings the professionalism, insight, and commitment necessary to uphold the standards of the teaching profession in Hawai‘i. I respectfully urge the committee to support her nomination and confirm her appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony for Ms. Miyamae.

March 27, 2026

To: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

Re: Strong Support for GM658 – Confirmation of Kristi Miyamae to the Hawai`i Teacher Standards Board

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

I am writing to express my **strong support** for measure GM658 and the confirmation of Kristi Miyamae to the Hawai`i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB).

As a veteran educator, Ms. Miyamae has been a dedicated advocate for the teaching profession throughout her distinguished career. Her decisions are rooted in integrity and a commitment to excellence, ensuring that the needs of Hawai`i's keiki remain the primary focus of the Board's work. During her tenure with the HTSB, she has been instrumental in maintaining the high standards required to ensure every student is supported by highly qualified teachers.

I respectfully urge the committee to confirm Kristi Miyamae's appointment for another term.

Sincerely,

Sharilyn Pang
Vice Principal Intern
Hawaii Public Schools

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 11:30:37 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lia Baltero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kristi Miyamae is a dedicated professional who considers first what is best for the keiki students of Hawaii. She sacrifices her own personal time and energy, on top of being a full time teacher, to advocate for all teachers and the teaching profession, especially considering how decisions made as a Board member regarding teacher standards and policies will impact the students in the classrooms across Hawaii. I strongly support such a fair, balanced, and focused professional being on the Board.

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 1:15:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Yap	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Sandra Yap, am writing in support of your consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KRISTI MIYAMAE, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

I've known Ms Miyamae for over 15 years as a teacher and student advocate. Her knowledge, dedication, care and commitment towards both students' and educators' excellence are characteristics to be admired. I have utmost confidence in her ability to serve on the HTSB.

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 4:01:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Kirk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Kristi Miyamae as a HTSB nominee. She is dedicated and passionate about the teaching profession.

GM-658

Submitted on: 3/27/2026 6:49:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/30/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlton Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ms. Miramae has worked tirelessly to ensure that the quality and integrity of the teaching profession here in Honolulu is held to a better standard than where the public is seeing with the introduction of future legislation is leading our public school education. The whole J1 Visa foreign teacher legislation is a stop gap measure to just get bodies into the profession while eroding the quality of education being provided to our keiki. Ms. Miramar doesn't serve the Teacher Standard Board for personal gain, rather, she sacrifices a lot to uphold the original charge of the committee. Being an independent party acting to ensure that our keiki are getting highly qualified teachers in the classroom. Failure to confirm Ms. Miyamae for her post on the Teacher Standards Board would only highlight the system's bullying of the committee to bend to their misguided and ill advised actions that will only negatively impact our Keith's future. Mahalo in advance for your favorable consideration in Ms. Miyamae's confirmation as well as maintaining the public's confidence in our public education system.