



1200 Ala Kapuna Street • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 • Fax: (808) 839-7106 • Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Cheney Kaku
Secretary-Treasurer

Andrea Eshelman
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI'I SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Item: GM 757 – Logan Okita, Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

Position: Support

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) **strongly supports** the nomination of Logan Okita to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Logan Okita brings an extensive and highly relevant background in public education to this role, having served as a teacher in Hawai'i since 2006. She currently works as a Response to Intervention Coach at Nimitz Elementary School in Honolulu, where she has been on staff since 2013. In this capacity, she is one of two coaches on her campus responsible for providing vital reading interventions, working with students one-on-one or in small groups to address their needs. Additionally, she supports her fellow teachers through coaching, data analysis, and professional development. Prior to her time at Nimitz, she taught Kindergarten through Grade 4 at Fern Elementary School.

Her credentials demonstrate a deep commitment to the teaching profession and high pedagogical standards. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education and Learning from Pacific University and a Master's in Education from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Furthermore, she is a National Board Certified Teacher who currently holds an Advanced License from the Hawai'i Teachers Standards Board, valid through 2030. Her certifications comprehensively cover Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, and Teacher Leadership.

Beyond the classroom, she has consistently proven herself as an educational leader. She has served in multiple leadership roles within the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, including her current position as Vice President,

which she has held since July 2021. Her dedication to her students and colleagues has been recognized at both the state and national levels, earning her the Hawai'i State Teachers Association Award for Teaching Excellence in 2016 and the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence in 2017. She also actively contributes her expertise to Hawai'i Foundation for Educators.

Logan Okita is very devoted to the craft of teaching. For years, she has developed and conducted workshops to prepare educators for National Board certification -- the most respected professional certification available in education. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed as she was invited and currently sits on the 29-member board of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards which oversees the National Board certification process for teachers nationwide.

With her comprehensive classroom experience, advanced qualifications, and proven leadership abilities both locally and nationally, Logan Okita is an exceptional candidate who will serve the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board with distinction. We urge the Senate to confirm her nomination.

Mahalo.

GM-757

Submitted on: 3/26/2026 9:01:39 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am writing today to express my full and enthusiastic support for the nomination of Logan Okita to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. While you have her impressive resume before you, I am writing from the perspective of someone who has worked side-by-side with Logan in the trenches of union advocacy and professional development for the past 10 years.

In a decade of shared work within the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, I have seen Logan move beyond the "theory" of education into the hard, daily practice of improving our profession. She doesn't just hold an Advanced License; she embodies the high standards that the HTSB seeks to uphold.

Through our approximately ten years of collaboration, I have witnessed three key traits that make her an invaluable asset to this board. Firstly, Whether she's working as an RTI Coach at Nimitz Elementary or helping a peer analyze student data, Logan understands the current realities of Hawai'i classrooms. She knows exactly what it takes to maintain licensure while balancing the demands of the modern school day. Secondly, Logan isn't just a National Board Certified Teacher; she is a leader for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards at a federal level. She brings a "big picture" national perspective on teacher quality back home to Hawai'i, ensuring our local standards remain world-class. She also actively helps those seeking national board certification by supporting them and answering questions that may arise through the process. Thirdly, having served alongside her in HSTA leadership, most notably during her tenure as Vice President, I can attest to her fairness, her attention to detail, and her unwavering commitment to the ethics of our profession. She is a bridge-builder who understands how policy affects the person at the front of the classroom. Finally, her deep commitment to our community and place informs every choice she makes, ensuring her leadership considers both current needs and the well-being of future generations.

For years, I've watched Logan put in the work which I know she doesn't do this for the accolades; she does it because she truly believes that high standards for teachers result in better outcomes for our Keiki. Logan is a person of immense character and integrity. She has earned the HSTA and NEA Foundation Awards for Teaching Excellence not just through her skill, but through her heart.

I urge this committee to confirm Logan Okita. There is no one more qualified to safeguard the standards of our profession than someone who has dedicated her entire career to raising them.

Mahalo no ka heluhelu ‘ana mai

Hope Pualani McKeen

Waiākea, Hilo, Hawai‘i

LATE

Bill Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, LOGAN OKITA, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Bill Number: GM 757

Good afternoon, Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Senator Michelle Kidani, and members of the Committee on Education. My name is Karen Ginoza, former president of the Hawaii State Teachers Association and a member of Theta Chapter of Hawaii Alpha Delta Kappa. Hawaii ADK is an honorary society of women educators.

I am in support of Logan Okita's appointment to the Hawaii Teachers Standard Board. I have observed Logan's commitment to excellence in her work as treasurer of our chapter for 6 years. Despite her busy schedule as an active teacher and officer in HSTA, she has:

- Kept accurate records of our finances.
- Submitted timely reports to the International ADK organization.
- Responded efficiently to requests from our members.

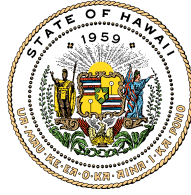
I highly recommend Logan to the Hawai'i Teachers Standards Board. Her certification as a National Board teacher shows her commitment to quality education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Ginoza, Retired Teacher

Member, Hawai'i Alpha Delta Kappa

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
ADMIRAL CHESTER W. NIMITZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
520 MAIN STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96818

3/27/26

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

Since becoming an administrator at Nimitz Elementary, I have had the pleasure of working with Logan Okita during her time as a first grade teacher, and now as a response to intervention reading coach.

Throughout my time with her I have come to know Logan as a passionate educator who is not afraid to advocate for her students, and stays relevant in her craft to bring her students exceptional instruction. I am continually impressed by her ability to build the skills of her students.

Therefore, I highly recommend Logan for any role in service of our state to better the teachers of our department's future.

Sincerely,

Corey Allen, Principal
Nimitz Elementary School

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAI‘I SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

ITEM: GM 757 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai‘i Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, LOGAN OKITA.

POSITION: SUPPORT

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,

It is my pleasure and honor to **fully SUPPORT appointment of Logan Okita to the Hawai‘i Teachers Standards Board (HTSB).**

Logan Okita will bring the needed voice to the HTSB that ensures that any standards set by the board are grounded in the daily realities of a classroom. She is well-connected in the teaching community, with a known quality for listening and approaching others in a positive way.

As a **National Board Certified Teacher**, Okita has met the highest professional standards in the industry. This means she personally understands the rigorous process of proving one's pedagogical expertise and ability to meet standards. She has facilitated programs like **Jump Start**, which helps teachers navigate the complex national board certification process. This technical expertise is invaluable for a board that manages teacher licensing, as she understands the friction points where the system can be improved for educators.

Ms. Okita has a proven ability her **ability to lead** through her roles within the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA), including Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer and Committee Chair.

For these reasons, I support Logan Okita for appointment to the HTSB.

Mahalo a nui loa,

Wendy Kalaekoa Akioka

Kumu Kaiapuni, Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o PŪ‘Ōhala