September 19, 2019

TO: Catherine Payne  
Chairperson, Board of Education

FROM: Board of Education

AGENDA ITEM: Board Member Report on events attended: (1) September 5, 2019 event, “The Power and Promise of Public Education”

Board Members Kili Namau‘u, Bruce Voss, and I attended “The Power and Promise of Public Education” event hosted by the Hawai‘i Community Foundation in partnership with the Hawai‘i Executive Conference and the Department of Education (“Department”) on September 5, 2019. The event focused on getting business and industry support for public education in Hawaii. The event focused on how business leaders can play an active role in ensuring that the Department has access to resources that will give students the skills and knowledge necessary to become contributing and competitive members of Hawaii’s workforce. The event was designed to be a conversation with Hawaii’s business, community, and military leaders. Approximately 245 individuals attended, including First Lady Dawn Ige, Deputy Consul General Angelica Escalona, Philippine Consulate; Representative Mark Nakashima; Representative Justin Woodson; Colonel Thomas Barrett, U.S. Army Garrison; and Colonel Douglas Wadsworth, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Ret.

Superintendent Kishimoto presented her State of the Schools address at the event. The theme of her presentation was “Ideas that Transform.” Superintendent Kishimoto’s presentation covered topics like school design, college and career pathways, the development of the 2020-2030 Strategic Plan, and the Department’s five promises to students. Superintendent Kishimoto’s presentation also covered successful collaboration between the Department and private sector, ways in which business leaders could help support public education, and action opportunities.