



**UNIVERSITY LABORATORY SCHOOL**

A Hawai'i Public Charter School

1776 University Avenue UHS #3-121, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
Telephone (808) 956-7833 Fax Number (808) 956-7260

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July 10, 2018

State of Hawaii  
Board of Education  
P.O. BOX 2360  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Attn: Catherine Payne, Chair

Dear Chair Payne and BOE members:

RE: Testimony in support of Roger Takabayashi candidate for the State Public Charter School Commission

On behalf of the University of Hawaii Laboratory (ULS) Governing Board, we the undersigned, hereby submit written testimony in support of candidate Roger Takabayashi to fill the recent vacancy on the State Public Charter School Commission (SPCSC).

Mr. Takabayashi has previously served on the SPCSC for the past six (6) years and was the chair of the Commission's Administration and Operations Committee. Mr. Takabayashi not only visited the ULS to talk to our administration, board, and staff on a number of occasions, but also was instrumental in supporting our efforts to secure our selective enrollment legislation before the SPCSC and the Legislature.

Mr. Takabayashi was a career educator who served forty-one (41) years as a teacher in the State's Department of Education, as well as, served at the President of the Hawaii State Teachers' Association (HSTA) for two (2) consecutive terms.

The ULS Governing Board believes that the SPCSC needs career educators on the commission. Individuals who truly care about the State's public school system and have dedicated their entire career to the profession of educating our children. Mr. Tabayashi's 41 years of experience in the DOE system combined with his advocacy for teachers and the profession of educators makes him a highly qualified candidate to continue to serve on the SPCSC.

As a Governing Board, we respectfully request that the Board of Education seriously consider appointing Mr. Takabayashi to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Commissioner Mark Dillion.

We personally thank you for your time and attention.

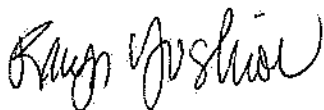
Sincerely,



Denise Yoshimori-Yamamoto  
Chair



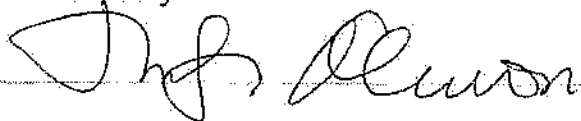
David Oride  
Vice Chair



Karyn Yoshioka  
Treasurer



Linda Venenciano  
Secretary



Mislyn Alensonorin  
GB Member



Bradley Kai-Fox  
GB Member



Carrie Ogami  
GB Member



Keoni Jeremiah  
GB Member

July 17, 2018

Dear Catherine Payne, Board of Education Chair  
& Board of Education Members

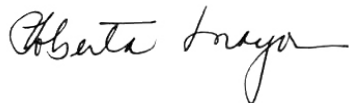
I am writing in support of Roger Takabayashi who is seeking appointment by the Board of Education to a three-year term on the Charter School Commission Board. I have known Roger for several years and know him to be a knowledgeable teacher and educational leader. He served admirably for six years (2012-2018) on the Charter School Commission Board, contributing his insight and understanding of schools and curriculum to the Commission's decision-making.

Roger is a strong advocate for public education and for innovative schools. His knowledge of how schools operate and of what constitutes an excellent school will help him to continue to make common sense decisions to enable charter schools to be the best that they can be. Roger believes that every student deserves a quality education provided by a quality school. He will work to ensure that students are being well-served by Hawaii's charter schools.

Roger has had a long professional career in public education, in the classroom and as a leader of Hawaii's teacher work force. In retirement, he continues to serve in a number of volunteer roles that support the improvement of public education in Hawaii. With his wealth of experiences in the education profession, he will be an outstanding addition to the Charter School Commission Board.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Roberta Mayor".

Roberta Mayor  
Past President, Education Institute of Hawaii

July 18, 2018

Testimony in Support of the Appointment of Roger Takabayashi  
to the State Public Charter School Commission

Chairwoman Catherine Payne and members of the Hawaii State Board of Education, my name is Joan Lee Husted, the retired Executive Director of the Hawaii State Teachers Association. I have known Roger for more than twenty years. He served as the President of HSTA Honolulu Chapter, HSTA Secretary-Treasurer and its president.

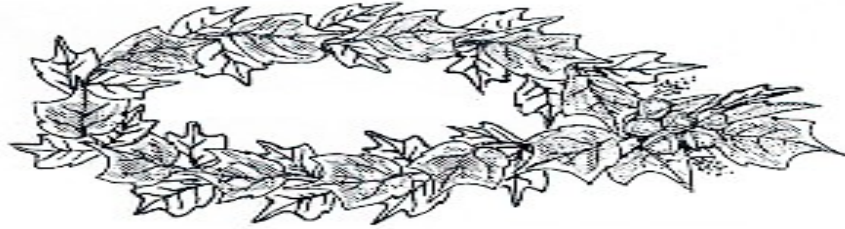
As the HSTA Deputy Executive Director and later as Executive Director, I worked closely with Roger in a variety of situations. I know him to be honest, very hard working with excellent problem-solving skills. I could always count on Roger to be honest with me as well as offer advice.

One of his strongest skills is his ability to interact with almost everyone. I was constantly surprised at the number of leaders as well as everyday citizens, Roger knows. That knowledge will be helpful to the Commission.

Roger has served on the Commission and he is an excellent candidate for a new appointment. So, I wholeheartedly support his appointment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or require any additional information.

Joan Lee Husted  
Cell: 808-782-9666  
e-mail: [hustedj002@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:hustedj002@hawaii.rr.com)



*'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi*

## **Connections Public Charter School**

*A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana*

July 30, 2018

Chairperson Payne, Vice-Chair De Lima and Members of the Hawai'i Board of Education:

My testimony relates to agenda item VI(A) of the General Business Meeting on August 2, 2018.

On May 19, 2015 I submitted written and oral testimony opposing the reappointment of Roger Takabayashi. I was very concerned about the support Mr. Takabayashi had shown for unethical, and perhaps illegal, action taken by the former chair and executive director of the Commission. The following excerpts from that testimony still form the basis for my inability to support the appointment of Mr. Takabayashi to the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission:

“On March 13, 2015 I sent a letter to Mr. Thomas Hutton, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. This letter was to invoke section 14.7 of the contract with our authorizer, the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. My letter was received for Mr. Hutton by Jeremy White on March 16, 2015. Our school claims that a dispute with the Commission has arisen under and by virtue of our contract with the Commission. It has not been resolved by mutual agreement. The school officially requested a final decision concerning our use of the same enrollment form used by the Department of Education schools. Section 14.5 of the contract stipulates that if mutual agreement is not reached it ‘shall be decided by the full Commission in writing, within 90 calendar days after a written request by the School for a final decision concerning the dispute.’

Connections has been using enrollment form SIS-10W since receiving a DOE Memo dated July 15, 2008. This memo also informed all public schools in Hawaii that ‘the new SIS-10W form may not be altered or modified in any way and must be used in its entirety.’ I am very troubled that the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission has insisted that all charter schools use a modified enrollment form removing questions as to the applicant’s McKinney-Vento eligibility, ethnicity, gender and language spoken. Removing the question relating to McKinney-Vento eligibility potentially puts charter schools in a position where they are violating the federal McKinney-Vento Act. This Act requires all public schools, including public charter schools, to immediately enroll all homeless applicants.

On April 8, 2015 I received an email from Thomas Hutton that said, ‘Stay tuned, John. Checking with AGs on this.’ My response was to inform Mr. Hutton (again) that we had already sought the opinion of our deputy Attorney General and to ask if he believed that the Commission's deputy Attorney General's opinion carried more weight than the opinion of our deputy Attorney General. I have received no response from Mr. Hutton regarding this question nor have I received any further information regarding the opinion of the Commission's deputy Attorney General. On May 1, 2015 I

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**Email: [john\\_thatcher@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:john_thatcher@hawaii.rr.com)**

received a letter from Mr. Hutton where he said, 'In response to your request, the Commission will issue a written decision no later than May 15, 2015. The Commission will not be placing this matter on an agenda for another public meeting, but you do have the option of supplementing the arguments you have made verbally to the Performance and Accountability Committee, to the full Commission, and in your correspondence by submitting a written statement for the Commission's consideration. If you would like to do so, please submit the additional written statement no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2015.' I submitted two additional written responses; one on May 7th and the other on May 8, 2015.

In the May 7th letter to Catherine Payne. I said, 'I am deeply concerned that, according to your May 1, 2015 correspondence, the Commission will be issuing a written response concerning our use of a modified DOE enrollment form no later than May 15 and 'will not be placing this matter on an agenda for another public meeting.' I have consulted with an attorney on staff at the Office of Information Practices (OIP). After researching the matter, I was told that I should share the attached OIP opinion 01-06 with you folks as this opinion clearly indicates that this matter should be placed on a Commission agenda before a written response is approved by the Commission. However, the OIP attorney also said that if the Commission considers your impending action on this matter to be a part of a contested case (as defined by §91-9), this may further cloud the issue and will require the approval of the Attorney General's office. If this is the case, we will await an official notice of the hearing. As I have previously said it is our intent to communicate in a positive and effective manner as required by Section 14.5 of the Contract. We are also still open to discussing the use of a third-party mediator (as defined by §91-8.5) to reach a mutual agreement prior to a decision by the full Commission.

We are also still confused about the intent of the Commission regarding Mr. Hutton's comment, 'Should the Commission not approve the school's admission policy, the school would be in violation of the Charter Contract and subject to the Intervention Protocol.' As I previously asked, does Mr. Hutton have the authority to invoke the Intervention Protocol or is this a decision that would be made by the Commission? We have not received a Notice of Deficiency regarding this matter. If we do receive a Notice of Deficiency we will be contesting the Commission's determination based on our conversations with our Deputy Attorney General, Mr. Carter Siu and the OIP.

In the May 8th letter, also sent to Catherine Payne, I said, 'Today I received an email from Thomas Hutton. He said, 'HI, John. We've relayed your latest to our deputy AG, but for now to be safe you should assume the Commission will proceed as planned, just in case you would like to submit anything else in writing by this Monday for the Commission's consideration as we've invited you to do. If the Commission affirms its earlier decision, we will not issue a Notice of Deficiency at that point but will only look ahead.'

I'm not sure what 'look ahead' means. Perhaps he is referring to the passage of Senate Bill 831. Mr. Hutton testified in support of this bill on February 6, 2015; March 2, 2015 and on March 18, 2015. The final version, SB831 SD2 HD1 CD1, only needs the Governor's signature to become law. Section 11 modifies §302D-34 of the current law by adding that a charter school 'may give an enrollment preference through a weighted lottery to educationally disadvantaged students.' An educationally disadvantaged student is defined as "students who are economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, migrant students, limited English proficient students, neglected or delinquent students, and homeless students."

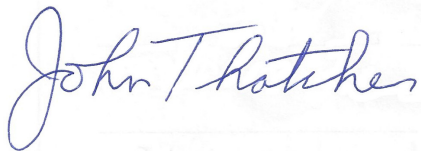
This bill became law and our school decided to give an enrollment preference to educationally disadvantaged students. We needed to know if the applicant was McKinney-Vento eligible. We needed to know the native language spoken by the applicant. We also needed to know if the applicant

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**Email: [john\\_thatcher@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:john_thatcher@hawaii.rr.com)**

had a disability, had been neglected or had a history of delinquency. All of this had to be determined before a student was enrolled through a weighted lottery. Connections Public Charter School has a large population of educationally disadvantaged students. If the Commission insisted on us eliminating this information from our enrollment form, we would not have been able to comply with these new provisions of the law. We would have considered this hindrance to be directly correlated to a Commission decision.

Your appointment of Hawaii State Public Charter School commissioners must be in accordance with §302D-3. This nominee has not acted in a manner consistent with §302D-3(d)(2), which would render him ineligible for reappointment to the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. I have filed a formal complaint with the Office of Information Practices regarding a meeting attended by this nominee on May 14, 2015. I believe that this meeting violated §92-2.5 and/or §92-3. Hawaii state charter school law (§302D-3) provides that the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission shall comply with §92 (the Sunshine law). The vote taken during this meeting may be voided in accordance with §92-11. Enforcement of these violations would be in accordance with §92-12 and §92-13 that mandates "Any person who wilfully violates any provisions of this part shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction, may be summarily removed from the board unless otherwise provided by law."

I am also extremely concerned with Mr. Takabayashi's continuing close relationship with the Hawaii State Teachers' Association (HSTA). On many occasions he has advocated for HSTA positions at Commission meetings. He is the bookkeeper for an HSTA registered PAC called, "For the Future of Our Keiki." In addition, he has supported the former chair of the Commission in giving directives to charter schools that were not authorized by the Commission. This was a frequent pattern of communication employed by both the former chair and executive director often with the support of other commissioners, including Mr. Takabayashi. A letter sent to one charter school in 2016 concerned the payment of teacher lump sum bonuses. This letter was signed by the former chair of the Commission and Mr. Takabayashi. There is no record of legal authorization of this letter by the Commission. Again, I ask the members of the Hawaii State Board of Education to oppose the appointment of Mr. Roger Takabayashi to the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Thatcher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "T".



Kua O Ka Lā  
A New Century Public Charter School

July 18, 2018

Aloha honorable Board of Education members,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of Kua O Ka La NCPCS in consideration of your nomination of the vacancy for the Charter School Commission Board.

We would like to submit the following names for your consideration of this important position:

RoeryInn Kawehilani Akau

Elena Farden

Matthew Kodama

The above mentioned candidates bring forward expertise in academics, culture and finance. It is imperative that this position be filled with someone who can ensure the implementation of the Commission Strategic Plan which has a focus on Innovation in education. Please ensure that we move **forward** with new Board members that can bring fresh input and support for our public Charter Schools.

I would be there to testify as this nomination is that important but I am dealing with the loss of my school facilities and in meetings with Federal representatives today.

Mahalo

*Susie Osborne, Head of School*

(808) 640-3439



July 31, 2018

State of Hawaii  
Board of Education  
P.O. Box 2360  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Attention: Board of Education Members

RE: Testimony in support of Rogerlynn Akau candidate for the SPCSC

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the nominations for the Charter Commission.

I would like to strongly recommend Rogerlynn Akau. Rogerlynn has worked as a SASA in the DOE for 20 years and understands the fiscal and operational management of a school. She left the DOE to continue her education receiving her BABM and MEd at Chaminade University. While attending school she was employed at the Salvation Army as a Cultural and Community Integration Specialist. Rogerlynn is an advocate for equity in our charter schools and will work to make sure charter school students have access to high quality education and facility support.

I respectfully request that the Board of Education seriously consider appointing Rogerlynn Akau to fill the vacancy on the SPCSC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Monica Pilimai Traub".

Monica Pilimai Traub

Administrator  
Hakipu'u Learning Center, PCS  
Kāne'ohe, HI 96744



July 31, 2018

'Aha Kula Ho'āmana  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Regarding: Elena Farden - Letter of Support appointment to The Commission

Aloha Board of Education:

On behalf of the Executive Board of Hawai'i Maoli, I am writing to share our public and enthusiastic support for Elena Farden to the State Public Charter School Commission.

For the past three years, Elena has accelerated her growth as an innovative, positive and contributing board member to Hawai'i Maoli. She has quickly taken on the roles of Second Vice President that led our team through our initial strategic visioning and planning in 2015, to now serving as the First Vice President with energetic oversight of Hawai'i Maoli's fundraising and donor relation goals.

Beyond her commitment to our Native Hawaiian communities both as a board member and active Hawaiian Civic Club member, Elena leverages her experience of her professional work in education innovation with her service work on our Board through:

- **Elevating the discussion:** Elena's monthly reports as First Vice President prompt deeper conversation and curiosity from our team. Each report is curated around themes of growth mindset from differentiating equality vs equity in education to exploration of blockchain technology in fundraising and transparency.
- **Engaging teamwork:** In 2017, Elena represented our Executive Board by attending the annual Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums (ATALM) convention to support our International Museum of Library Sciences (IMLS) project team. Her presence and support to our project team provided constructive coaching to the team's final presentation to our Federal grantor.
- **Exercising joy:** Elena exhibits great passion when it comes to culture and indigenous innovation in education, and sees joyful work in supporting aligned projects/proposals that come to Hawai'i Maoli for support such as Onipa'a Academy for indigenous online distance learning and the Makua Foundation that aims to build a digital media center in Ko'olauloa.

Hawai'i Maoli is confident in Elena's dedication towards access to quality education for all learners and see her professional nexus of entrepreneurship and innovation as an asset to the Board in developing deeper relationships for Hawai'i's student-to-workforce pipeline.

We urge the Board to consider her application for appointment.

Me ka mahalo ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kuni Agard', is positioned above the printed name.

Kuni Agard  
President

# ***Connections Public Charter School***

*A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana*

July 31, 2018

Chairperson Payne, Vice-Chair De Lima and Members of the Hawai'i Board of Education:

My testimony relates to agenda item VI(A) of the General Business Meeting on August 2, 2018.

The Connections Public Charter School community feels strongly that Mr. Carl Takamura should NOT be selected for the vacant seat on the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. Our school has a painful history associated with Mr. Takamura and the former Charter School Review Panel. One of our key employees was subjected to years of attacks by the Hawaii State Ethics Commission. This employee suffered financially, emotionally and physically and was finally exonerated by the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii in 2016.

On August 9, 2011 attorney Ted Hong wrote to Mr. Takamura, "The purpose of this letter is to inform you that I have advised my clients not to attend the Charter School Review Panel's meeting of August 11, 2011 in reference to the above agenda items. The above agenda items unlawfully infringe on Attorney-Client privileged matters. Additionally, to ask questions of my clients concerning an on-going investigation using the above referenced agenda items, indicates to me that my clients cannot receive a fair, objective, and unbiased determination by the Charter School Review Panel Members. In her letter dated July 7, 2011 Michelle M.L. Puu, Esq., indicates that she consulted with you, and Mr. Kondo in crafting her letter which met your mutual goals of denying my clients legal representation. The evidence indicates that you and Mr. Kondo have been conspiring with the Attorney General's Office 'behind closed doors' to prohibit and restrict my clients' legal right to defend themselves from the overblown, unfounded and overreaching charges by Mr. Kondo and his office. It is unfortunate that you have steered the Review Panel in this direction. It is my hope that your arbitrary and capricious actions against my clients will be subject to review in another forum, soon. The only unfortunate aspect is that it will cost taxpayers to pay for this unnecessary and clearly preventable waste of time."

Mr. Hong also sent a letter to the Board of Education on August 9, 2011. He wrote, "The purpose of this letter is to formally notify the Board of Education about what I perceive to be unlawful activity by the Charter School Review Panel. I have been retained to represent Connections New Century Charter School and one of its employees in an investigation by the Hawaii State Ethics Commission. The Charter Review Panel is acting beyond the scope of its statutory authority and conducting itself in an arbitrary and capricious manner. The Executive Director of the Ethics Commission has gotten the Charter School Review Panel to investigate, infringe on and terminate the Attorney-Client relationship between me and my clients. I have warned the Charter School Review Panel on two separate occasions that they are exceeding the scope of their authority by investigating and terminating the Attorney-Client relationship with Connections and the school employee. I have enclosed my last correspondence to Mr. Takamura for your review. I would also point out that this investigation against my client is being done with the distinct threat that my client Connections and

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**Email: [john\\_thatcher@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:john_thatcher@hawaii.rr.com)**

its Charter, could be punished or have its Charter to operate revoked, because of our Attorney-Client relationship. But, Mr. Takamura, for some hidden reason, has persisted in pursuing this unlawful investigation. This letter is being submitted to the Board of Education in the hope that the Board could investigate and determine whether the Charter School Review Panel and its members, should be allowed to pursue this unlawful investigation and threaten to penalize my clients.”

In retaliation to Mr. Hong’s letters, Mr. Takamura sent a letter on Charter School Review Panel letterhead to the chair of our Local School Board on August 18, 2011. This letter demanded answers to six questions relating to Mr. Hong and the Ethics Commission investigation by August 26, 2011. On August 25, 2011 our school and one of our employees filed two separate complaints in the Hilo Circuit Court. The complaints alleged that the school’s independence and right to hire their own attorneys was unlawfully challenged. The first complaint accused the Review Panel and its chairman, Mr. Takamura, of intentionally violating the Sunshine Law and threatening to take away the school’s charter. The second complaint was filed against the Hawaii State Ethics Commission and its executive director, Les Kondo. That complaint asked the court to stop an ongoing ethics investigation against the school and its employee. According to the complaint, Charter School employees fell outside the jurisdiction of the Ethics Commission. Additionally, the complaint alleged that the school passed an independent audit and clearly documented that no ethics violations occurred. In January, 2012, the school withdrew its lawsuit against the Charter School Review Panel in response to the resignation of three members (including Mr. Takamura).

The Ethics Commission collected volumes of documents from the school. Their original investigation morphed into a “witch hunt” when they decided to focus their investigation on one of our employees. Mr. Hong tried to settle the matter and received the following response from Mr. Kondo, “The Commission is willing to resolve the Charge without proceeding to a contested case hearing; however, considering the seriousness of ethics issues and the evidence, which, on its face, appears to support the Charge, it is the Commission's position that any settlement of the Charge must include the following terms and conditions:

1. The employee acknowledges that his actions, as stated in the Charge, violated the State Ethics Code;
2. The employee agrees to pay a fine of \$2,000, payable to the State of Hawaii, General Fund, in equal quarterly increments, with the first payment due upon execution of the agreement memorializing the terms of the settlement;
3. The employee agrees that the Commission may publicly disclose his identity and all other information that the Commission deems relevant or related to the Charge;
4. The employee agrees that the Commission may issue a public opinion or similar document regarding the Charge, in whatever form and containing whatever information relating to the Charge that the Commission deems is necessary to fully inform and educate state officials and employees and the public regarding the employee's actions and how those actions violated the State Ethics Code;
5. The employee agrees to attend, at his own cost, ethics training conducted by Commission staff no later than three (3) months from the date of the settlement agreement.

Our employee rejected this offer and filed for a contested hearing. The two day contested hearing was held in November 2012. The “hearing” (the first Ethics Commission contested case since 1985) was a circus. The night before the hearing, Mr. Kondo appeared on a local news program outlining

his case and condemning our employee publicly. Much of the questioning, at the hearing, centered on the school's procedure for authorizing purchase orders and the checks and balances in place to ascertain whether requested items were in the school's inventory. The hearing was interrupted several times by members of the audience upset about Connections' proposal to develop a new campus in their neighborhood. This had nothing to do with the hearing. One of the neighbors threatened our business manager right in front of the deputy attorney general representing us. The deputy talked to the presiding hearings officer, Ms. Maria Sullivan, who said that since she didn't hear the threat, she couldn't do anything about it. The next day, the same individual sat behind our employee while he was being questioned. Every time our employee answered a question, the neighbor whispered "Lier!" When Mr. Hong informed Ms. Sullivan about this harassment, she again refused to ask the offender to leave the hearing. She finally addressed the issue after the court reporter stopped the proceedings because she could not hear over the incessant chatter from the hostile members of the audience. Ms. Sullivan asked the audience to refrain from talking during the hearing. The fact that she observed Mr. Kondo talking with several of these "neighbors" during the breaks didn't seem to bother her.

The appearance of deliberate corroboration and encouragement of harassment was appalling. After the Ethics Commission ruled against our employee, he appealed the ruling to the Third Circuit Court. The judge threw out half of the charges and reduced the fine to \$2,000. Our employee unsuccessfully appealed this decision to the Intermediate Court of Appeals. On July 19, 2016 the Supreme Court of the State of Hawaii vacated the judgments of the Intermediate Court of Appeals and the Third Circuit Court and the order of the State Ethics Commission that sustained the violations against our employee. The case was remanded to the State Ethics Commission with instructions to dismiss the case. Today, one of the former members of the Review Panel, who worked closely with Mr. Takamura, sits on the Hawaii State Ethics Commission.

Again, we ask the members of the Hawaii State Board of Education to oppose the appointment of Mr. Carl Takamura to the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission.

*William Boyd*

# TAHIRIH ASSOCIATION

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www.TahirihAssociation.org TahirihAssoc@gmail.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OLETHA DEVANE  
DR. ANN HALLOCK  
KARAN MORRISON  
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July 30, 2018

‘Aha Kula Ho‘āmana  
State Public Charter School Commission  
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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U.S. Court of Appeals  
For the Ninth Circuit

DIANE WATSON, Ph.D.  
United States Ambassador

## Letter of Support Elena Farden appointment to the Commission

As an education organization that provides scholarships to girls and women around the world, as well as education programs at Women's Correctional Community Center in Hawaii, we appreciate the leadership that Elena brings to organizations committed to educating others.

Personally, working on other Boards with Elena, and as a consultant to the Waialae Public Charter School, I know first hand that Elena possesses advanced skills in strategic planning and implementation of programs that reinforce and elevate innovative and practical organizational process. Whether the goals include digital media, raising funds, developing programs, exploring new technologies or communicating visionary thinking, Elena is more than capable. She demonstrates excellence in all fields.

As one of her supporters, we value her commitment to the education of other as a pathway that improves living conditions and a quality of life for students, families, and community. In addition, Elena's outreach and involvement with Native Hawaiians, and other indigenous communities, reinforces a deeper dimension in cultural competence and the importance of diversity in the workplace.

Elena's talents and expertise would bring an unique set of expertise to the to the State Public Charter School Commission that would promote and advance its purpose.

The Tahirih Association is in full support of Elena Farden being appointed to the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission.

With Aloha,



Tadia Rice  
Founder



**Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs  
PO Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807**

July 31, 2018

Catherine Payne, Chairperson  
Brian De Lima, Vice Chairperson  
State of Hawai'i, Board of Education  
1390 Miller Street, Room 309  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Via: [testimony\\_boe@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:testimony_boe@notes.k12.hi.us)

Re: **August 2, 2018 General Board Meeting**

VI. Action Items – A. Board Action on appointment of one individual to serve as a member of the State Public Charter School Commission

Dear Chair Payne and Vice Chair De Lima,

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) **SUPPORTS** the appointment of **Elena Farden** to the State Public Charter School Commission (SPCSC or Commission).

The Commission's recently approved strategic plan identifies three purposes for chartering in Hawai'i which function as anchors for the SPCSC Strategic Vision and Plan, consistent with the Philosophy of Education (BOE Policy E-1) and the overall Need for Education by: 1) Meeting family and community educational needs; 2) Operating laboratories of innovation; and 3) Reflecting Hawai'i's values and practices. Elena's contribution to the Commission and the charter school, public education sector, particularly as it relates to "operating laboratories of innovation" is bolstered by her advocacy roles in:

- A) **STEM.** A Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) advocate who supports the ongoing vision of student success for Hawai'i's K-12 learners, and oversees a student internship program that contributes to strengthening workforce pipeline for a knowledge-based economy;
- B) **Innovation.** Elena served on Kamehameha Schools' Strategy & Innovation team working on Hālau 'īnana ma Kapa'akea, the Schools' first innovation hub in Mō'ili'ili. She also served on Kamehameha Schools' Innovation team developing community and program partnerships across the state towards advancing their collective impact and organizational sustainability; and
- C) **Culture Based Education.** Understands Hawaiian culture-based education programming--a benefit to the Commission with a portfolio of 17 (of 38 authorized) Hawaiian focused charter schools.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (AHCC) is the oldest Hawaiian community-based grass roots organization founded in 1918 by Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, Delegate to the United States House of Representative; and is a confederation comprised of fifty-eight (58) Hawaiian Civic Clubs located throughout the State of Hawai'i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia, Washington State, Tennessee and Texas. AHCC is governed by a 16-member Board of Directors and is a strong voice at city, state and federal levels. AHCC advocates for improved welfare of native Hawaiians in

Catherine Payne, Chairperson  
Brian De Lima, Vice Chairperson  
July 31, 2018  
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culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare, and nationhood, to name a few; and perpetuates and preserves language, history, music, dance and other cultural traditions. The vision of the AHCC is to remain a recognized voice of the Native Hawaiian people and make the organization self-sustaining; and the mission is to serve with pono in advocacy of culture, health, economic development, education, social welfare and nationhood.

Sincerely,

  
Annelie Amaral  
President







## Native Hawaiian Education Council

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July 31, 2018

Catherine Payne, Chairperson  
Brian De Lima, Vice Chairperson  
State of Hawai'i, Board of Education  
1390 Miller Street, Room 309  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Via: [testimony\\_boe@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:testimony_boe@notes.k12.hi.us)

Re: **August 2, 2018 General Board Meeting**

VI. Action Items – A. Board Action on appointment of one individual to serve as a member of the State Public Charter School Commission

Dear Chair Payne and Vice Chair De Lima,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **SUPPORTS** the appointment of **Mason Chock** to the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission).

Noting that the Commission's portfolio include five schools on the island of Kaua'i or 13% of the total portfolio of 38 schools, Mason brings the following experiences to bear on the governance and chartering tenants of access, autonomy and accountability<sup>1</sup>:

- 1) **Kaua'i Community.** Serves (or served) the Kaua'i community in various roles---County of Kaua'i, Council member; Chair of Drug Prevention Coalition; Kaua'i Planning and Action Alliance Director; Kaua'i Fire Department Relief Fund, Board Director; Kaua'i Education Leadership Alliance member and founding Board member of a Kaua'i charter school---to name a few;
- 2) **Sector Integration.** Understands integrated sector work (e.g., business, education, health, social services, culture, government, non-profit) to uplift and better a community;
- 3) **Culture Based Education.** Understands Hawaiian culture based education programming--a benefit to the Commission with a portfolio of 17 (of 38 authorized) Hawaiian focused charter schools.

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<sup>1</sup> As phrased by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA)



Catherine Payne, Chairperson  
Brian De Lima, Vice Chairperson  
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In addition to what can be reviewed from his resume, Mason will serve the families and communities of Hawai'i well in strengthening our public education system, including charters from cradle to career. His resume and professional associations speak to an individual with skills, competencies, experiences and leadership to uplift Kaua'i families and communities.

The Council **supports** Mason Chock's selection for the Commission aligned to:

- A. The Native Hawaiian Education Vision, Mission and Goals as detailed in Attachment A;
- B. NHEC's platform and priorities as articulated in Attachment B, particularly our desire to **Intensify Systems Engagement**, actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities; to engage in early learning planning and implementation work; advancing two pathways of education and culture based education.

The Council is mindful that Hawai'i operates in a unique context of having a single State Educational Agency (SEA) and Local Educational Agency (LEA); two official languages—English and Hawaiian—that are mediums of instruction in the State's public education system; and a public charter school system that is a blend of Hawaiian language immersion and Hawaiian culture based schools and in the midst of implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—the most pervasive federal policy change since No Child Left Behind in 2001, returning control to State's by Congressional intent; and working to integrate, holistically and systemically, early learning into our public education system.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org) or the office (808.523.6432) telephone with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

Attachments

cc: Council and staff







KEAOMĀLAMALAMA

[www.keaomalalama.org](http://www.keaomalalama.org)

## *Nu'ukia (Vision)*

**'O Hawai'i ke kahua o ka ho'ona'auao.**

*Hawai'i is the foundation of our learning.*

## *Ala Nu'ukia (Mission)*

**I nā makahiki he 10 e hiki mai ana e 'ike 'ia ai nā hanauna i mana i ka 'ōlelo a me ka nohona Hawai'i no ka ho'omau 'ana i ke ola pono o ka mauili Hawai'i.**

*In 10 years, kānaka will thrive through the foundation of Hawaiian language, values, practices and wisdom of our kūpuna and new 'ike to sustain abundant communities.*

## *Pahuhopu (Goals)*

In the next 10 years, our learning systems will . . .

### **Goal #1 — 'Ōlelo Hawai'i:**

- **Advance 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Expectations**  
*Develop and implement a clear set of expectations for 'ōlelo Hawai'i that permeates all levels of education.*
- **Actualize a Hawaiian Speaking Workforce**  
*Increase a prepared 'ōlelo Hawai'i workforce to ensure community and 'ohana access and support.*
- **Amplify Access and Support**  
*Increase 'ōlelo Hawai'i context and programming to support the kaiāulu.*
- **Achieve Normalization**  
*Pursue normalization of 'ōlelo Hawai'i.*

### **Goal #2 — 'Ike Hawai'i:**

- **Actualize 'Ike Hawai'i**  
*Increase use of knowledge from traditional and diverse sources.*
- **Amplify Leo Hawai'i**  
*Increase 'ohana and kaiaulu learning and participation.*
- **Advance Hana Hawai'i**  
*Increase resources to support practice and leadership.*



# Native Hawaiian Education Platform\*

**‘O Hawai‘i ke kahua o ka ho‘ona‘auao.**

*Hawai‘i is the foundation of our learning.*

## **Perpetuate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i**

Actions on advancing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i expectations; actualizing a Hawaiian speaking workforce; amplifying access and support; and achieve normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

## **Amplify Family and Community Voices**

Recognizes parents and families as first educators; Actions that inform, illuminate, elevate and strengthen parent, family and community engagement in education

## **Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education**

Actions that promote further understanding, connecting, supporting and advancing ‘ike and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i: policy and pathways; teachers, leaders and communities; pedagogy and programs; curriculum, instruction, assessment and research practices; and evaluation and accreditation mechanisms.

## **Intensify Systems Engagement**

Actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities.

\* Formal set of principal goals



**Native Hawaiian  
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# 2017-2018 Native Hawaiian Education Priorities

## Native Hawaiian Education Council

### Perpetuate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

- Support the Working Group recommendations re: the Expansion of Hawaiian Language Instruction Throughout the University of Hawai‘i Systems.
- Support continuing work on Hawaiian language standards and assessments.

### Amplify Family and Community Voices

- Advocate for the effective implementation of ESSA for the benefit of families and communities.
- Aggregate field data on family and community voices by island community.

### Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

- Illuminate Models and Practices of Innovation.
- Elevate Accreditation Frameworks, Designations and Schools.
  - Create a Native Hawaiian research agenda.
  - Continue Native Hawaiian education meta-evaluation.
- Include CBE in Teacher Education and Preparation Programs and Professional Development

### Intensify Systems Engagement

- Continue national advocacy work re: ESSA implementation and Native Control of Native Education.
- Engage in early learning planning and implementation work.
- Advance the implementation of Board of Education Policy E-3 Na Hopena A‘o.
- Support the continuing 2-Pathways of Education Design and Development



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Steve Hirakami/HAASPCS/HIDOE

08/01/2018 11:10 AM

To testimony\_boe@notes.k12.hi.us  
cc  
Subject Testimony: Appointment of SPCSC  
commissioner

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Aloha Honorable Board of Education Chair Payne, Vice Chair DeLima, and members,

It is of utmost importance to nominate the right person to fill the vacant position of the State Public Charter School Commission. The Commission held meetings around the State and offered charter school leaders like myself to provide input as to what the vision, mission, and strategic plan could look like in the coming years. It was a very collaborative process and gave us charter leaders new hope for the future of the public charter school system. Together, the Commission, the Commission staff, and the charter schools and their communities can move to a level of greatness where every student can not only achieve, but excel. We leaders believe that the missing element was the cultural relevancy of aloha. The strategic plan has the Commission authorizing with ALOHA and providing school communities the autonomy they need for schools to innovate, inspire, and excel. The purpose of the Commission's new vision in its strategic plan is "to have charters meet family and community needs, operate laboratories of innovation, and reflect Hawaii's values and practices."

To fulfill the goals of this strategic plan, we need to place a progressive, innovative, community minded, and student focused person to the vacant Commissioner position. For the past week, charter school leaders have exchanged dozens of emails giving specific endorsements to candidates based on their personal experiences and knowledge. I feel personally, that the best among the candidates in alphabetical order would be Rogerlyn Akau, Mason Chock, and Elena Farden. Any one of these candidates would be well equipped to serve on the Commission. We are on a new path to excellence and accountability. The Commission Executive Director, Sione Thompson, has put together a great staff and will need a Commission that is filled with competent, compassionate members. Please make your selection that will help the future of charter school education in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Respectfully,

Steve Hirakami

Director, Hawaii Academy of Arts and Science Public Charter School



Mapuana Waipa <mwaipa@kalpcs.com>

08/01/2018 05:11 PM

To testimony\_boe@notes.k12.hi.us  
cc  
Subject Testimony in support of Rogerlynn Akau

Aloha e na Alaka'i BOE,

This testimony is in support of Ms. Rogerlynn Akau. She recently attained her Masters in Educational Leadership from Chaminade University. Formerly working as a SASA in the Department of Education for 20 years, has also provided her the insight of school operations and fiscal management. She has a desire to be an active participant in our educational system by advocating for equity in Hawai'i's Charter Schools. Ms. Akau advocates for equity in our charter schools, will work hard to assure charter school students have accessibility to high quality education and facility support.

Mahalo nui for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony and support for the nomination of Ms. Rogerlynn AKau to the SPCSC.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

W. Mapuana Waipa

Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School

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