



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

DOE mask requirement optional

1 message

Morshe Fae <ttyacke101610@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 1:50 PM

To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Name: Mrs. Tisha Tyacke

Agenda item: mask

Oppose

I am a mothers who's daughter attends Waikele Elementary School. It has been extremely difficult living here the past two years. Especially for my daughter. It was so hard that I considered staying on the mainland with her when we visited family last year. It's been difficult answering questions that I cannot answer. And it seems the school board can't either.

"Mommy how come my cousins get to go to school but I can't?

"Mommy Ari says she doesn't have to wear a mask at school anymore. (Her cousin Ariana lives in Virginia)

It's truly heartbreaking looking at her face with sadness and frustration because I don't know what to tell her. The run around this past year has been truly eye opening. No wonder Hawai'i Public Schools is a laughing stock across the nation. I would be embarrassed. My family continues to ask "What in the world is going on over there? Come back home". We're the only state that don't make mask optional. And none of it is based on science.

Hawai'i has the best air on Earth. Let our keiki breathe it.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Tyacke



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Robin Johnston <rjsurfboards@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 1:53 PM

Robin Johnston parent/PTCA
General business 1:30pm on May 5
Essers and indoor masking
No Indoor masking!

Indoor masking and the concept that we are under a "state of emergency" has no basis. It is clear that it is only enforced to receive funding. Low hospitalizations illustrate present Covid mutation is a virus no more dangerous than common cold.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Pearl City Highlands Elementary School
1419 Waimano Home Road
Pearl City, HI 96782

May 5, 2022

State of Hawaii Board of Education,

This letter is written in support of Mr. Keith Hayashi, Interim State Superintendent of the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE), being selected as the next Superintendent for the HIDOE. In the months that Mr. Hayashi has served as Interim Superintendent, he has demonstrated the knowledge, patience, and professionalism to effectively lead the field in providing the best public education possible for the students in the State of Hawaii.

Performing at the highest levels under the direction of the current Hawaii State Board of Education and inheriting an entire staff (Assistant Superintendents and Complex Area Superintendents) from his predecessor without the ability to make his own changes, Interim Superintendent Hayashi has still managed to significantly move the Department during these very difficult times.

Mr. Hayashi possesses the vision and commitment to ensure even the most difficult decisions are carried out, not being swayed by public or political pressure. The greatest example of this vital characteristic was demonstrated by his firm stance in returning to in-person learning and remaining with in-person learning for the entirety of school year 2021-2022. It is this same vision and commitment, which created a new culture and climate at Waipahu High School (WHS). Mr. Hayashi's success at WHS is evident by the numerous awards and accolades he and the school received during his tenure. The HIDOE needs a leader with this type of vision and commitment.

Mr. Hayashi understands the systems and protocols of the HIDOE. It may sound simple and mundane but these intricacies and nuances will allow him to move at a faster pace when allocating resources, selecting employees, and communicating with the public and field. Mr. Hayashi understands the importance of developing and maintaining relationships in and out of the HIDOE to ensure success for staff and students-look no further than the success of the academy model and early college at WHS. The HIDOE needs a leader who understand the nuances of the current system and can leverage relationships in and out of the system to create progress for staff and students.

Therefore, it is without hesitation that I support the appointment of Mr. Keith Hayashi as the next Superintendent of the Hawaii State Department of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary Sheets".

Zachary Sheets
Principal



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Waipahu Elementary School
94-465 Waipahu St.
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

April 19, 2022

State of Hawaii Board of Education,

I am writing this letter in support of Keith Hayashi being the most qualified and the best candidate for being our next Hawaii Department of Education superintendent.

Mr. Hayashi has proven himself as an effective school leader as a teacher, vice principal, principal, and complex area superintendent. I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Hayashi in his various roles over the past 25 years and I have been truly inspired by his visionary leadership skills, humble disposition, and his relentless effort to do what is best for the children of Hawaii.

I believe he has a proven track record of developing community and business partnerships both in our state and abroad and these partnerships have had a positive transformative impact at Waipahu High School, in the Waipahu complex schools, and the Waipahu community. His visionary leadership was also a key factor in the creation of the Hawaii Academies which has grown from 8 high schools in 2010 to over 22 high schools throughout the state of Hawaii.

Mr. Hayashi's wealth of school level, state, and national experience is unsurpassed and makes him an invaluable asset to all schools in our state. His tireless efforts and willingness to continuously go above and beyond is what the keiki of Hawaii truly deserve. I strongly support him as I believe he is the most qualified candidate in leading our state as the next superintendent of education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Tominaga", is written over a horizontal line.

Aaron Tominaga
Principal
Waipahu Elementary School



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

cullan bell <cullanbell@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 3:11 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Cullan Bell-2022 Maui Mayoral Candidate

General business meeting

Agenda item VI:A

Oppose!! I oppose the mandatory masking of our children! There is no clinical/scientific evidence that proves masks stop the spread of SARS covi2. However, There's a ton of evidence now that shows both physical and mental health issues these masks are bringing about. Why can people from all over the world come here to our home unmasked, and untested, but our children are still being held hostage by these tyrannical mandates. Why are we teaching them that getting sick is a bad thing?! It's part of life. Stop the madness. Leave our keiki alone. This push back will not stop. They are our children; NOT yours!!

--

Cullan Bell

Owner: C. Bell Construction Inc

cullanbell@gmail.com

(808)264-3029



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Ma'ata Tukuafu <maata.tukuafu808@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 3:17 PM

Ma'ata Tukuafu - Concerned grandparent/community citizen

General Business Meeting on May 5, at 1:30PM.

Masking children in public schools

My name is Ma'ata Tukuafu, and I'm writing about the continued masking of our children in public schools. With the mask mandates lifting across the nation, why keep masking our children when they are the least susceptible to covid-19?

It's programming at the deepest level, and it is not good for health, neither does it do anything to stop the spread. Plus masks are no longer required! **I OPPOSE** the continuation of mask mandates for our keiki.

Mahalo,
Ma'ata Tukuafu
808-895-7896



Keiki mask mandate

1 message

miho.a.fichefeux@gmail.com <miho.a.fichefeux@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 4:29 PM

Aloha my name is miho aoki

I have 2 children who are 8 years old and 11 years old who goes to charter school in Kona.

My children often come home really sad

Because their teaches are pushing really hard to make sure kids wear mask. If they don't they need to participate "community service" If they are being punished.

I am very heart breaking when ever my children express such a thing.
they do not like to go school anymore, they actually hate school.

All the business and others states lifted mask mandate. Many hotels and restaurants are not need to wear mask at all, but why only Hawaii school is not lifted yet?
Please give me a strong medical reason.

I strongly request to lift this mandate asap.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony for May 5

1 message

Daniel Smith <lovehealsearthproductions@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 4:57 PM

Aloha,

I hear that an agenda item regarding "universal masking in public schools" is to be heard on May 5th.

As board leaders it is important that you listen to all concerns with diligence.

Take a look at the presentation by Steven Kirsch

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1m10LArf525tCPP2tz4-3OIDjEF99W8YKFTtkV_QEu4k/mobilepresent?slide=id.gf8bd802bb6_2_28

BOE meetings from other have reviewed this serious presentation and have chosen wisely to preserve human right instead of force mandates.

It is your duty to seek the truth.
Seek diligently.

Daniel Smith
808-268-3119



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Fred Hill <startfresh724@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 5:27 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Parents should have the right to choose whether or not their child wears a mask. This is a violation of the Constitution of the United States.



Testimony

2 messages

bkulbis@startmail.com <bkulbis@startmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 12:49 PM

Brett Kulbis (Chair of the Honolulu County Republican Party but testifying as concerned citizen)
BoE Meeting May 5, 2022
Presentation on Universal Masking

STRONGLY OPPOSE the universal indoor masking in public schools.

Aloha Board of Education,

As you are no doubt aware, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Hawai'i Department of Health (DHS), and the governor have made a strong recommendation that students and staff mask indoors. There is a world of difference between a law, mandate and a strong recommendation. The CDC strongly recommends that people not eat raw fish or under-cooked meat, and yet many people, especially in Hawai'i, choose to enjoy Poke and Sushi.

I strongly encourage the BOE/DOE to embrace the flexibility offered in this "strong recommendation" and remove the indoor masking—for all students effective immediately.

I believe the data is firmly on the side of this position. The policy response to COVID, particularly as applied to children, has been nefariously inept. We now have two years' worth of data, and not to use that data to craft better policies and create better outcomes for our children would be simply wicked.

Contrary to Director Hayashi misleading statement in his letter of April 18, 2022:

- With extensive scientific literature supporting the effectiveness of masking to reduce COVID-19 transmission in schools and other settings, the state Department of Health (DOH) still highly recommends that masks be worn indoors at all times at schools and emphasizes layered mitigation measures to keep our schools, students and staff safe.

We now have two years' worth of data that contradicts his opinion. Available clinical evidence of facemask efficacy is of low quality and the best available clinical evidence has mostly failed to show efficacy, with fourteen of sixteen recognized randomized controlled trials comparing face masks to no mask controls failing to find statistically significant benefit. Additionally, that data clearly tells a couple of key things. To wit:

- Masking is a psychological stressor for children and disrupts learning. Covering the lower half of the face of both teacher and pupil reduces the ability to communicate. In particular, children lose the experience of mimicking expressions, an essential tool of nonverbal communication. Positive emotions such as laughing and smiling become less recognizable, and negative emotions get amplified. Bonding between teachers and students takes a hit. Overall, it is likely that masking exacerbates the chances that a child will experience anxiety and depression, which are already at pandemic levels themselves.
- Mask mandates—especially in schools—do not reduce school or community transmission of any respiratory infections.

With these facts in hand, it becomes clear that if we are to continue masking children for COVID, there will be no logical point at which we can un-mask them. Using the arguments currently in vogue, the greater lethality of flu would counsel permanent masking to limit its spread.

Indoor masking of children, like outdoor masking, should be at the discretion of parents! Not elected or unelected bureaucrats, and especially not employees of the State Public School system.

It's time to really do the right thing "for our keiki," and not use those words as an emotional trigger to continue this bad policy.

v/r
Brett Kulbis

Brett Kulbis <bkulbis@startmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 6:01 PM

Brett Kulbis (Chair of the Honolulu County Republican Party but testifying as concerned citizen)
BoE Meeting May 5, 2022
Presentation on Universal Masking

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Aloha Board of Education,

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Indoor masking of children, like outdoor masking, should be at the discretion of parents! Not elected or unelected bureaucrats, and especially not employees of the State Public School system.

It's time to really do the right thing "for our keiki," and not use those words as an emotional trigger to continue this bad policy.

v/r
Brett Kulbis

2 Year of Science from top Journals of Medicine and Science

There is now 2 years of Science on the masks that tell us they DO NOT WORK to prevent the nano particles from going thru the mask:

So report the 1)AMA, 2)the New England Journal of Medicine, 3)the British Journal of Medicine, 4)Life and Environmental Sciences, 5)American Journal of Infection Control, 6)the Journal of Epidemiology and Infection, 7)the University of Edinburgh, and so on and so on.

A simple experiment people can do themselves: Breathe thru' the mask onto your glasses and you'll see the mist of nano particles on our glasses....it is akin to trying to stop a mosquito from going thru' a chainlink fence. The size of the hole cannot be small enough for you to breathe while stopping the covid nano germ.

The Mainstream Media, now owned by the Power broker Globalists, want the planet for themselves via a One World govt. so their goal is a 93% Depopulation. (This planned goal is written in GRANITE on the "Georgia Guidestones", a granite capital in Georgia. It is not theory.) So the masks are training for submission and sheep-herding while the vaccines are human experimentation as witnessed by our most physically fit humans of the NFL and NBA dropping dead face down on the field and court.

Wake up Masses as you are part of the 93%, unless you are the 7% Multi-billionaire Elites of the planet.



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

testimony

1 message

Paula Daian <info@pauladaian.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 6:53 PM

To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov, testimony@boe.hawaii.gov

>
> I am a mother of two. My daughters used to attend Haiku School and I was a proud member of the PTA and I was always collaborating to help the school and the community.
> When the COVID 19 Pandemic started playing politics with our Kids lives I decided to take my kids out of Hawaii school system and started a homeschooling program instead.
> Now years passed and the Pandemic is almost over all over the US, and we are still seeing our Keikis in Hawaii emotionally abused by their teachers and schools.
> I feel completely disappointed and repulsed by this unconstitutional and illegal act against the children in my community. Hawaii is The only state in America that is still requesting compliance for this illegal act
> Some as many other parents, I also lost my complete trust in the school system and my daughters will never be part of it again.
> As a mother and as as American citizen I request an immediate and complete removal of the mandatory mask against the children.
>
> Mahalo
>
> Paula Daian
>



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Christy Ann Ceraso <christyannceraso@protonmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 7:02 PM

Reply-To: Christy Ann Ceraso <christyannceraso@protonmail.com>

To: "testimony.boe" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Directed to a general business meeting. Testimony concerning the continued policy requiring students and staff to wear masks. I oppose this policy.

Masks are harmful, and not helpful. Please do some research and immediately change this harmful policy. The school board does not have the authority to require medical interventions, period.

Here is a video with peer reviewed studies explaining that masks are ineffective in preventing the spread of illness.

https://rumble.com/v13dkj9-studies-show-vulnerable-people-are-more-likely-to-get-sick-if-people-around.html?mref=6zof&mc=dgip3&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Dr.TomCowan&ep=2

Parent of a HAAS student,
Christy Ann Ceraso

Sent from ProtonMail mobile



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Caren Allen <dandcallen@sbcglobal.net>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 8:07 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Dennis and Caren Allen (Parents)

Regarding Keiki masks.

We Oppose the masks on our children! Enough is enough! Our children are the lease effected of any age group!



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Masks for School Kids

3 messages

Kate Paine <kate@hawaii.rr.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Mon, May 2, 2022 at 5:31 PM

Testimony for upcoming meeting:

Catherine Payne, as BoE Chair, has long been one of the shining examples of model education leadership. In light of that, hoping the rule of mask wearing would follow the science.

Unfortunately, Cvd is a political football that pits mask / no mask into a contentious theater, forcing votes away from reason and education.

Hoping for at least vote is mask optional so fearful parents don't traumatize their kids further.

Kate here!

Kate Paine

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Kate Paine <kate@hawaii.rr.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:03 AM

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. This email address is specifically designed to receive public testimony for upcoming Board of Education meeting agenda items. Attached please find the links to the most recent agendas for the Board's Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2022. Please identify what agenda item your testimony is related to or it will not be listed as public testimony.

[May 5, 2022 Human Resources Committee Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

[May 5, 2022 General Business Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

[Quoted text hidden]

Kate Paine <kate@hawaii.rr.com>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 8:58 PM

I note masks on kids are not agenda's. Was informed incorrectly . Apologies.

Kate here!

On May 4, 2022, at 10:03 AM, Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony: Make masks optional in schools.

3 messages

MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>
Reply-To: MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Tue, May 3, 2022 at 10:21 AM

There is no pandemic. Make masks optional for everyone. The keiki are the least affected by covid. Everyone is responsible for their own health. Stop the hypocrisy and let the keiki breathe! End all covid protocols, they need their childhood back! More people will turn to homeschooling soon if this does not end.

Mahalo for your time,
MrsJR

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:12 AM

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. This email address is specifically designed to receive public testimony for upcoming Board of Education meeting agenda items. Attached please find the links to the most recent agendas for the Board's Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2022. Please identify what agenda item your testimony is related to or it will not be listed as public testimony.

[May 5, 2022 Human Resources Committee Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)
[May 5, 2022 General Business Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

[Quoted text hidden]

MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>
Reply-To: MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 9:14 PM

This testimony for 5/5/22 general business meeting. Mahalo.

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

----- Original Message -----

[Quoted text hidden]



Testimony

1 message

Jenny Grace <j3nngrace@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 9:24 PM

Jennifer Grace
Mother
General Business Meeting
Agenda item: Keiki Masks
Position: OPPOSE

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to the continued requirement of our Keiki having to wear masks at school. In a letter dated April 18, 2022 from the Interim Superintendent, Keith T. Hayashi, he says that the decision to keep our Keiki masked in school is because of the "extensive scientific literature supporting the effectiveness of masking to reduce Covid-19 transmission in schools..."

There's an abundance of medical literature indicating masks are ineffective and can be harmful. This link shows 150 comparative studies and articles compiled by the *Brownstone Insitute* that show face masks are largely ineffective, have no impact on controlling transmission of the Covid-19 virus, and can actually be harmful: <https://brownstone.org/articles/more-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms/>

This study (<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/8/4344/htm>) from the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* shows prolonged mask use is correlated with significant drops in oxygen, increases in carbon dioxide levels, fatigue, headaches, moisture build-up, temperature rise of the skin and air under the mask, and respiratory impairment.

Masks cause physical and developmental harm. This research from *Frontiers in Psychology* explains that faces hidden by mass make it difficult for other people to decipher facial expressions. This is more detrimental for toddlers, and younger children, who rely on facial cues to develop emotional reasoning and social skills. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8185341/>)

Masks are ineffective at stopping or slowing the spread of respiratory viruses. A study in *The BMJ* (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25903751/>) finds that cloth masks have been shown to actually increase risk of infection.

As the rest of our state has opened up and are no longer forced to wear masks at large gatherings, I believe it is time to allow our Keiki of Hawai'i to be allowed the same freedoms. Our children have been put through so much during this time and it is time that we put them first.

Please follow the science and end the mask mandates on our children!

Mahalo for your time,

Jennifer Grace



Testimony

1 message

The El-Swaifys <sheiksan@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:07 PM

Name: Ayman El-Swaify

Meeting: General Business

Agenda Item: Universal indoor masking in public schools

Position: I am opposed to the masking of children in schools

Mask wearing is ineffective, and the detriments from mask wearing have proven to be worse than the risks of COVID, or of spreading the disease. Please end these requirements immediately.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released two reports about children's health over the course of the pandemic:

1. Pediatric emergency department visits before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., January 2019–January 2022 https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7108e1.htm?s_cid=mm7108e1_w
2. Pediatric emergency department visits associated with mental health conditions before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., January 2019–January 2022 https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7108e2.htm?s_cid=mm7108e2_w

Although the total number of emergency room visits for children dropped during the pandemic, there were increases in ER visits related to mental health problems and self-harm. Several causes are to blame including lockdowns, social isolation and masking; all of which interfere with the need for healthy human interaction.

For the love of our keiki, please end this ineffective remnant of government control and let them breath and interact fully with one another in school.

Mahalo,

-Ayman El-Swaify



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony on Indoor Masking in Schools

1 message

Kehaulani Avicolli <alohaavicolli@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:52 PM

To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Aloha,

I am sharing my testimony to voice my concern and opposition around the current mandate of indoor masking in schools. I am a Native Hawaiian and mother of 2 school aged keiki and we are demanding that the indoor masking gets lifted as the other covid restrictions have. Please give everyone the right to choose if wearing masks is the best health option for their child or family. It is not right to force any decision on anyone regarding personal health, especially our keiki who are not able to advocate for themselves or consent to this. It is the right of the parents to decide. Not only does research show how low of a risk the connection between children and covid is in general, but to continue this requirement in schools while most of society gets the choice is inappropriate and unnecessary. It does not make sense to enforce this upon our children in school who depend on a safe and open environment to learn. It is damaging what is being normalized in schools and kids have been missing out on facial expressions and interactions that are a healthy part of development. Kids are behind academically and emotionally because of this unnecessary and toxic barrier. Breathing open fresh air is vital and what a shame it is to take that away from our growing future. Why should they suffer? If its to protect families, teachers, and staff, that seems like an irrational fear issue amongst these grown adults. Children are being programmed to be afraid of others, to fear all germs or even sneezing with a normal cold or illness, and are finding irrational safety behind the mask, that all along has not been proven (most are wearing cloth or mesh masks) to protect in the first place. This has become such a problem within homes and families as well. Please consider these concerns and make the right decision for Hawai'i and our keiki.

Mahalo for your time,

Kehaulani Avicolli



Testimony

1 message

Jamie Toyofuku <jmtoyofuku@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 11:50 PM

To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Cc: wethepeople808@protonmail.com

General Business Meeting

RE: children wearing masks in schools

Stance: I strongly oppose mask mandates for children in schools

I am a married mother of 4 children. Last year we had to make the difficult decision to pull 2 of my children out from their public school and change to a homeschool curriculum. There were several instances that caused us to arrive at this decision. One of the main reasons was that my children were wearing masks for 6-7 hours a day without enough opportunities or reminders to take water breaks, leaving them dehydrated and coming home with headaches and fatigue. My son was not allowed to bring his hydroflask into the classroom or the cafeteria at one point until we had to address it with the faculty members. Since the school classified headaches as a symptom of Covid-19, my children often had to stay home from school and test a or get a doctor's note. This created inconsistency with their daily learning agendas, stress and frustration from us to take off from work and strain on their teachers to try to adjust with online and in-class combined teaching. My sons were not allowed to play or socialize with their peers at all, and eventually they expressed that they did not enjoy school and no longer wanted to engage in that learning environment. That broke our hearts as parents when we saw our children coming home from school with chapped lips from lack of water, peeling hands from overuse of hand sanitizer, and depressed spirits from lack of social enjoyment.

Our youngest daughter attends preschool where they are still forced to wear masks everyday also. I have been back and forth in communication and discussion with the school and the Department of Human Services because I want my daughter to have the option of not wearing mask in school. My daughter has a history of epilepsy and wearing a mask decreases the necessary oxygen intake to her brain and body. When I asked a representative of the DHS why my 4 year old child has to wear a mask in school, their reasoning was that children at this age aren't able to get vaccinated yet. As a parent, I will protect my child as much as I can by being proactive with a healthy lifestyle and educating myself so I can make the best decisions for my family. So far, Hawaii's data and further research show that there is no significant risk to my child's health from the Covid virus that justifies making her wear a mask in school. There are, however, many reports surfacing of the detrimental effects that mask wearing has on a child's motor development and learning abilities.

I believe education in a classroom setting is very important and aids in kids' growth and learning both socially and intellectually. However, as a parent, I will always prioritize my children's health, safety and well being. Do not punish our children with these mask mandates. Give accountability, respect and good authority back to the families to be able to choose what's best for their children.

Regards,

Jamie Toyofuku



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Heidy Clawson <heidy_clawson@mac.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 11:16 PM

I feel like I am living in a very bad nightmarish Movie, where, incredibly enough, everywhere you go adults are finally allowed to gather with no masks and little innocent children who are the ones that should've been free a long time ago are still suffering this abuse.

I am shocked and I can't believe the world we are living now where adults are priority instead of our children.

Heidy swift



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

testimony general business meeting - MASKS- NO

1 message

Juhl Rayne <juhlkrayne@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 7:40 AM

aloha,
my name is Juhl Rayne a concerned citizen....
STOP with the mask mandates and the pushing of these life extinguishing measures for the children of Hawaii....

Hawaii Aloha - BREATH..... not STOP the breath...
we have to breath to live, children need to see smiles, there is NO data proving that masks do any good... they do harm to the physical body, spiritual self, emotional and mental bodies....this is training our children to be unseen, unheard, and unloved while swimming in their own waste of bacterial exhale.
childrens IQ's have decreased 20-30% since this ridiculous, unlawful, illegal shinanigans began. STOP already and wake up to the tyranny,
you will be held accountable for the health and wellbeing of our children as some point... in this life or another.
mahalo,
Juhl Rayne



Testimony - Support

1 message

Mara H <marahollaway@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 10:18 AM

General Business Meeting

Presentation on universal indoor masking in public schools

Testimony In Support of the continued mask requirements

Aloha Chair Payne and Board of Education Members!

I am writing in support of the continued use of masks in indoor settings on our school campuses.

We still, as a state, are seeing uncontrolled spread of more and more infections variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Just yesterday we saw the most recent release of the Hawaii DOH's numbers, which they admit are a vast undercount of the actual cases occurring each day. Per their numbers 4249 people were officially diagnosed with COVID-19 in a single week. Dividing that number by 7 gives you 607 people a day infected in our state. And this was the 6th week of massive increases in cases, which have been roughly doubling every other week. Leaving us at numbers 500% that of those reported 6 weeks ago! We are now seeing our hospital beds again fill with patients dealing with COVID infection, seeing the number of patients hospitalized with COVID more than double in 1 month. And our ICUs went from finally free of all COVID related patients put there during the last surge to 7 new COVID ICU patient in just a matter of 2 or 3 days. In the last couple of weeks our state has also announced 10 or more deaths from COVID each week. Indicating that the way our ICUs clear of patients may not always be via the happier outcomes.

All this matters because our children are a part of their community. The folks contracting COVID and sometimes heading into our hospitals and ICUs...and even passing away...are the grandparents, aunts and uncles of children in our schools. So these hospitalizations and deaths are putting emotional and mental strain on our children. They are leading to anxiety and grief. In the last 3 months, I have heard several educators share their experience handling the emotional fallout of students who confided that they thought they had taken COVID home to their family members who ended up very ill or did not recover. Just THIS should be enough for us to not only keep the mask requirement in place until we are many months past our "last" case surge, or until there are more sure-fire vaccines and therapeutics. But there is more reason than that.

There have now been studies that conclusively show a correlation between mask requirements in school and a lower overall community transmission rate of this virus. ([More children were hospitalized for COVID during omicron, CDC study finds. Most were unvaccinated. \(yahoo.com\)](#)) So the concept that COVID is not spreading on school campuses can now be placed in the "patently false" trash bin. Kids ARE getting the virus on our campuses, and then they are taking it home to their families. This is affecting our most underserved communities the most profoundly, and so maintaining the mask requirement is both a Community Health issue and an Equity issue. Changing this mitigation factor would likely even have a negative effect on our economy, as more spread would leave more people unable to work at the same time, much like what we experienced during the first omicron surge.

There is also the issue that newer variants are affecting unvaccinated children, even those with no underlying conditions, with more serious disease more frequently than we saw in the past. And the vast majority of our students under 12 are still unvaccinated. Since our public school system serves not only our average, typical, healthy students, but also is mandated to serve students with health concerns – including incredibly high health concerns that cause the effected to be medically fragile – we must keep our campuses the safest spaces in our state. Otherwise we risk seeing the Hawaii public school system hit with the type of lawsuits being brought against some mainland school

districts when medically compromised students are put at risk or even infected due to lack of masking and other mitigations.

SARS-CoV-2 is not the by any means first time we have seen a virus that can cause death or long term injury to a significant fraction of the people it infects. For instance, Polio leaves roughly 2% of the people it infects with nerve damage so severe it cause an acute onset paralysis. We think of these Polio issues as a thing of the past here in the U.S. and other more developed countries. But, did you know that there is a condition called Post-Polio Syndrome? Per U.K. studies, this affects somewhere between 15% and 80% of Polio survivors, even those with absolutely no lingering acute effects of illness nor any reinfection. It is a group of symptoms that can appear 15 to 40 years after the virus was cleared from the body, and it can cause issues including progressively worse muscle and joint pain and weakness, progressive muscle atrophy, progressive chronic fatigue, and can even result in swallowing and breathing problems. ([Post-polio syndrome - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/post-polio-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20355669)) So we must consider that there may be more than acute onset risks associated with viral infections, and until we have allowed our scientists and doctors study the consequences of infection, we should act with all due caution on behalf of our students and their families.

There are, though, other mitigations that could be enacted to help minimize the need for masking. Our school rooms could all be inspected and tested by ventilation experts to determine the proper ventilation improvements to make to increase the rate of complete air changes per hour. This limits the potential exposure risk to each student or staff member in the room should an unknowingly contagious individual be present. The number of air filters in each room could be increased as well, further minimizing the risk. Or, there could be a mass drive to make and distribute Corsi-Rosenthal boxes to every room being used as either a classroom, office or other mass gathering space on campus. Our schools have CO2 monitors, but many schools are either not using them or using them improperly – taking readings only when the room is empty. So even implementing rules and mandates that would require these measurements be taken and logged for each classroom at least once each hour or class period every day. I also have heard from those working as both permanent and substitute teachers that many teachers are keeping their windows and doors shut all day, even through the worst of our last surge. Most of our classrooms in HI DOE schools have no other ventilation other than the ability to open windows and doors to let the predominant Tradewinds through. So a requirement that windows and doors must remain open in any and all classroom spaces while occupied could be a prudent alternate mitigation among other mitigation layers that MUST be put in place before the mask requirement is lifted.

Ideally, I would see all these mitigations and more implemented while maintaining the mask requirement. At least until we know we are past any reasonable risk of a substantially more virulent variant, one that causes more severe disease or higher risks of death or disability. I personally, as a parent, will not be sending my student back into a HI DOE classroom until I am convinced that adequate mitigation has been implemented and properly enforced or until I feel that our scientific and medical community has provided us with far more reliable vaccines and therapeutics. And that means that I, as a former teacher and substitute teacher within the HI DOE, will also not be able to return to the classroom either. However, just keeping the mask requirement in place would do a lot to ease the worries that I have about my student and I returning to campus. Even with the sometimes inappropriate or incomplete masking under the current policy in force now, this mitigation alone provides a large benefit. One large enough that I know personal mitigation choices could adequately reduce my family's risks and I would finally be comfortable returning to campus. So I am asking you to at a minimum, keep the mask requirements in place for the remainder of this year and either plan to keep it in place for the entirety of next year or implement all the other ventilation and filtration mitigations that should have been implemented and enforced starting at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, as they were in so many other school districts around the country.

Sincerely,

Mara Hanson

Former Emergency Hire Middle School Science Teacher and Substitute Teacher for the HI DOE

Parent of a former HI DOE student

HTSB Provisional Lic #49069



Testimony

1 message

kumuheather-5@yahoo.com <kumuheather-5@yahoo.com>
To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 11:22 AM

Heather Strait
Parent of a child in Hawaii DOE
Regarding Agenda Item VI. A. Masking in public schools
Position: Oppose masking

Aloha e BOE,

I strongly oppose the continued masking of our keiki in public schools on both religious and medical grounds.

Children are the image bearers of God and facemasks cover their God-like image.

Facemasks have caused severe acne in many children, including my own son.

Facemasks make communication between teachers and students extremely difficult, especially for students with auditory processing disorders or other learning disabilities. Facemasks prevent children from seeing smiles and other important facial expressions. Wearing a mask can be really hard for children with anxiety, sensory differences, and autism. Some children feel panicked when a mask is put on them. Some children feel scared.

Aloha!

As a parent and Hawaii registered voter, I am requesting that you allow mask wearing at schools to be a choice.

Included in this letter are over 30 medical journal references and articles that state that face masks are useless against COVID19. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, "Face Masks should not be worn by healthy individuals to protect themselves from acquiring respiratory infection because there is no evidence to suggest that face masks worn by healthy individuals are effective in preventing people from becoming ill." JAMA March 4, 2020

Now that the mandates have lifted in our State, I can take my kids on planes for hours without a mask but I have to tell them to wear it at school for hours.

My kids and I can eat at restaurants indoors, sit for hours at the movie theater, shop and hang out at the mall... But they still have to wear a mask for hours at school.

The kids *should have an option* to wear the masks!

According to the CDC, the community rates in Hawaii were low and just went to medium. But is that based on faulty PCR tests that are not even meant to diagnose anything? Or tests that were recalled in Dec. 2021 for it not being able to distinguish itself from the flu?

If the DOE follows DOH and CDC guidelines, MASK wearing should be optional. Current CDC guidelines only recommend those with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with Covid19 to wear a mask.

Please help end the school year, allowing our kids to be critical thinkers - not followers who obey rules that go against the science.

Thank you for your time.

Public school parent

- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.18.21257385v1.full-text>
- <https://swprs.org/face-masks-evidence/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29395560/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32590322/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15340662/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26579222/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31159777/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/>
- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.01.20049528v1>
- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.30.20047217v2>
- <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>
- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2749214>
- <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/188/8/567>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5779801/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19216002/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/>
- <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/65/11/1934/4068747>
- https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/bio/23/2/23_61/_pdf/-char/en

- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01658736>
- [https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/0195-6701\(91\)90148-2/pdf90148-2/pdf](https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/0195-6701(91)90148-2/pdf90148-2/pdf)
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2493952/pdf/annrcse01509-0009.pdf>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20200717141836/https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>
- <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25776/rapid-expert-consultation-on-the-effectiveness-of-fabric-masks-for-the-covid-19-pandemic-april-8-2020>
- <https://www.nap.edu/read/25776/chapter/1#6>
- https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article
- <https://academic.oup.com/annweh/article/54/7/789/202744>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6599448/>
- <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-1342>
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00392-020-01704-y>
- <https://clinmedjournals.org/articles/jide/journal-of-infectious-diseases-and-epidemiology-jide-6-130.php?jid=jide>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1130147308702355>



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

NO PERSONAL INFORMATION

1 message

[REDACTED]
to: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 1:41 PM

Agenda Item: masking the keiki /general business meeting

Position: OPPOSE

Board of Education,

I am submitting written testimony on this day 5/5/22 to the Board of Education to OPPOSE the continued masking of the children at ALL schools(private, charter/public) in the state of Hawaii.

There is no reason why the children should continue to mask when the entire nation is no longer doing it. We are the ONLY state allowing this to happen and this needs to end NOW! There is no longer an emergency pandemic and it is NOT law to continue this. The masks DO NOT WORK and are ineffective and children are NOT at risk of dying from COVID-19. They have a 99.97% survival rate. To continue masking the children at this point in time is unethical, unlawful and unacceptable.

The real reason they are continuing to mask the children of Hawaii is because of the federal funding that they are receiving and will continue to receive from the ESSER funding.

As The Board of Education, do you really care about the health and well being of the keiki? That is something that you need to ask yourselves. The truth will be apparent with your actions on this subject and We THE PEOPLE will see the truth unfold after your decision is made. May GOD BLESS you with wisdom and discernment in making the right decision for WE THE PEOPLE, KEIKI, PARENTS and GRANDPARENTS of HAWAII and OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME.

Mahalo,

Disgruntled Parent



Testimony

1 message

Mara H <marahollaway@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 1:43 PM

General Business Meeting

Re: Item V.G. Board Action on findings and recommendations of Investigative Committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 92-2.5(b)(1)) investigating issues relating to search for a superintendent: process for Board interview of finalists

In opposition to Caprice Young being selected for this position

Aloha Chair Payne and Distinguished Members of the Board.

I am testifying in opposition to Caprice Young being brought in as the new Superintendent of Schools for the Hawaii DOE, and in support of Darrell Galera or Keith Hayashi as better candidates for the position.

Her track record shows a few very undesirable factors. Although she was a Board Member for the LA Unified School District for 4 years, that public school system seems to have been left in a weaker and less stable state after her tenure. After leaving that position, she went on to head an organization that pushed for funding and creation of Charter Schools in California. While Charters schools are often marketed as providing "choice" for public school system parents and students, they also funnel public education funds away from neighborhood public schools and they do not serve the full spectrum of learners that a conventional public school is mandated to serve and support. She also seems to have no classroom or campus based administration experience in her background that I have found. All of these factors make her far too similar to our last Superintendent, who had to be asked to resign after her 1st 3 year contract for fear of being fired. We do NOT need another Kishimoto.

In contrast, I see much positive in the background for both Mr. Galera and Mr. Hayashi. Both of these gentlemen have experience both as classroom teachers and campus administrators in our local school system. Both were on the ESSA task force, contributing their efforts to developing the HI DOE policies that allow our school system to meet the Federal standards of the ESSA law. I understand that Mr. Galera may have contributed to that effort at a greater degree. Mr. Galera was also a member of our local Board of Education until he, responsibly and ethically, resigned prior to applying for the position of Superintendent 5 years ago. Mr. Hayashi has shown his dedication to our public schools by, on 2 separate occasions, stepping up to take on the acting superintendent role. He is also obviously well suited to the task of helping to bring transformative change WITHIN all of our public schools, with his success bringing positive change to the educational opportunities and options at Waipahu High School.

In summary, I would prefer to see one of our more qualified, dedicated local candidates hired into the Superintendent position. Perhaps even consider hiring them both into the most upper level positions within our DOE's administration. With a preference for the candidate that would be best suited to navigate our schools through the ongoing challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and best suited to help transform our public schools nimbly to meet ongoing pandemic era safety demands and real 21st century educational expectations and needs.

Mahalo!

Mara Hanson

Hawaii Parent of a school aged student and former educational employee



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Michelle Reinhardt <mreinhardt718@icloud.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 2:43 PM

It is completely unacceptable that our keiki are still being forced to wear a mask in school. Think about the 5 senses and how important every one of those senses are in learning and development. We are the ONLY state punishing our future leaders with this nonsense. Me and so many others all can attest and agree that this is completely unnecessary. Parents should have a voice and a CHOICE first and foremost.

Michelle Reinhardt

Sent from my iPhone



Testimony

1 message

Natalie Portugal <natalieportugal@hotmail.com>

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 3:21 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Hello,

My name is Natalie Portugal. I'm testifying against universal indoor masking in public schools to the General Business Meeting. I have 3 children attending public schools on Oahu.

I have been taking the pandemic very seriously including vaccinating myself, husband, and all my children as soon as we were eligible.

My issue is not with masks but with requiring masks at school when the data doesn't support it and community metrics and guidelines are in contradiction to it.

My main point is that if the community is not required to wear masks, it should likewise not be required at school.

What I want to know is: Under what conditions and specific data will you no longer require masks in schools? The public deserves to know the clear metrics that it will take to end the mask requirement in schools.

Right now, with the way things are, I, along with many others, cannot understand the logic behind masks in schools any longer. If people can go to other gatherings, even in large numbers, without masks in Hawaii then why are schools not held to this same standard?

If tourists are allowed into our state without being tested or being required to wear masks, why are our keiki not allowed the same right to choose whether or not to wear a mask?

In February 2022 Greta Massetti, director of the COVID-19 Response Incident Management Team said: "Children are more likely to have asymptomatic or mild infections" and "we know that children are relatively at lower risk from severe illness and schools can be safe places for children."

"So for that reason," she said, "we're recommending that schools use the same guidance that we are recommending in general community settings."

By having transparent guidelines, we ensure trust and transparency – not politics and fear – are guiding decisions regarding mask wearing.

As per the CDC website today, May 5, 2022 the Honolulu county is not high risk nor is any other county in Hawaii. According to the CDC only if you live in a high-risk county: should you be required to wear a mask indoors (including in K-12 schools).

The CDC's new metrics rely on rates of illness and hospital capacity, rather than just total numbers of COVID-19 cases. The new guidance stresses individual decision making. So according to the CDC's guidelines we should currently not be requiring masks in schools in Hawaii.

I move to make masks optional in schools immediately and indefinitely unless virus rates in the community rise above a certain threshold which would put us in the high risk category according to the CDC and these metrics will be disclosed in advance to the public.

Many schools in Hawaii do not have air conditioning and are set up with many windows which create a cross breeze. School is conducted with windows and doors open. So these classrooms should be considered to have the same safety level as outside. Since masks are not required outside at school, individual schools or classrooms with these settings should be exempt from requiring masks.

On March 8, 2022 the governor said most of us are safe without masks indoors.
Why do you consider schools to be different from any other indoor setting?

Masks at school have become moot. Requiring masks at school under current conditions is a false sense of security for those who live by fear. It is clear that the BOE is making this decision based on opinions and fear, not facts. Furthermore, they are overstepping their rights and jurisdiction by making decisions that should be made individually.

I request a town hall meeting so that we can get answers to our questions.

In conclusion if the community is not required to wear masks, it should likewise not be required at school. Therefore, masks should immediately become optional at school. There needs to be clear metrics publicly announced under which masks will and won't be required at school that are backed up by data and science. Without this it is not ethical or justifiable to enforce masks at school.

I, along with many others, want a response to this. We deserve that at least.

Thank you,

Natalie Portugal
512.636.6159



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USA
May 5, 2022

Aloha Hawaii Board of Education Members,

This letter is written in support of Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi as our next Superintendent.

I am unable to testify virtually because of previous school commitments. As such, please accept this written testimony in support of Mr. Hayashi. My name is Justin Mew, Principal at Kaiser High School. I have served the Hawaii Department of Education as a school principal since 2003. I have seen many, many changes in the way the Department of Education does business and the different leadership styles of our Superintendents in my 41 years as an educator in the Department.

Your search committee has released the name of the top three applicants for the position. I have known Mr. Darrel Galera and he is worthy of consideration as one of the top three finalists. He and I were selected as Hawaii State Principals of the Year in 2010. Having collaborated with him frequently over the past two decades, I believe that Darrel is a viable candidate.

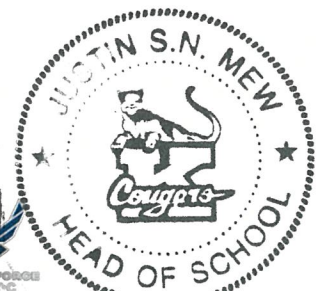
However, given the current pandemic-influenced, ever-changing educational landscape, I believe strongly that Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi is the right person at the right time and in the right position in the Hawaii Department of Education to move us forward.

This is the second time that Mr. Hayashi has been asked to serve as the Interim Superintendent and I believe firmly that he has the experience and the knowledge of the job to make a difference. Interim Superintendent Hayashi has helped the Department navigate through some very challenging times and during the pandemic, he has made the tough decisions that needed to be made. Some decisions, while not popular, allowed the Department to provide for the safe return of our students to the classroom. Interim Superintendent Hayashi has also successfully lobbied the legislature and has brought home the necessary funds for our schools to not only survive but thrive despite the challenges. The Department of Education Budget for SY22-23 looks pretty good.

I am asking the Hawaii State Board of Education to appoint Mr. Hayashi the next Superintendent of Education for the State of Hawaii. I firmly believe that Interim Superintendent Hayashi will make the necessary changes and provide the very best for the children of Hawaii just as he transformed Waipahu High School into a Nationally Recognized School. His good works as principal changed his community. I believe that the State of Hawaii is ready for a visionary leader - one who truly cares about all of us. Mr. Hayashi deserves a shot at being our Superintendent without having his hands tied (as Interim). He deserves a chance to pick his own Leadership Team and the chance to put into motion his vision of excellence for the *keiki o' ka 'aina*.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Sincerely,

Justin S.N. Mew





Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Mask at Schools

3 messages

Yuki Laliberte <yuki@luvarealestate.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 12:04 PM

Position :
TAKE OFF Masks from children

It has been 2 years. What we know now, masks dont work and only restrict the learning and growth of children.

At this point Covid has turned into a mild cold. Lets move forward and stop the torture of young children. They need to see the adults/ teachers smile.



Yuki Laliberte REALTOR®
SALESPERSON & PARTNER • RS-74626

yuki@luvarealestate.com
[808.769.1998](tel:808.769.1998) [808.769.5111](tel:808.769.5111)
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Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Yuki Laliberte <yuki@luvarealestate.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 12:26 PM

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. This email address is specifically designed to receive public testimony for upcoming Board of Education meeting agenda items. Attached please find the links to the most recent agendas for the Board's Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2022. Please identify what agenda item your testimony is related to or it will not be listed as public testimony.

May 5, 2022 Human Resources Committee Meeting (hawaii.gov)
May 5, 2022 General Business Meeting (hawaii.gov)

Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

[Quoted text hidden]

Yuki Laliberte <yuki@luvarealestate.com>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 5:17 PM

General Business meeting - indoor masking for public schools
[Quoted text hidden]



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Asthma child

1 message

Rachel Regnier <phoenixwarriorproject@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 11:59 AM

My name is Rachel Regnier. I recently apparently have been banned from entering any Hawaii state public Department of Education property for exercising my right to deny the mandate, a mandate is not a law and no laws have been set into motion to force us to do so my son shall not be demanded to wear a mask because a mandate is not a law this is a public school education system funded by we the people governed by we the people.. I have asked the school To please not force my son to wear a mask as wearing a mask over his mouth 8 hours A-day 5 days a week has caused him to have shortness of breath and quite Bad breath and tooth decay problems now. After 2 years of having to wear a mask in the State of Hawaii the Children that are to be required to wear this material are breathing in in some plastic man made synthetic from synthetic paper over their mouth containing plastics These products Made in China or India sometimes are also being made in unsanitary conditions.. In 1913 in the Spanish flu pandemic pandemic most of the people that died died after the Spanish flu was predominantly bacterial pneumonia infections it has been proven that masks mass can cause strep throat. speech impediment. Inpetigo and bacterial infections. I should not as a single mom have to pay for a doctor to go and have my son retested Under the Hawaii state mandate for him to have an exemption I have the right to exercise my freedom of religion and my freedom of speech As well as my medical freedom I shouldn't have to pay so that it can be on record that my son will not wear a mask again this is a public school my public's tax dollars pay for his education and the teacher salaries if you have any further questions you can reach me at phoenixwarriorproject@gmail.com.

com Mahalo

Rachel Regnier



Fwd: Testimony

1 message

BOE Hawaii <boe.hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 1:06 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pete "Aloha" Tingstrom** <pete.tingstrom@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:14 PM
Subject: Testimony
To: <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>, <BOE.Hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov>

Pete Tingstrom

Meeting: May 5th General Business Meeting; VI.A. Presentation on universal indoor masking in public schools
Position: Oppose

We better collectively understand how the virus spreads and what is needed to reduce community transmission, I believe it falls within the rights of parents and legal guardians (with communication with their doctor) to decide whether their child should wear a mask at school. Additionally, by using a commonsense approach of keeping a student at home when they show symptoms of being sick, schools can limit the spread of viral disease, negating a need for a mask mandate.

Our students are some of the only children in the United States that are mandated to wear masks. The Hawai'i Department of Education is not following the science. Our children are the least susceptible population for COVID-19, and according to the World Health Organization, they advise against children wearing masks. The wearing of masks has been detrimental to a student's development. In fact, these alarming missives asserted, masking rules could lead to permanent psychological and social damage for kids across the globe. Numerous scientific papers have established that it can be harder to hear and understand speech and identify facial expressions and emotions when people are wearing masks.

Some children are fine wearing a mask, but others struggle. Those who have myopia can have difficulty seeing because the mask fogs their glasses. (This has long been a problem for medical students in the operating room.) Masks can cause severe acne and other skin problems. The discomfort of a mask distracts some children from learning. By increasing airway resistance during exhalation, masks can lead to increased levels of carbon dioxide in the blood. And masks can be vectors for pathogens if they become moist or are used for too long.

Some research has even suggested that the flu poses a greater danger than COVID-19. The risk of severe disease to healthy children has been low from the start of the pandemic, as our understanding and treatments continue to improve, these risks continue to decline.

Continued mask mandates will see an increase in behavioral health challenges for students and teachers alike, and with an already stressed support system at our schools and local health centers, the mask mandates are causing potentially irreparable harm to our children.

Any child who wants to wear a mask should be free to do so. But forcing them to make personal, health and developmental sacrifices for the sake of adults who refuse to get immunized is abusive. Before we order the masking of 56 million Americans who are too young to vote and don't have a lobby, let's see data showing the benefits and weigh them against the long-term harm.

A concerned citizen,
Pete Tingstrom



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Fwd: Testimony

1 message

BOE Hawaii <boe.hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 1:06 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <michael.h.stohner@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, May 4, 2022 at 8:56 PM

Subject: Testimony

To: <BOE.Hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov>

Cc: Pete Aloha <pete.tingstrom@gmail.com>, Nicole Dircks (Mariano Support) <nico.dircks@gmail.com>, Gina Gatanis <ginaaloha@yahoo.com>, Lynn Mariano <Lbmarianosd12@gmail.com>

Aloha,

My name is Michael Stohner, and I am the Communications Director for **gubernatorial candidate, Lynn Mariano**. I am submitting a press release on behalf of Mr. Mariano that outlines his official position on the **Board of Education General Business Meeting, Discussion Item "Presentation on universal indoor masking in public schools."** As outlined in Mr. Mariano's testimony for record, he **opposes** continued mask mandates in schools. Please refer to the attached press release for additional information.

Mahalo,

Michael Stohner

Communications Director

<https://marianoforgovernor.org>

719-205-9292



Mariano Press Release - 202200503 - School Mask Requirements_v3.pdf

171K

2 Year of Science from top Journals of Medicine and Science

There is now 2 years of Science on the masks that tell us they DO NOT WORK to prevent the nano particles from going thru the mask:

So report the 1)AMA, 2)the New England Journal of Medicine, 3)the British Journal of Medicine, 4)Life and Environmental Sciences, 5)American Journal of Infection Control, 6)the Journal of Epidemiology and Infection, 7)the University of Edinburgh, and so on and so on.

A simple experiment people can do themselves: Breathe thru' the mask onto your glasses and you'll see the mist of nano particles on our glasses....it is akin to trying to stop a mosquito from going thru' a chainlink fence. The size of the hole cannot be small enough for you to breathe while stopping the covid nano germ.

The Mainstream Media, now owned by the Power broker Globalists, want the planet for themselves via a One World govt. so their goal is a 93% Depopulation. (This planned goal is written in GRANITE on the "Georgia Guidestones", a granite capital in Georgia. It is not theory.) So the masks are training for submission and sheep-herding while the vaccines are human experimentation as witnessed by our most physically fit humans of the NFL and NBA dropping dead face down on the field and court.

Wake up Masses as you are part of the 93%, unless you are the 7% Multi-billionaire Elites of the planet.



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

DOE mask requirement optional

1 message

Morshe Fae <ttyacke101610@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 1:50 PM

Name: Mrs. Tisha Tyacke
Agenda item: mask
Oppose

I am a mothers who's daughter attends Waikele Elementary School. It has been extremely difficult living here the past two years. Especially for my daughter. It was so hard that I considered staying on the mainland with her when we visited family last year. It's been difficult answering questions that I cannot answer. And it seems the school board can't either.

"Mommy how come my cousins get to go to school but I can't?

"Mommy Ari says she doesn't have to wear a mask at school anymore. (Her cousin Ariana lives in Virginia)

It's truly heartbreaking looking at her face with sadness and frustration because I don't know what to tell her. The run around this past year has been truly eye opening. No wonder Hawai'i Public Schools is a laughing stock across the nation. I would be embarrassed. My family continues to ask "What in the world is going on over there? Come back home". We're the only state that don't make mask optional. And none of it is based on science.

Hawai'i has the best air on Earth. Let our keiki breathe it.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Tyacke



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Robin Johnston <rjsurfboards@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 1:53 PM

Robin Johnston parent/PTCA
General business 1:30pm on May 5
Essers and indoor masking
No Indoor masking!

Indoor masking and the concept that we are under a "state of emergency" has no basis. It is clear that it is only enforced to receive funding. Low hospitalizations illustrate present Covid mutation is a virus no more dangerous than common cold.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Pearl City Highlands Elementary School
1419 Waimano Home Road
Pearl City, HI 96782

May 5, 2022

State of Hawaii Board of Education,

This letter is written in support of Mr. Keith Hayashi, Interim State Superintendent of the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE), being selected as the next Superintendent for the HIDOE. In the months that Mr. Hayashi has served as Interim Superintendent, he has demonstrated the knowledge, patience, and professionalism to effectively lead the field in providing the best public education possible for the students in the State of Hawaii.

Performing at the highest levels under the direction of the current Hawaii State Board of Education and inheriting an entire staff (Assistant Superintendents and Complex Area Superintendents) from his predecessor without the ability to make his own changes, Interim Superintendent Hayashi has still managed to significantly move the Department during these very difficult times.

Mr. Hayashi possesses the vision and commitment to ensure even the most difficult decisions are carried out, not being swayed by public or political pressure. The greatest example of this vital characteristic was demonstrated by his firm stance in returning to in-person learning and remaining with in-person learning for the entirety of school year 2021-2022. It is this same vision and commitment, which created a new culture and climate at Waipahu High School (WHS). Mr. Hayashi's success at WHS is evident by the numerous awards and accolades he and the school received during his tenure. The HIDOE needs a leader with this type of vision and commitment.

Mr. Hayashi understands the systems and protocols of the HIDOE. It may sound simple and mundane but these intricacies and nuances will allow him to move at a faster pace when allocating resources, selecting employees, and communicating with the public and field. Mr. Hayashi understands the importance of developing and maintaining relationships in and out of the HIDOE to ensure success for staff and students-look no further than the success of the academy model and early college at WHS. The HIDOE needs a leader who understand the nuances of the current system and can leverage relationships in and out of the system to create progress for staff and students.

Therefore, it is without hesitation that I support the appointment of Mr. Keith Hayashi as the next Superintendent of the Hawaii State Department of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary Sheets".

Zachary Sheets
Principal



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Waipahu Elementary School
94-465 Waipahu St.
Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

April 19, 2022

State of Hawaii Board of Education,

I am writing this letter in support of Keith Hayashi being the most qualified and the best candidate for being our next Hawaii Department of Education superintendent.

Mr. Hayashi has proven himself as an effective school leader as a teacher, vice principal, principal, and complex area superintendent. I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Hayashi in his various roles over the past 25 years and I have been truly inspired by his visionary leadership skills, humble disposition, and his relentless effort to do what is best for the children of Hawaii.

I believe he has a proven track record of developing community and business partnerships both in our state and abroad and these partnerships have had a positive transformative impact at Waipahu High School, in the Waipahu complex schools, and the Waipahu community. His visionary leadership was also a key factor in the creation of the Hawaii Academies which has grown from 8 high schools in 2010 to over 22 high schools throughout the state of Hawaii.

Mr. Hayashi's wealth of school level, state, and national experience is unsurpassed and makes him an invaluable asset to all schools in our state. His tireless efforts and willingness to continuously go above and beyond is what the keiki of Hawaii truly deserve. I strongly support him as I believe he is the most qualified candidate in leading our state as the next superintendent of education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Aaron Tominaga", is written over a horizontal line.

Aaron Tominaga
Principal
Waipahu Elementary School



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

cullan bell <cullanbell@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 3:11 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Cullan Bell-2022 Maui Mayoral Candidate

General business meeting

Agenda item VI:A

Oppose!! I oppose the mandatory masking of our children! There is no clinical/scientific evidence that proves masks stop the spread of SARS covi2. However, There's a ton of evidence now that shows both physical and mental health issues these masks are bringing about. Why can people from all over the world come here to our home unmasked, and untested, but our children are still being held hostage by these tyrannical mandates. Why are we teaching them that getting sick is a bad thing?! It's part of life. Stop the madness. Leave our keiki alone. This push back will not stop. They are our children; NOT yours!!

--

Cullan Bell

Owner: C. Bell Construction Inc

cullanbell@gmail.com

(808)264-3029



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Ma'ata Tukuafu <maata.tukuafu808@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 3:17 PM

Ma'ata Tukuafu - Concerned grandparent/community citizen

General Business Meeting on May 5, at 1:30PM.

Masking children in public schools

My name is Ma'ata Tukuafu, and I'm writing about the continued masking of our children in public schools. With the mask mandates lifting across the nation, why keep masking our children when they are the least susceptible to covid-19?

It's programming at the deepest level, and it is not good for health, neither does it do anything to stop the spread. Plus masks are no longer required! **I OPPOSE** the continuation of mask mandates for our keiki.

Mahalo,
Ma'ata Tukuafu
808-895-7896



Keiki mask mandate

1 message

miho.a.fichefeux@gmail.com <miho.a.fichefeux@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 4:29 PM

Aloha my name is miho aoki

I have 2 children who are 8 years old and 11 years old who goes to charter school in Kona.

My children often come home really sad

Because their teaches are pushing really hard to make sure kids wear mask. If they don't they need to participate "community service" If they are being punished.

I am very heart breaking when ever my children express such a thing.
they do not like to go school anymore, they actually hate school.

All the business and others states lifted mask mandate. Many hotels and restaurants are not need to wear mask at all, but why only Hawaii school is not lifted yet?
Please give me a strong medical reason.

I strongly request to lift this mandate asap.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony for May 5

1 message

Daniel Smith <lovehealsearthproductions@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 4:57 PM

Aloha,

I hear that an agenda item regarding "universal masking in public schools" is to be heard on May 5th.

As board leaders it is important that you listen to all concerns with diligence.

Take a look at the presentation by Steven Kirsch

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1m10LArf525tCPP2tz4-3OIDjEF99W8YKFTtkV_QEu4k/mobilepresent?slide=id.gf8bd802bb6_2_28

BOE meetings from other have reviewed this serious presentation and have chosen wisely to preserve human right instead of force mandates.

It is your duty to seek the truth.
Seek diligently.

Daniel Smith
808-268-3119



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Fred Hill <startfresh724@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 5:27 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Parents should have the right to choose whether or not their child wears a mask. This is a violation of the Constitution of the United States.



Testimony

2 messages

bkulbis@startmail.com <bkulbis@startmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 12:49 PM

Brett Kulbis (Chair of the Honolulu County Republican Party but testifying as concerned citizen)
BoE Meeting May 5, 2022
Presentation on Universal Masking

STRONGLY OPPOSE the universal indoor masking in public schools.

Aloha Board of Education,

As you are no doubt aware, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Hawai'i Department of Health (DHS), and the governor have made a strong recommendation that students and staff mask indoors. There is a world of difference between a law, mandate and a strong recommendation. The CDC strongly recommends that people not eat raw fish or under-cooked meat, and yet many people, especially in Hawai'i, choose to enjoy Poke and Sushi.

I strongly encourage the BOE/DOE to embrace the flexibility offered in this "strong recommendation" and remove the indoor masking—for all students effective immediately.

I believe the data is firmly on the side of this position. The policy response to COVID, particularly as applied to children, has been nefariously inept. We now have two years' worth of data, and not to use that data to craft better policies and create better outcomes for our children would be simply wicked.

Contrary to Director Hayashi misleading statement in his letter of April 18, 2022:

- With extensive scientific literature supporting the effectiveness of masking to reduce COVID-19 transmission in schools and other settings, the state Department of Health (DOH) still highly recommends that masks be worn indoors at all times at schools and emphasizes layered mitigation measures to keep our schools, students and staff safe.

We now have two years' worth of data that contradicts his opinion. Available clinical evidence of facemask efficacy is of low quality and the best available clinical evidence has mostly failed to show efficacy, with fourteen of sixteen recognized randomized controlled trials comparing face masks to no mask controls failing to find statistically significant benefit. Additionally, that data clearly tells a couple of key things. To wit:

- Masking is a psychological stressor for children and disrupts learning. Covering the lower half of the face of both teacher and pupil reduces the ability to communicate. In particular, children lose the experience of mimicking expressions, an essential tool of nonverbal communication. Positive emotions such as laughing and smiling become less recognizable, and negative emotions get amplified. Bonding between teachers and students takes a hit. Overall, it is likely that masking exacerbates the chances that a child will experience anxiety and depression, which are already at pandemic levels themselves.
- Mask mandates—especially in schools—do not reduce school or community transmission of any respiratory infections.

With these facts in hand, it becomes clear that if we are to continue masking children for COVID, there will be no logical point at which we can un-mask them. Using the arguments currently in vogue, the greater lethality of flu would counsel permanent masking to limit its spread.

Indoor masking of children, like outdoor masking, should be at the discretion of parents! Not elected or unelected bureaucrats, and especially not employees of the State Public School system.

It's time to really do the right thing "for our keiki," and not use those words as an emotional trigger to continue this bad policy.

v/r
Brett Kulbis

Brett Kulbis <bkulbis@startmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 6:01 PM

Brett Kulbis (Chair of the Honolulu County Republican Party but testifying as concerned citizen)
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v/r
Brett Kulbis

2 Year of Science from top Journals of Medicine and Science

There is now 2 years of Science on the masks that tell us they DO NOT WORK to prevent the nano particles from going thru the mask:

So report the 1)AMA, 2)the New England Journal of Medicine, 3)the British Journal of Medicine, 4)Life and Environmental Sciences, 5)American Journal of Infection Control, 6)the Journal of Epidemiology and Infection, 7)the University of Edinburgh, and so on and so on.

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Wake up Masses as you are part of the 93%, unless you are the 7% Multi-billionaire Elites of the planet.



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

testimony

1 message

Paula Daian <info@pauladaian.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 6:53 PM

To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov, testimony@boe.hawaii.gov

>
> I am a mother of two. My daughters used to attend Haiku School and I was a proud member of the PTA and I was always collaborating to help the school and the community.
> When the COVID 19 Pandemic started playing politics with our Kids lives I decided to take my kids out of Hawaii school system and started a homeschooling program instead.
> Now years passed and the Pandemic is almost over all over the US, and we are still seeing our Keikis in Hawaii emotionally abused by their teachers and schools.
> I feel completely disappointed and repulsed by this unconstitutional and illegal act against the children in my community. Hawaii is The only state in America that is still requesting compliance for this illegal act
> Some as many other parents, I also lost my complete trust in the school system and my daughters will never be part of it again.
> As a mother and as as American citizen I request an immediate and complete removal of the mandatory mask against the children.
>
> Mahalo
>
> Paula Daian
>



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Christy Ann Ceraso <christyannceraso@protonmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 7:02 PM

Reply-To: Christy Ann Ceraso <christyannceraso@protonmail.com>

To: "testimony.boe" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Directed to a general business meeting. Testimony concerning the continued policy requiring students and staff to wear masks. I oppose this policy.

Masks are harmful, and not helpful. Please do some research and immediately change this harmful policy. The school board does not have the authority to require medical interventions, period.

Here is a video with peer reviewed studies explaining that masks are ineffective in preventing the spread of illness.

https://rumble.com/v13dkj9-studies-show-vulnerable-people-are-more-likely-to-get-sick-if-people-around.html?mref=6zof&mc=dgip3&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Dr.TomCowan&ep=2

Parent of a HAAS student,
Christy Ann Ceraso

Sent from ProtonMail mobile



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Caren Allen <dandcallen@sbcglobal.net>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 8:07 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Dennis and Caren Allen (Parents)

Regarding Keiki masks.

We Oppose the masks on our children! Enough is enough! Our children are the lease effected of any age group!



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Masks for School Kids

3 messages

Kate Paine <kate@hawaii.rr.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Mon, May 2, 2022 at 5:31 PM

Testimony for upcoming meeting:

Catherine Payne, as BoE Chair, has long been one of the shining examples of model education leadership. In light of that, hoping the rule of mask wearing would follow the science.

Unfortunately, Cvd is a political football that pits mask / no mask into a contentious theater, forcing votes away from reason and education.

Hoping for at least vote is mask optional so fearful parents don't traumatize their kids further.

Kate here!

Kate Paine

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Kate Paine <kate@hawaii.rr.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:03 AM

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. This email address is specifically designed to receive public testimony for upcoming Board of Education meeting agenda items. Attached please find the links to the most recent agendas for the Board's Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2022. Please identify what agenda item your testimony is related to or it will not be listed as public testimony.

[May 5, 2022 Human Resources Committee Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

[May 5, 2022 General Business Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

[Quoted text hidden]

Kate Paine <kate@hawaii.rr.com>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 8:58 PM

I note masks on kids are not agenda's. Was informed incorrectly . Apologies.

Kate here!

On May 4, 2022, at 10:03 AM, Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony: Make masks optional in schools.

3 messages

MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>
Reply-To: MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Tue, May 3, 2022 at 10:21 AM

There is no pandemic. Make masks optional for everyone. The keiki are the least affected by covid. Everyone is responsible for their own health. Stop the hypocrisy and let the keiki breathe! End all covid protocols, they need their childhood back! More people will turn to homeschooling soon if this does not end.

Mahalo for your time,
MrsJR

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:12 AM

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. This email address is specifically designed to receive public testimony for upcoming Board of Education meeting agenda items. Attached please find the links to the most recent agendas for the Board's Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2022. Please identify what agenda item your testimony is related to or it will not be listed as public testimony.

[May 5, 2022 Human Resources Committee Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)
[May 5, 2022 General Business Meeting \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

[Quoted text hidden]

MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>
Reply-To: MrsJR <MrsJRunn@protonmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 9:14 PM

This testimony for 5/5/22 general business meeting. Mahalo.

Sent from ProtonMail mobile

----- Original Message -----

[Quoted text hidden]



Testimony

1 message

Jenny Grace <j3nngrace@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 9:24 PM

Jennifer Grace
Mother
General Business Meeting
Agenda item: Keiki Masks
Position: OPPOSE

Aloha,

I am writing in opposition to the continued requirement of our Keiki having to wear masks at school. In a letter dated April 18, 2022 from the Interim Superintendent, Keith T. Hayashi, he says that the decision to keep our Keiki masked in school is because of the "extensive scientific literature supporting the effectiveness of masking to reduce Covid-19 transmission in schools..."

There's an abundance of medical literature indicating masks are ineffective and can be harmful. This link shows 150 comparative studies and articles compiled by the *Brownstone Insitute* that show face masks are largely ineffective, have no impact on controlling transmission of the Covid-19 virus, and can actually be harmful: <https://brownstone.org/articles/more-than-150-comparative-studies-and-articles-on-mask-ineffectiveness-and-harms/>

This study (<https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/18/8/4344/htm>) from the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* shows prolonged mask use is correlated with significant drops in oxygen, increases in carbon dioxide levels, fatigue, headaches, moisture build-up, temperature rise of the skin and air under the mask, and respiratory impairment.

Masks cause physical and developmental harm. This research from *Frontiers in Psychology* explains that faces hidden by mass make it difficult for other people to decipher facial expressions. This is more detrimental for toddlers, and younger children, who rely on facial cues to develop emotional reasoning and social skills. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8185341/>)

Masks are ineffective at stopping or slowing the spread of respiratory viruses. A study in *The BMJ* (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25903751/>) finds that cloth masks have been shown to actually increase risk of infection.

As the rest of our state has opened up and are no longer forced to wear masks at large gatherings, I believe it is time to allow our Keiki of Hawai'i to be allowed the same freedoms. Our children have been put through so much during this time and it is time that we put them first.

Please follow the science and end the mask mandates on our children!

Mahalo for your time,

Jennifer Grace



Testimony

1 message

The El-Swaifys <sheiksan@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:07 PM

Name: Ayman El-Swaify

Meeting: General Business

Agenda Item: Universal indoor masking in public schools

Position: I am opposed to the masking of children in schools

Mask wearing is ineffective, and the detriments from mask wearing have proven to be worse than the risks of COVID, or of spreading the disease. Please end these requirements immediately.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released two reports about children's health over the course of the pandemic:

1. Pediatric emergency department visits before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., January 2019–January 2022 https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7108e1.htm?s_cid=mm7108e1_w
2. Pediatric emergency department visits associated with mental health conditions before and during the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., January 2019–January 2022 https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7108e2.htm?s_cid=mm7108e2_w

Although the total number of emergency room visits for children dropped during the pandemic, there were increases in ER visits related to mental health problems and self-harm. Several causes are to blame including lockdowns, social isolation and masking; all of which interfere with the need for healthy human interaction.

For the love of our keiki, please end this ineffective remnant of government control and let them breath and interact fully with one another in school.

Mahalo,

-Ayman El-Swaify



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony on Indoor Masking in Schools

1 message

Kehaulani Avicolli <alohaavicolli@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:52 PM

To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Aloha,

I am sharing my testimony to voice my concern and opposition around the current mandate of indoor masking in schools. I am a Native Hawaiian and mother of 2 school aged keiki and we are demanding that the indoor masking gets lifted as the other covid restrictions have. Please give everyone the right to choose if wearing masks is the best health option for their child or family. It is not right to force any decision on anyone regarding personal health, especially our keiki who are not able to advocate for themselves or consent to this. It is the right of the parents to decide. Not only does research show how low of a risk the connection between children and covid is in general, but to continue this requirement in schools while most of society gets the choice is inappropriate and unnecessary. It does not make sense to enforce this upon our children in school who depend on a safe and open environment to learn. It is damaging what is being normalized in schools and kids have been missing out on facial expressions and interactions that are a healthy part of development. Kids are behind academically and emotionally because of this unnecessary and toxic barrier. Breathing open fresh air is vital and what a shame it is to take that away from our growing future. Why should they suffer? If its to protect families, teachers, and staff, that seems like an irrational fear issue amongst these grown adults. Children are being programmed to be afraid of others, to fear all germs or even sneezing with a normal cold or illness, and are finding irrational safety behind the mask, that all along has not been proven (most are wearing cloth or mesh masks) to protect in the first place. This has become such a problem within homes and families as well. Please consider these concerns and make the right decision for Hawai'i and our keiki.

Mahalo for your time,

Kehaulani Avicolli



Testimony

1 message

Jamie Toyofuku <jmtoyofuku@gmail.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 11:50 PM

To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Cc: wethepeople808@protonmail.com

General Business Meeting

RE: children wearing masks in schools

Stance: I strongly oppose mask mandates for children in schools

I am a married mother of 4 children. Last year we had to make the difficult decision to pull 2 of my children out from their public school and change to a homeschool curriculum. There were several instances that caused us to arrive at this decision. One of the main reasons was that my children were wearing masks for 6-7 hours a day without enough opportunities or reminders to take water breaks, leaving them dehydrated and coming home with headaches and fatigue. My son was not allowed to bring his hydroflask into the classroom or the cafeteria at one point until we had to address it with the faculty members. Since the school classified headaches as a symptom of Covid-19, my children often had to stay home from school and test a or get a doctor's note. This created inconsistency with their daily learning agendas, stress and frustration from us to take off from work and strain on their teachers to try to adjust with online and in-class combined teaching. My sons were not allowed to play or socialize with their peers at all, and eventually they expressed that they did not enjoy school and no longer wanted to engage in that learning environment. That broke our hearts as parents when we saw our children coming home from school with chapped lips from lack of water, peeling hands from overuse of hand sanitizer, and depressed spirits from lack of social enjoyment.

Our youngest daughter attends preschool where they are still forced to wear masks everyday also. I have been back and forth in communication and discussion with the school and the Department of Human Services because I want my daughter to have the option of not wearing mask in school. My daughter has a history of epilepsy and wearing a mask decreases the necessary oxygen intake to her brain and body. When I asked a representative of the DHS why my 4 year old child has to wear a mask in school, their reasoning was that children at this age aren't able to get vaccinated yet. As a parent, I will protect my child as much as I can by being proactive with a healthy lifestyle and educating myself so I can make the best decisions for my family. So far, Hawaii's data and further research show that there is no significant risk to my child's health from the Covid virus that justifies making her wear a mask in school. There are, however, many reports surfacing of the detrimental effects that mask wearing has on a child's motor development and learning abilities.

I believe education in a classroom setting is very important and aids in kids' growth and learning both socially and intellectually. However, as a parent, I will always prioritize my children's health, safety and well being. Do not punish our children with these mask mandates. Give accountability, respect and good authority back to the families to be able to choose what's best for their children.

Regards,

Jamie Toyofuku



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Heidy Clawson <heidy_clawson@mac.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 11:16 PM

I feel like I am living in a very bad nightmarish Movie, where, incredibly enough, everywhere you go adults are finally allowed to gather with no masks and little innocent children who are the ones that should've been free a long time ago are still suffering this abuse.

I am shocked and I can't believe the world we are living now where adults are priority instead of our children.

Heidy swift



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

testimony general business meeting - MASKS- NO

1 message

Juhl Rayne <juhlkrayne@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 7:40 AM

aloha,
my name is Juhl Rayne a concerned citizen....
STOP with the mask mandates and the pushing of these life extinguishing measures for the children of Hawaii....

Hawaii Aloha - BREATH..... not STOP the breath...
we have to breath to live, children need to see smiles, there is NO data proving that masks do any good... they do harm to the physical body, spiritual self, emotional and mental bodies....this is training our children to be unseen, unheard, and unloved while swimming in their own waste of bacterial exhale.
childrens IQ's have decreased 20-30% since this ridiculous, unlawful, illegal shinanigans began. STOP already and wake up to the tyranny,
you will be held accountable for the health and wellbeing of our children as some point... in this life or another.
mahalo,
Juhl Rayne



Testimony - Support

1 message

Mara H <marahollaway@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 10:18 AM

General Business Meeting

Presentation on universal indoor masking in public schools

Testimony In Support of the continued mask requirements

Aloha Chair Payne and Board of Education Members!

I am writing in support of the continued use of masks in indoor settings on our school campuses.

We still, as a state, are seeing uncontrolled spread of more and more infections variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Just yesterday we saw the most recent release of the Hawaii DOH's numbers, which they admit are a vast undercount of the actual cases occurring each day. Per their numbers 4249 people were officially diagnosed with COVID-19 in a single week. Dividing that number by 7 gives you 607 people a day infected in our state. And this was the 6th week of massive increases in cases, which have been roughly doubling every other week. Leaving us at numbers 500% that of those reported 6 weeks ago! We are now seeing our hospital beds again fill with patients dealing with COVID infection, seeing the number of patients hospitalized with COVID more than double in 1 month. And our ICUs went from finally free of all COVID related patients put there during the last surge to 7 new COVID ICU patient in just a matter of 2 or 3 days. In the last couple of weeks our state has also announced 10 or more deaths from COVID each week. Indicating that the way our ICUs clear of patients may not always be via the happier outcomes.

All this matters because our children are a part of their community. The folks contracting COVID and sometimes heading into our hospitals and ICUs...and even passing away...are the grandparents, aunts and uncles of children in our schools. So these hospitalizations and deaths are putting emotional and mental strain on our children. They are leading to anxiety and grief. In the last 3 months, I have heard several educators share their experience handling the emotional fallout of students who confided that they thought they had taken COVID home to their family members who ended up very ill or did not recover. Just THIS should be enough for us to not only keep the mask requirement in place until we are many months past our "last" case surge, or until there are more sure-fire vaccines and therapeutics. But there is more reason than that.

There have now been studies that conclusively show a correlation between mask requirements in school and a lower overall community transmission rate of this virus. ([More children were hospitalized for COVID during omicron, CDC study finds. Most were unvaccinated. \(yahoo.com\)](#)) So the concept that COVID is not spreading on school campuses can now be placed in the "patently false" trash bin. Kids ARE getting the virus on our campuses, and then they are taking it home to their families. This is affecting our most underserved communities the most profoundly, and so maintaining the mask requirement is both a Community Health issue and an Equity issue. Changing this mitigation factor would likely even have a negative effect on our economy, as more spread would leave more people unable to work at the same time, much like what we experienced during the first omicron surge.

There is also the issue that newer variants are affecting unvaccinated children, even those with no underlying conditions, with more serious disease more frequently than we saw in the past. And the vast majority of our students under 12 are still unvaccinated. Since our public school system serves not only our average, typical, healthy students, but also is mandated to serve students with health concerns – including incredibly high health concerns that cause the effected to be medically fragile – we must keep our campuses the safest spaces in our state. Otherwise we risk seeing the Hawaii public school system hit with the type of lawsuits being brought against some mainland school

districts when medically compromised students are put at risk or even infected due to lack of masking and other mitigations.

SARS-CoV-2 is not the by any means first time we have seen a virus that can cause death or long term injury to a significant fraction of the people it infects. For instance, Polio leaves roughly 2% of the people it infects with nerve damage so severe it cause an acute onset paralysis. We think of these Polio issues as a thing of the past here in the U.S. and other more developed countries. But, did you know that there is a condition called Post-Polio Syndrome? Per U.K. studies, this affects somewhere between 15% and 80% of Polio survivors, even those with absolutely no lingering acute effects of illness nor any reinfection. It is a group of symptoms that can appear 15 to 40 years after the virus was cleared from the body, and it can cause issues including progressively worse muscle and joint pain and weakness, progressive muscle atrophy, progressive chronic fatigue, and can even result in swallowing and breathing problems. ([Post-polio syndrome - Symptoms and causes - Mayo Clinic](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/post-polio-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20355669)) So we must consider that there may be more than acute onset risks associated with viral infections, and until we have allowed our scientists and doctors study the consequences of infection, we should act with all due caution on behalf of our students and their families.

There are, though, other mitigations that could be enacted to help minimize the need for masking. Our school rooms could all be inspected and tested by ventilation experts to determine the proper ventilation improvements to make to increase the rate of complete air changes per hour. This limits the potential exposure risk to each student or staff member in the room should an unknowingly contagious individual be present. The number of air filters in each room could be increased as well, further minimizing the risk. Or, there could be a mass drive to make and distribute Corsi-Rosenthal boxes to every room being used as either a classroom, office or other mass gathering space on campus. Our schools have CO2 monitors, but many schools are either not using them or using them improperly – taking readings only when the room is empty. So even implementing rules and mandates that would require these measurements be taken and logged for each classroom at least once each hour or class period every day. I also have heard from those working as both permanent and substitute teachers that many teachers are keeping their windows and doors shut all day, even through the worst of our last surge. Most of our classrooms in HI DOE schools have no other ventilation other than the ability to open windows and doors to let the predominant Tradewinds through. So a requirement that windows and doors must remain open in any and all classroom spaces while occupied could be a prudent alternate mitigation among other mitigation layers that MUST be put in place before the mask requirement is lifted.

Ideally, I would see all these mitigations and more implemented while maintaining the mask requirement. At least until we know we are past any reasonable risk of a substantially more virulent variant, one that causes more severe disease or higher risks of death or disability. I personally, as a parent, will not be sending my student back into a HI DOE classroom until I am convinced that adequate mitigation has been implemented and properly enforced or until I feel that our scientific and medical community has provided us with far more reliable vaccines and therapeutics. And that means that I, as a former teacher and substitute teacher within the HI DOE, will also not be able to return to the classroom either. However, just keeping the mask requirement in place would do a lot to ease the worries that I have about my student and I returning to campus. Even with the sometimes inappropriate or incomplete masking under the current policy in force now, this mitigation alone provides a large benefit. One large enough that I know personal mitigation choices could adequately reduce my family's risks and I would finally be comfortable returning to campus. So I am asking you to at a minimum, keep the mask requirements in place for the remainder of this year and either plan to keep it in place for the entirety of next year or implement all the other ventilation and filtration mitigations that should have been implemented and enforced starting at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, as they were in so many other school districts around the country.

Sincerely,

Mara Hanson

Former Emergency Hire Middle School Science Teacher and Substitute Teacher for the HI DOE

Parent of a former HI DOE student

HTSB Provisional Lic #49069



Testimony

1 message

kumuheather-5@yahoo.com <kumuheather-5@yahoo.com>
To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 11:22 AM

Heather Strait
Parent of a child in Hawaii DOE
Regarding Agenda Item VI. A. Masking in public schools
Position: Oppose masking

Aloha e BOE,

I strongly oppose the continued masking of our keiki in public schools on both religious and medical grounds.

Children are the image bearers of God and facemasks cover their God-like image.

Facemasks have caused severe acne in many children, including my own son.

Facemasks make communication between teachers and students extremely difficult, especially for students with auditory processing disorders or other learning disabilities. Facemasks prevent children from seeing smiles and other important facial expressions. Wearing a mask can be really hard for children with anxiety, sensory differences, and autism. Some children feel panicked when a mask is put on them. Some children feel scared.

Aloha!

As a parent and Hawaii registered voter, I am requesting that you allow mask wearing at schools to be a choice.

Included in this letter are over 30 medical journal references and articles that state that face masks are useless against COVID19. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, "Face Masks should not be worn by healthy individuals to protect themselves from acquiring respiratory infection because there is no evidence to suggest that face masks worn by healthy individuals are effective in preventing people from becoming ill." JAMA March 4, 2020

Now that the mandates have lifted in our State, I can take my kids on planes for hours without a mask but I have to tell them to wear it at school for hours.

My kids and I can eat at restaurants indoors, sit for hours at the movie theater, shop and hang out at the mall... But they still have to wear a mask for hours at school.

The kids *should have an option* to wear the masks!

According to the CDC, the community rates in Hawaii were low and just went to medium. But is that based on faulty PCR tests that are not even meant to diagnose anything? Or tests that were recalled in Dec. 2021 for it not being able to distinguish itself from the flu?

If the DOE follows DOH and CDC guidelines, MASK wearing should be optional. Current CDC guidelines only recommend those with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with Covid19 to wear a mask.

Please help end the school year, allowing our kids to be critical thinkers - not followers who obey rules that go against the science.

Thank you for your time.

Public school parent

- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.18.21257385v1.full-text>
- <https://swprs.org/face-masks-evidence/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29395560/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32590322/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15340662/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26579222/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31159777/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/>
- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.01.20049528v1>
- <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.30.20047217v2>
- <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2006372>
- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2749214>
- <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/188/8/567>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5779801/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19216002/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4420971/>
- <https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/65/11/1934/4068747>
- https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/bio/23/2/23_61/_pdf/-char/en

- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/BF01658736>
- [https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/0195-6701\(91\)90148-2/pdf90148-2/pdf](https://www.journalofhospitalinfection.com/article/0195-6701(91)90148-2/pdf90148-2/pdf)
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2493952/pdf/annrcse01509-0009.pdf>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20200717141836/https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/04/commentary-masks-all-covid-19-not-based-sound-data>
- <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25776/rapid-expert-consultation-on-the-effectiveness-of-fabric-masks-for-the-covid-19-pandemic-april-8-2020>
- <https://www.nap.edu/read/25776/chapter/1#6>
- https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/5/19-0994_article
- <https://academic.oup.com/annweh/article/54/7/789/202744>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6599448/>
- <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-1342>
- <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00392-020-01704-y>
- <https://clinmedjournals.org/articles/jide/journal-of-infectious-diseases-and-epidemiology-jide-6-130.php?jid=jide>
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1130147308702355>



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

NO PERSONAL INFORMATION

1 message

[REDACTED]
to: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 1:41 PM

Agenda Item: masking the keiki /general business meeting

Position: OPPOSE

Board of Education,

I am submitting written testimony on this day 5/5/22 to the Board of Education to OPPOSE the continued masking of the children at ALL schools(private, charter/public) in the state of Hawaii.

There is no reason why the children should continue to mask when the entire nation is no longer doing it. We are the ONLY state allowing this to happen and this needs to end NOW! There is no longer an emergency pandemic and it is NOT law to continue this. The masks DO NOT WORK and are ineffective and children are NOT at risk of dying from COVID-19. They have a 99.97% survival rate. To continue masking the children at this point in time is unethical, unlawful and unacceptable.

The real reason they are continuing to mask the children of Hawaii is because of the federal funding that they are receiving and will continue to receive from the ESSER funding.

As The Board of Education, do you really care about the health and well being of the keiki? That is something that you need to ask yourselves. The truth will be apparent with your actions on this subject and We THE PEOPLE will see the truth unfold after your decision is made. May GOD BLESS you with wisdom and discernment in making the right decision for WE THE PEOPLE, KEIKI, PARENTS and GRANDPARENTS of HAWAII and OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME.

Mahalo,

Disgruntled Parent



Testimony

1 message

Mara H <marahollaway@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 1:43 PM

General Business Meeting

Re: Item V.G. Board Action on findings and recommendations of Investigative Committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 92-2.5(b)(1)) investigating issues relating to search for a superintendent: process for Board interview of finalists

In opposition to Caprice Young being selected for this position

Aloha Chair Payne and Distinguished Members of the Board.

I am testifying in opposition to Caprice Young being brought in as the new Superintendent of Schools for the Hawaii DOE, and in support of Darrell Galera or Keith Hayashi as better candidates for the position.

Her track record shows a few very undesirable factors. Although she was a Board Member for the LA Unified School District for 4 years, that public school system seems to have been left in a weaker and less stable state after her tenure. After leaving that position, she went on to head an organization that pushed for funding and creation of Charter Schools in California. While Charters schools are often marketed as providing "choice" for public school system parents and students, they also funnel public education funds away from neighborhood public schools and they do not serve the full spectrum of learners that a conventional public school is mandated to serve and support. She also seems to have no classroom or campus based administration experience in her background that I have found. All of these factors make her far too similar to our last Superintendent, who had to be asked to resign after her 1st 3 year contract for fear of being fired. We do NOT need another Kishimoto.

In contrast, I see much positive in the background for both Mr. Galera and Mr. Hayashi. Both of these gentlemen have experience both as classroom teachers and campus administrators in our local school system. Both were on the ESSA task force, contributing their efforts to developing the HI DOE policies that allow our school system to meet the Federal standards of the ESSA law. I understand that Mr. Galera may have contributed to that effort at a greater degree. Mr. Galera was also a member of our local Board of Education until he, responsibly and ethically, resigned prior to applying for the position of Superintendent 5 years ago. Mr. Hayashi has shown his dedication to our public schools by, on 2 separate occasions, stepping up to take on the acting superintendent role. He is also obviously well suited to the task of helping to bring transformative change WITHIN all of our public schools, with his success bringing positive change to the educational opportunities and options at Waipahu High School.

In summary, I would prefer to see one of our more qualified, dedicated local candidates hired into the Superintendent position. Perhaps even consider hiring them both into the most upper level positions within our DOE's administration. With a preference for the candidate that would be best suited to navigate our schools through the ongoing challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and best suited to help transform our public schools nimbly to meet ongoing pandemic era safety demands and real 21st century educational expectations and needs.

Mahalo!

Mara Hanson

Hawaii Parent of a school aged student and former educational employee



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Michelle Reinhardt <mreinhardt718@icloud.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 2:43 PM

It is completely unacceptable that our keiki are still being forced to wear a mask in school. Think about the 5 senses and how important every one of those senses are in learning and development. We are the ONLY state punishing our future leaders with this nonsense. Me and so many others all can attest and agree that this is completely unnecessary. Parents should have a voice and a CHOICE first and foremost.

Michelle Reinhardt

Sent from my iPhone



Testimony

1 message

Natalie Portugal <natalieportugal@hotmail.com>

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 3:21 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Hello,

My name is Natalie Portugal. I'm testifying against universal indoor masking in public schools to the General Business Meeting. I have 3 children attending public schools on Oahu.

I have been taking the pandemic very seriously including vaccinating myself, husband, and all my children as soon as we were eligible.

My issue is not with masks but with requiring masks at school when the data doesn't support it and community metrics and guidelines are in contradiction to it.

My main point is that if the community is not required to wear masks, it should likewise not be required at school.

What I want to know is: Under what conditions and specific data will you no longer require masks in schools? The public deserves to know the clear metrics that it will take to end the mask requirement in schools.

Right now, with the way things are, I, along with many others, cannot understand the logic behind masks in schools any longer. If people can go to other gatherings, even in large numbers, without masks in Hawaii then why are schools not held to this same standard?

If tourists are allowed into our state without being tested or being required to wear masks, why are our keiki not allowed the same right to choose whether or not to wear a mask?

In February 2022 Greta Massetti, director of the COVID-19 Response Incident Management Team said: "Children are more likely to have asymptomatic or mild infections" and "we know that children are relatively at lower risk from severe illness and schools can be safe places for children."

"So for that reason," she said, "we're recommending that schools use the same guidance that we are recommending in general community settings."

By having transparent guidelines, we ensure trust and transparency – not politics and fear – are guiding decisions regarding mask wearing.

As per the CDC website today, May 5, 2022 the Honolulu county is not high risk nor is any other county in Hawaii. According to the CDC only if you live in a high-risk county: should you be required to wear a mask indoors (including in K-12 schools).

The CDC's new metrics rely on rates of illness and hospital capacity, rather than just total numbers of COVID-19 cases. The new guidance stresses individual decision making. So according to the CDC's guidelines we should currently not be requiring masks in schools in Hawaii.

I move to make masks optional in schools immediately and indefinitely unless virus rates in the community rise above a certain threshold which would put us in the high risk category according to the CDC and these metrics will be disclosed in advance to the public.

Many schools in Hawaii do not have air conditioning and are set up with many windows which create a cross breeze. School is conducted with windows and doors open. So these classrooms should be considered to have the same safety level as outside. Since masks are not required outside at school, individual schools or classrooms with these settings should be exempt from requiring masks.

On March 8, 2022 the governor said most of us are safe without masks indoors.
Why do you consider schools to be different from any other indoor setting?

Masks at school have become moot. Requiring masks at school under current conditions is a false sense of security for those who live by fear. It is clear that the BOE is making this decision based on opinions and fear, not facts. Furthermore, they are overstepping their rights and jurisdiction by making decisions that should be made individually.

I request a town hall meeting so that we can get answers to our questions.

In conclusion if the community is not required to wear masks, it should likewise not be required at school. Therefore, masks should immediately become optional at school. There needs to be clear metrics publicly announced under which masks will and won't be required at school that are backed up by data and science. Without this it is not ethical or justifiable to enforce masks at school.

I, along with many others, want a response to this. We deserve that at least.

Thank you,

Natalie Portugal
512.636.6159



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Henry J. Kaiser High School
50th Anniversary Year
An International Baccalaureate DP, CP and MYP World School
AVID Nationally Certified
www.kaiserhighschoolhawaii.org
511 Lunalilo Home Road
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96825-1705
USA
May 5, 2022

Aloha Hawaii Board of Education Members,

This letter is written in support of Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi as our next Superintendent.

I am unable to testify virtually because of previous school commitments. As such, please accept this written testimony in support of Mr. Hayashi. My name is Justin Mew, Principal at Kaiser High School. I have served the Hawaii Department of Education as a school principal since 2003. I have seen many, many changes in the way the Department of Education does business and the different leadership styles of our Superintendents in my 41 years as an educator in the Department.

Your search committee has released the name of the top three applicants for the position. I have known Mr. Darrel Galera and he is worthy of consideration as one of the top three finalists. He and I were selected as Hawaii State Principals of the Year in 2010. Having collaborated with him frequently over the past two decades, I believe that Darrel is a viable candidate.

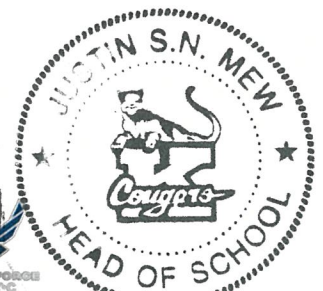
However, given the current pandemic-influenced, ever-changing educational landscape, I believe strongly that Interim Superintendent Keith Hayashi is the right person at the right time and in the right position in the Hawaii Department of Education to move us forward.

This is the second time that Mr. Hayashi has been asked to serve as the Interim Superintendent and I believe firmly that he has the experience and the knowledge of the job to make a difference. Interim Superintendent Hayashi has helped the Department navigate through some very challenging times and during the pandemic, he has made the tough decisions that needed to be made. Some decisions, while not popular, allowed the Department to provide for the safe return of our students to the classroom. Interim Superintendent Hayashi has also successfully lobbied the legislature and has brought home the necessary funds for our schools to not only survive but thrive despite the challenges. The Department of Education Budget for SY22-23 looks pretty good.

I am asking the Hawaii State Board of Education to appoint Mr. Hayashi the next Superintendent of Education for the State of Hawaii. I firmly believe that Interim Superintendent Hayashi will make the necessary changes and provide the very best for the children of Hawaii just as he transformed Waipahu High School into a Nationally Recognized School. His good works as principal changed his community. I believe that the State of Hawaii is ready for a visionary leader - one who truly cares about all of us. Mr. Hayashi deserves a shot at being our Superintendent without having his hands tied (as Interim). He deserves a chance to pick his own Leadership Team and the chance to put into motion his vision of excellence for the *keiki o' ka 'aina*.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,
Sincerely,

Justin S.N. Mew





Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Mask at Schools

3 messages

Yuki Laliberte <yuki@luvarealestate.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 12:04 PM

Position :
TAKE OFF Masks from children

It has been 2 years. What we know now, masks dont work and only restrict the learning and growth of children.

At this point Covid has turned into a mild cold. Lets move forward and stop the torture of young children. They need to see the adults/ teachers smile.



Yuki Laliberte REALTOR®
SALESPERSON & PARTNER • RS-74626

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[808.769.1998](tel:808.769.1998) [808.769.5111](tel:808.769.5111)
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Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

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Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Yuki Laliberte <yuki@luvarealestate.com>

Wed, May 4, 2022 at 12:26 PM

Thank you for contacting the Board of Education. This email address is specifically designed to receive public testimony for upcoming Board of Education meeting agenda items. Attached please find the links to the most recent agendas for the Board's Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2022. Please identify what agenda item your testimony is related to or it will not be listed as public testimony.

May 5, 2022 Human Resources Committee Meeting (hawaii.gov)
May 5, 2022 General Business Meeting (hawaii.gov)

Mahalo,
Board of Education Staff

[Quoted text hidden]

Yuki Laliberte <yuki@luvarealestate.com>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Thu, May 5, 2022 at 5:17 PM

General Business meeting - indoor masking for public schools

[Quoted text hidden]



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Asthma child

1 message

Rachel Regnier <phoenixwarriorproject@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 11:59 AM

My name is Rachel Regnier. I recently apparently have been banned from entering any Hawaii state public Department of Education property for exercising my right to deny the mandate, a mandate is not a law and no laws have been set into motion to force us to do so my son shall not be demanded to wear a mask because a mandate is not a law this is a public school education system funded by we the people governed by we the people.. I have asked the school To please not force my son to wear a mask as wearing a mask over his mouth 8 hours A-day 5 days a week has caused him to have shortness of breath and quite Bad breath and tooth decay problems now. After 2 years of having to wear a mask in the State of Hawaii the Children that are to be required to wear this material are breathing in in some plastic man made synthetic from synthetic paper over their mouth containing plastics These products Made in China or India sometimes are also being made in unsanitary conditions.. In 1913 in the Spanish flu pandemic pandemic most of the people that died died after the Spanish flu was predominantly bacterial pneumonia infections it has been proven that masks mass can cause strep throat. speech impediment. Inpetigo and bacterial infections. I should not as a single mom have to pay for a doctor to go and have my son retested Under the Hawaii state mandate for him to have an exemption I have the right to exercise my freedom of religion and my freedom of speech As well as my medical freedom I shouldn't have to pay so that it can be on record that my son will not wear a mask again this is a public school my public's tax dollars pay for his education and the teacher salaries if you have any further questions you can reach me at phoenixwarriorproject@gmail.com.

com Mahalo

Rachel Regnier



Fwd: Testimony

1 message

BOE Hawaii <boe.hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 1:06 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Pete "Aloha" Tingstrom** <pete.tingstrom@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, May 4, 2022 at 10:14 PM
Subject: Testimony
To: <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>, <BOE.Hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov>

Pete Tingstrom

Meeting: May 5th General Business Meeting; VI.A. Presentation on universal indoor masking in public schools
Position: Oppose

We better collectively understand how the virus spreads and what is needed to reduce community transmission, I believe it falls within the rights of parents and legal guardians (with communication with their doctor) to decide whether their child should wear a mask at school. Additionally, by using a commonsense approach of keeping a student at home when they show symptoms of being sick, schools can limit the spread of viral disease, negating a need for a mask mandate.

Our students are some of the only children in the United States that are mandated to wear masks. The Hawai'i Department of Education is not following the science. Our children are the least susceptible population for COVID-19, and according to the World Health Organization, they advise against children wearing masks. The wearing of masks has been detrimental to a student's development. In fact, these alarming missives asserted, masking rules could lead to permanent psychological and social damage for kids across the globe. Numerous scientific papers have established that it can be harder to hear and understand speech and identify facial expressions and emotions when people are wearing masks.

Some children are fine wearing a mask, but others struggle. Those who have myopia can have difficulty seeing because the mask fogs their glasses. (This has long been a problem for medical students in the operating room.) Masks can cause severe acne and other skin problems. The discomfort of a mask distracts some children from learning. By increasing airway resistance during exhalation, masks can lead to increased levels of carbon dioxide in the blood. And masks can be vectors for pathogens if they become moist or are used for too long.

Some research has even suggested that the flu poses a greater danger than COVID-19. The risk of severe disease to healthy children has been low from the start of the pandemic, as our understanding and treatments continue to improve, these risks continue to decline.

Continued mask mandates will see an increase in behavioral health challenges for students and teachers alike, and with an already stressed support system at our schools and local health centers, the mask mandates are causing potentially irreparable harm to our children.

Any child who wants to wear a mask should be free to do so. But forcing them to make personal, health and developmental sacrifices for the sake of adults who refuse to get immunized is abusive. Before we order the masking of 56 million Americans who are too young to vote and don't have a lobby, let's see data showing the benefits and weigh them against the long-term harm.

A concerned citizen,
Pete Tingstrom



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Fwd: Testimony

1 message

BOE Hawaii <boe.hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov>
To: Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 1:06 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <michael.h.stohner@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, May 4, 2022 at 8:56 PM

Subject: Testimony

To: <BOE.Hawaii@boe.hawaii.gov>

Cc: Pete Aloha <pete.tingstrom@gmail.com>, Nicole Dircks (Mariano Support) <nico.dircks@gmail.com>, Gina Gatanis <ginaaloha@yahoo.com>, Lynn Mariano <Lbmarianosd12@gmail.com>

Aloha,

My name is Michael Stohner, and I am the Communications Director for **gubernatorial candidate, Lynn Mariano**. I am submitting a press release on behalf of Mr. Mariano that outlines his official position on the **Board of Education General Business Meeting, Discussion Item "Presentation on universal indoor masking in public schools."** As outlined in Mr. Mariano's testimony for record, he **opposes** continued mask mandates in schools. Please refer to the attached press release for additional information.

Mahalo,

Michael Stohner

Communications Director

<https://marianoforgovernor.org>

719-205-9292



Mariano Press Release - 202200503 - School Mask Requirements_v3.pdf

171K

2 Year of Science from top Journals of Medicine and Science

There is now 2 years of Science on the masks that tell us they DO NOT WORK to prevent the nano particles from going thru the mask:

So report the 1)AMA, 2)the New England Journal of Medicine, 3)the British Journal of Medicine, 4)Life and Environmental Sciences, 5)American Journal of Infection Control, 6)the Journal of Epidemiology and Infection, 7)the University of Edinburgh, and so on and so on.

A simple experiment people can do themselves: Breathe thru' the mask onto your glasses and you'll see the mist of nano particles on our glasses....it is akin to trying to stop a mosquito from going thru' a chainlink fence. The size of the hole cannot be small enough for you to breathe while stopping the covid nano germ.

The Mainstream Media, now owned by the Power broker Globalists, want the planet for themselves via a One World govt. so their goal is a 93% Depopulation. (This planned goal is written in GRANITE on the "Georgia Guidestones", a granite capital in Georgia. It is not theory.) So the masks are training for submission and sheep-herding while the vaccines are human experimentation as witnessed by our most physically fit humans of the NFL and NBA dropping dead face down on the field and court.

Wake up Masses as you are part of the 93%, unless you are the 7% Multi-billionaire Elites of the planet.

From: A Fourth Grade Teacher who works for the Department of Education

General Business Meeting 1:30-4:30 May 5th

Agenda Item: Regarding Universal Indoor Masking in Public Schools

Position: I OPPOSE universal masking of keiki and staff in public schools. Students, as well as all staff, should be given a choice and a voice. Mask wearing should be a personal decision.

Aloha, Board Members! Thank you for your time!

I have been a teacher at the DOE for the past 16 years. Never in my life have I witnessed such child abuse as forcing these children to wear masks in these hot, Hawaii schools! Masks need to be a CHOICE for all teachers, staff, and students at school! Do you know what it is like to try to teach school for seven hours a day whilst sucking in your own carbon dioxide? I am now experiencing vertigo and dizzy spells that I have never had before in my entire life! In addition, the students have a hard time understanding my lessons, even my words, when the mask is on! Reading to them during literature time has become a dreaded time, rather than one in which I can be excited about impersonating the different characters' voices in the story! On many occasions, my students have told me that I am becoming pale. They see me becoming white when I am almost passing out in class due to prolonged mask wearing and an inability to breathe easily while donned with a mask.

As for my students...I cannot hear what they are saying and have to ask them to repeat things over and over. On many occasions, I can't even tell which student is speaking due to the masks! My Special Education student with speech issues cannot even see my lips and learn how to form his speech correctly! My autistic student can't see us smile at him. Students are being hurt socially and emotionally by this! They are not as confident. They are learning to hide behind their masks, and it's so wrong!! If you, the DOE, the BOE truly care about students, and your teachers and staff, then you should give everyone a choice. My students complain to me daily about having to wear masks in the classroom! They hate it! They tell me that it doesn't make sense! They tell me that they thought the classroom bubbles were one of the safest places to be. They tell me they take them off at recess when they play with each other and at lunch when they sit by each other, so why do they need them in class when they are already unmasked around each other at recess and lunch? They ask why we are the only place still forcing them to wear masks? They are not getting enough oxygen to concentrate well, and a good 90 percent of them really detest the fact they have to still wear masks. They come in from recess and have to keep masks on their faces even though they are

sweating!!!! They ask if I can turn the fans higher! It is awful, and you know what? My students are right. What has happened to giving our students a "voice" and a "choice"? All of these DOE promoted initiatives for our keiki are now thrown out the window, even though children have been shown to be the least at risk? I won't even bother sending you all of the data and research on the ineffectiveness of mask wearing, because I know you have already gotten a plethora of this information from Jessica and others fighting for our kids to have a voice and a choice! Have you taken time to read over the information they shared? I will leave you with some final thoughts.

I have two of my own children currently being told they must "mask up" all day, every day, while indoors. I have another child due to start Kindergarten next year. I am seriously considering pulling them out of the public school system if this is what has become of our public schools, and even of my own employer, the DOE, whom I've been dedicated to for the last sixteen years. Masking has poorly affected my middle schooler's self esteem! My elementary school son keeps losing his masks and having to put on the disposable ones that his teacher gives him---the ones that have been sterilized with ethylene oxide, a known carcinogen. These kids are getting plastic particles in their lungs from these disposable type masks! As a mother, I would rather have my child have to quarantine, then suffocate all day every day with a mask on in class! Yet it doesn't need to even be a "one or the other" scenario. Saying that masking is keeping the kids from having to quarantine or contact trace is just an excuse to keep the masks on--a very circular argument. We don't need either one. What we do need, is CHOICE. Have you looked at the long-term studies of prolonged mask wearing on people? The findings from prior pandemics are not good. Yet, Mr. Hayashi, along with others, are letting this happen to our precious, prized, and wonderful children and students!

When I look at my EES Manual (Educator Effectiveness System), In Domain 4, it lists the Professional Responsibilities of a Teacher. Section 4f states these responsibilities are: "Integrity and Ethical Conduct, Service to Students, and Advocacy for Students." I would not be rated a "Highly Effective Teacher" if I didn't advocate for my students. On page 106 of our EES guide book given to teachers, entitled Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching, by Charlotte Danielson, under component 4f: Showing Professionalism, It states that, "A teacher's integrity is demonstrated most importantly through honesty." It also states that "teachers should have a strong, moral compass and never be led astray by the temptations of an easier approach, or by convenience. Even if the right thing

to do is more difficult, the professional teacher can be counted on to do it anyway, and to try to convince others to join in. Highly professional teachers never forget that schools are not institutions run for the convenience of the adults who work in them; instead, the purpose of schools is to educate students. These educators care deeply for the well-being of their students and mobilize whatever resources are necessary for them to be successful. Professional educators are keenly alert to the NEEDS OF THEIR STUDENTS AND STEP IN ON THEIR BEHALF WHEN NEEDED." Later on on page 106, it states, "Moreover, EDUCATORS ARE ADVOCATES FOR THEIR STUDENTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHOM THE EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED. THEY WORK DILIGENTLY FOR THEIR STUDENTS BEST INTERESTS." On this page it also tells teachers they are to "CHALLENGE LONG-HELD ASSUMPTIONS OF STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND ADMINISTRATORS." It states, "THERE ARE OTHER SITUATIONS IN WHICH THE SCHOOL'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ARE SERVING SOME STUDENTS POORLY OR ACTUALLY DOING HARM." I hope you, on this Board, can understand and see why I am speaking up and being an ADVOCATE for my students. I am told to do so by the DOE's own book and manual. And yet, I didn't need a manual to tell me this, this comes from deep inside my soul. The desire to do what's right, what is PONO. I hope all of you on this Board, as well as Mr. Hayashi, as Interim Superintendent, will also be a mentor to the teachers and students you lead. In this EES manual, what it takes to be "highly effective" goes back to integrity and honesty, righteousness, being PONO. We don't need a manual to tell us what is right. It's in our gut, our conscience, it's inside of us. This is the conscience. The science that is with us.

Finally, as I write this, I stare at a poster given to me by the DOE. It is titled, "Nā Hopena A`o Statements. HĀ: BREATH. It lists the 6 things BREATH stands for. I ask those of you on this Board, and Mr. Hayashi, How do our students and children have a STRENGTHENED SENSE OF: BELONGING, RESPONSIBILITY, EXCELLENCE, ALOHA, TOTAL WELL-BEING, AND A STRENGTHENED SENSE OF HAWAII, when they are forced to wear masks and not given a voice or a choice. Our kids are being muzzled like animals and told to "comply or else". In order to have these things, as the poster states, they must have "HĀ" or BREATH! Please, I beg and implore all of you on this Board, as well as Mr. Hayashi, to do what is PONO for our students and our children. Good

leaders do what is right. I pray you will have a change of heart on this mask matter, and give our students, teachers, and staff the freedom to make their own choice.

Mahalo for your time,

Sincerely,

(Concerned Teacher and Concerned Mother)



**HAWAII YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY
FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 17492
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

May 2, 2022

To: State of Hawaii Board of Education

From: Myron Brumaghim
President
Hawaii Youth Challenge Foundation

Re: Selection of State Superintendent of Hawaii Department of Education
Relating to Keith Hayashi for Superintendent

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Members of the Board of Education

I write on behalf of the Officers and Directors of the Youth Challenge Academy Foundation. Our foundation supports the mission of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16-18-year-old high school dropouts, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens.

Mr. Keith Hayashi understands and supports our essential work; as such, we fully support his appointment to the position of State Superintendent of the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Mr. Hayashi has a proven track record. He has worked in the system for many years as a schoolteacher, resource teacher, school administrator, Complex Area Superintendent, Interim Deputy Superintendent, and Interim State Superintendent. In each of these positions, he has gained the respect and trust of his colleagues, students, and community members. He realized that raising the standard of education for keiki o ka 'āina required a leadership style focusing on teamwork, innovation, flexibility, and achievement.

Most recently, under his leadership, Waipahu High has acquired the reputation of being a very progressive school. Mr. Hayashi has worked with acute dedication to build this reputation since he took over the reins in 2009. A student describes him, the teachers, and the school as follows: "I'm a sophomore at this school, and you don't know how happy I am to be a Marauder. The teachers at this school care about your well-being and do all they can to help you. Our principal is an amazing principal who cares a lot about his students."¹ In keeping with this sentiment, what Hawai'i schools need in these times is a Superintendent who "cares a lot" about schools, teachers and staff, students, parents, and community members.

When Mr. Hayashi was called upon to serve as Interim Superintendent of the Hawai'i School system, he could easily have declined the request and stayed

Officers and Directors

COL. (Ret.) Myron
Brumaghim President
MG Darryl Wong (Ret.)- Vice
President
COL. (Ret.) Michael Rawlins
Treasurer
COL. (Ret.) Alikea Watts
Executive Director

Directors:
MG Edward V. Richardson
(Ret.)
MG Robert Lee (Ret.)
BG Skip Vincent (Ret.)
COL. Derrick Wong (Ret.)
Kali Watson
John Vannatta

¹ <https://www.movoto.com/schools/waipahu-hi/waipahu-high-school-150003000161/>

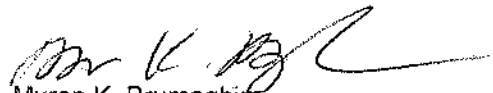
at his very successful high school. Instead, he chose to step up to the challenges demanded of a State Superintendent at a time when the COVID pandemic, in particular, required a complex problem-solving leadership style. Mr. Hayashi's remarkable success in shepherding Hawai'i schools through the demands of a worldwide pandemic, coupled with his expert handling of other emergencies and challenges such as the Red Hill fuel leak, staff and teacher shortages, the demands of a downward trending economy, the ever-changing educational environment such as remote learning and increasing truancy, and the needs of our keiki o ka 'āina mark him as an outstanding system administrator. School administrators, teachers, students, parents, and community members have expressed their appreciation for his dedicated commitment to education in Hawai'i. The Officers and Directors of the Youth Challenge Academy Foundation feel the same way.

One of Mr. Hayashi's strengths is his ability to reflect on his leadership style and make appropriate changes. In addition, being familiar with a range of leadership styles makes it possible for him to immediately address problems as they arise. This skill includes guiding school administrators on how to explain changes in directions in education to stakeholders.

In an interview with *Civil Beat*,² Board of Education chairperson Catherine Payne said the board prefers "someone with a deep understanding and appreciation for the culture of Hawaii and what is important to the people here." Over the past year in the role of Interim Superintendent of the Hawai'i Department of Education, Mr. Hayashi's deep understanding and appreciation for the culture of Hawai'i have enabled him to meet the challenges and demands of our changing society by creating stability in the Department.

In closing, we reiterate that Mr. Keith Hayashi has never lost sight of the purpose of education in Hawai'i—and this is why our Youth Challenge Academy Foundation strongly supports him. We work with a population running out of options in terms of advancement through education. That Mr. Hayashi sees the critical need for our work places him as the top contender for Superintendent of the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Me ka mahalo,



Myron K. Brumaghin
President
Hawaii Youth Challenge Foundation

²<https://www.civilbeat.org/2022/04/hawaiis-interim-school-chief-wants-the-job-permanently-is-he-up-to-it/>

LATE

RECEIVED
05/06/2022

May 4, 2022

Dear Superintendent Search Committee

I would like to express my support for Keith Hayashi to be selected as the next superintendent for Hawaii's public schools.

Keith's connection to students across all academic achievement levels, is just one of his many positive characteristics.

I would like to share a short story of an interaction I had with Keith back in 2017 -2018 as we were developing the Strive Hi accountability system under the then-new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). One area of discussion involved the mandated standardized testing in grade 10 and the options were to continue with the Smarter Balanced test or move to the ACT. The psychometric issue with the ACT was that it did not differentiate academic performance among low achieving students. Upon being made aware of this issue, Keith immediately stated that it would not work for them at Waipahu because he needed to be able to keep tabs on the struggling students.

In spite of all of the successes that Keith has had at Waipahu on college going efforts, he just as equally valued the achievement of struggling students. I feel that this is an admirable trait of the next superintendent.

Sincerely



Thomas Saka, Ph.D.

Former Director – Assessment and Accountability Branch – Hawaii Dept. of Education
94-1005 Alau St.
Waipahu, HI 96797