



Testimony from Lynel Mendiola, BOE 5/4 Special Meeting, Agenda Item IV

1 message

Lynel Mendiola <notifications@cognitoforms.com>
Reply-To: nelj13@gmail.com
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Thu, May 4, 2023 at 1:30 PM

Aloha state Board of Education members,

My name is Lynel Mendiola and I am the SHA at Keoneula Elementary. I have have been a SHA for 6 years at Keoneula Elementary, and my health room is getting harder and harder to accomplish everything that needs to be done within a school year. Prior to Covid, the flow in my health room was 35-55 students a day. We SHA's have deadlines and reports that we need to meet. It's very hard to manage your time on a daily basis, because there are way too many students coming into the health room, and the students come first. I'm sure that I'm not the only one that stays longer hours or goes into the office during the summer so we are able to try and meet our deadlines.

Since Covid has arrived in our islands, it has strongly affected my emotional and mental state of mind. It feels as I have triple the amount of work, plus students. Intake in the morning, make copies of doctor's notes for front office, Return to School Criteria Log, and in between that, tend to almost double the amount of students prior to Covid. Even tending to ill students became hard, due to the lack of support I have from my admin. There was no isolation room to put students in, that was just a room set up for show.

I have been told to deal with my health room alone. Even to handle my angry parents on my own on numerous occasions throughout the years. For example, it is difficult to function when there is a yelling male parent in my health room, and a health room full of students. Even if I walkied for assistance from admin, nobody came. These are other people's children listening to a man yell, with no way to escape. On numerous occasions I've also had other parents intervene to help me. I do not get paid enough or enough leave to deal with this type of environment. Even when I am sick, I am expected to be there as long as i don't have a fever.

When SHA's were told that we were getting help, I was so happy to finally get some help. Deadlines and reports were finally done on time. Students were not filling my health room up. I still had some yelling parents, but when seeing another adult in the Health Room, they would control their tone and words. I had my SHSS for 6 months before she left, due to the lack of communication if she would currently still have a job for school year 23-24. I totally appreciated her help with everything and we worked extremely well together. It was also a bonus that somebody else besides myself was seeing how I was being treated by my admin and some teachers.

I know i am not speaking only for myself when I say we need more pay and leave. We tend to these ill students and at some point, we get those major illnesses. Some more than others. We don't have enough leave to take care of ourselves. We also need to keep our SHSS because we need help in our Health Rooms.

Thank you...

Lynel

Lynel Mendiola
School Health Assistant (SHA)
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Testimony from Evangeleen Kahue, BOE 5/4 Special Meeting, Agenda Item IV

1 message

Evangeleen Kahue <notifications@cognitofirms.com>
Reply-To: ui_96792@yahoo.com
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Thu, May 4, 2023 at 1:45 PM

Aloha state Board of Education members,

I'm a school-level professional and I'm writing in general support of the state Department of Education's strategic plan as long as the review and assessment of classification and compensation for school-based staff occurs in 2023 (Action Item 2 of Outcome 2.2.1).

Our schools operate because Principals, Vice Principals, Educational Assistants, School Psychologists, Nurses, Speech Language Pathologists, School Security Attendants, School Food Service Managers, Custodians and many others are on the job. All of these individuals, not just teachers, have a direct impact on the wellbeing of our students.

In recent years, the DOE has struggled to fill vacancies for many of these critical roles. Competitive compensation, pay equity, career advancement and improved working conditions will help retain the professionals already on the job while making these positions more attractive for potential new hires. By filling these vacancies, we can relieve the strenuous workload on the existing workforce, while providing better education and care for Hawaii's students.

If you want a high-quality workforce in all school positions, you must be willing to compensate fairly and pay a livable wage. There's a reason why Hawaii schools suffer from high vacancies – over 700 Educational Assistant openings, for instance. Prioritize compensation for school-level staff now. Do not wait until 2024.

The DOE works because we do.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Evangeleen Kahue
EA
Leihoku
ui_96792@yahoo.com



Testimony from D. U'ILANI Kiaha, BOE 5/4 Special Meeting, Agenda Item IV

1 message

D. U'ILANI Kiaha <notifications@cognitofirms.com>
Reply-To: ukiaha808@gmail.com
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov, ukiaha808@gmail.com

Thu, May 4, 2023 at 2:08 PM

Aloha state Board of Education members,

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Our schools operate because Principals, Vice Principals, Educational Assistants, School Psychologists, Behavioral Health Specialist, Nurses, Speech Language Pathologists, School Security Attendants, School Food Service Managers, Custodians and many others are on the job. All of these individuals, not just teachers, have a direct impact on the wellbeing of our students.

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Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

D. U'ILANI Kiaha
Behavioral Health Specialist
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Testimony from Samie Ketiama, BOE 5/4 Special Meeting, Agenda Item IV

1 message

Samie Ketiama <notifications@cognitoforms.com>
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Fri, May 5, 2023 at 10:08 AM

Aloha state Board of Education members,

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The DOE works because we do.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Samie Ketiama
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