



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

Testimony Lahaina

1 message

Ms. Thomas <20179263@k12.hi.us>

Wed, Oct 4, 2023 at 11:53 AM

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

Aloha,

I am writing as a caretaker, a resident and a teacher in Lahaina.

I am concerned about campus safety for these reasons:

1. Campus access- there is only one road in/out to the four schools up Lahainaluna road. How will the traffic be handled? Are there adequate emergency routes for the four schools.
2. The soil around campus (LIS/PN/KK3)– the campus is dry and dusty. Will it be watered? When the winds blow (especially Konas) where will the students outside be able to go since there is no gym/multi purpose room. The cafeteria is used for three lunches.

There will be students outside for PE/Lunch/Recess.

We need an indoor area for PE/Lunch/Recess – Perhaps a quick 'instant gym' or some type of structure can be put up.

I fear for my health – especially for my lungs and eyes I don't want to get cancer or copd in the future and I don't want that for my students.

Respectfully,

MariaDonell Thomas

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**KULA AUPUNI NIIHAU A KAHELELANI ALOHA
(KANAKA PCS)
8315 Kekaha Road, STE L
PO Box 610
Kekaha, HI 96752
Phone No. (808) 337-2022**

25 March 2024

To the Members of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE),

We are writing to recommend Dr. Brandon Keoni Bunag for the vacant seat on the Hawaii State Charter School Commission. Dr. Bunag is a highly qualified individual who has demonstrated a strong commitment to education and community service. His experience also includes being part of the Charter School movement.

As a former teacher and school administrator, Dr. Bunag has a deep understanding of the challenges facing our education system. He has been deeply involved in promoting student success and ensuring that all students, regardless of background or circumstance, have access to high-quality education.

In addition to his work in education, Dr. Bunag has been an active participant in community service organizations. He has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations, including those focused on improving access to education, healthcare, and social services for underserved communities.

Given his extensive experience and commitment to education and community service, we strongly believe that Dr. Bunag would be an excellent addition to the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. We highly recommend him for the vacant seat and urge you to consider his candidacy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kristy Kanahele, Board Chair for Kula Aupuni Niihau A Kahelelani Aloha (KANAKA) PCS

Hedy L Sullivan, Poo KANAKA PCS

Melvin Pahulehua, President for KAANA Inc. (non-profit)

Charlene Hoe Retired Administrator for Hakipuu Learning Center (PCS)



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

Testimony in support Agenda Item VI.A

1 message

Steve Hirakami <shirakami@haaspcs.net>
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 11:56 AM

Aloha members of the Board of Education,

I am writing in strong support of Brandon Keoni Bunag to assume a mid term position as a Commissioner on the State Public Charter Schools Commission. Keoni brings a charter school vision to the commission as he served for five years as the Head of School of Halau Ku Mana in Makiki. He understands the lack of funding issues (facilities, food production, and transportation) that all charter schools face. He will make a positive impact on the Commission.

Respectfully,

Steve Hirakami

School Director, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS



LEI HO'OLAHA

Native Community Development Financial Institution

He lei ho'olaha, He lei kaiāulu

A Lei Widespread is a Lei of Community

Hawaii Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

BOE General Business Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
Agenda Item VI.A. Commission nomination

Aloha Members of the Hawaii Board of Education,

I am writing to express Lei Ho'olaha's support for the appointment of Mr. Brandon Keoni Bunag to the State Public Charter School Commission. As a dedicated advocate for education and someone deeply committed to fostering positive change within the educational system, Mr. Bunag's qualifications and experience make him an exceptional candidate for this important role.

Mr. Bunag's distinguished service as the principal of Halau Ku Mana Charter School has provided him with invaluable hands-on experience in the realm of public charter schools. His tenure at Halau Ku Mana Charter School has not only demonstrated his commitment to educational excellence but also his ability to navigate the unique challenges and opportunities within the charter school landscape.

In addition to his successful track record as a principal, Mr. Bunag brings a wealth of knowledge and insights into educational policy, administration, and community engagement. His dedication extends beyond the school walls, evidenced by his community service with Lei Ho'olaha Community Development Finance Institution.

As our state continues to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of education, it is crucial to have individuals like Mr. Bunag who are not only well-versed in educational best practices but are also passionate about driving positive change. I urge your favorable consideration of Mr. Brandon Keoni Bunag for this vital role. His expertise and community engagement will undoubtedly enhance the Commission's efforts in shaping a robust charter school system for our state.

Sincerely,

Katie Benioni
Board Secretary



Supporting Dr. Brandon Keoni Bunag's nomination

1 message

Noe Goodyear-Ka'opua <noegoodyearkaopua@gmail.com>
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:33 PM

Please accept my written testimony for the action item on the BOE's March 28, 2024 agenda:

Aloha, Honorable Members of the Board of Education,

I wholeheartedly support Brandon Keoni Bunag for the vacant seat on the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. As a former charter school teacher and leader, a professor of Hawaiian and Indigenous politics, and a researcher in the field of Indigenous education, I can attest that Dr. Bunag has demonstrated the qualities necessary for effective educational leadership in Hawai'i throughout his distinguished career. He has devoted his career to advancing educational opportunities for our youth and to improving Hawaiian educational institutions. He will be a tremendous asset to the Commission.

My daughter attended and graduated from Hālau Kū Māna during the period when Dr. Bunag was the head of school. I had the privilege of observing and working with him during this time. Under his leadership, I felt very confident that student well-being was centered in his decision-making. My daughter's six years at HKM were a transformative educational journey. Dr. Bunag understands what it takes to lead schools that are academically rigorous and rooted in Hawaiian culture and values. Dr. Bunag's ability to nurture an enriching educational environment directly contributed to her subsequent success, which included her graduation from the University of Hawai'i in under four years. His tenure as Head of School at Halau Ku Mana showcased his commitment to educational governance that is both inclusive and effective.

Dr. Bunag's integrity and ethical standards have always been evident in every aspect of his work. More recently, I have also been able to witness Dr. Bunag's strategic leadership at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, as Vice President of Public Programs. I currently serve as chair of the Charles Reed Bishop Trust, which provides support to the museum. I am pleased and reassured to see how Dr. Bunag assures consistently engaging and innovative public programs at the museum. He demonstrates skill in fostering collaborative partnerships and leveraging the museum's resources to serve as a dynamic learning center that benefits the entire community. His vision for educational excellence broadens its educational reach.

Dr. Bunag's comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within Hawai'i's educational landscape, coupled with his proven track record of visionary leadership and community engagement, aligns perfectly with the Commission's goals. His deep commitment to enhancing education, particularly through culturally sustaining approaches, makes him an ideal candidate for this role.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of Dr. Bunag's candidacy. I am confident that his contributions will be invaluable to the Commission and to the continued success of Hawai'i's public charter school system.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a,

Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua



Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau
Laboratory Public Charter School

46-500 Kūneki St. Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i 96744 *Kelepona: 808.235.9175 *Kelepa'i: 808.235.9173
E mālama 'ia ana ka mauili ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.

State of Hawai'i, Board of Education

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

March 28, 2024 1:30 p.m. Queen Lili'uokalani Building

Agenda Item VI, Action Item A: Board action on findings and recommendations of Investigative Committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92-2.5(b)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes), investigation relating to nomination of individual to serve as a member of the State Public Charter School Commission: Brandon Keoni Bunag

Aloha e Chair Hakuri and Members of the State of Hawai'i Board of Education,

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau **strongly supports** the proposed motion of the Investigative Committee to appoint Brandon Keoni Bunag to the Commission to complete the remainder of the term of the mid-term vacancy, which ends June 30, 2026, effective the date of appointment.

Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau Laboratory Public Charter School is a family-based, Hawaiian language immersion school offering a comprehensive multi-level (preschool through secondary) educational program. We have worked closely with Dr. Bunag in the past when he served as the Director of Hālau Kū Mana, a Hawaiian Focused Charter School from 2014-2019. He has the educational background and experience to serve the Charter Schools in this leadership role, especially as he understands the role of Hawaiian language and culture of the Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools, which represents 46% of schools in the Charter School Commission's portfolio.

Therefore, we strongly urge the Board of Education to support this motion and appoint Brandon Keoni Bunag to the Commission to complete the remainder of the term of the mid-term vacancy, which ends June 30, 2026.

Me ke aloha,

I Kelling Kahu, Director



March 28, 2024
General Business Meeting

Dear Chair Haruki and Members of the Board,

V. Committee Reports B. Student Achievement Committee oral report on March 7, 2024

We thank the DOE for its work on the Key Performance Indicators and Targets of the Strategic Plan. We particularly like the scatterplot which depicts a school's SBA proficiency, growth, and socio-economic status. It is a way to demonstrate equity across schools.

DOE's definition of "growth" for the scatterplot can be confusing. The basis of this growth calculation is the Student Growth Percentile (SGP), which describes the growth of a student compared to that student's peers. In the DOE memo, it states that if a student has achieved an SGP of 40 or higher, he/she will be considered to have made a year's worth of growth. We are not sure what this means in practical terms. In addition, this "growth" can easily be confused with the "growth" that we normally think of, like a year-over-year comparison of scores as used to determine the DOE's targets.

It would be great if the DOE could do a presentation to the BOE explaining SGP or provide a more detailed explanation on its website. Georgia has a short and accurate description on its website; it tells how to interpret the SGP, how it will be used, and provides links to technical documents so that those who want to know more are able to easily access information.¹

We commend the DOE for soliciting feedback from CASEs and principals on the targets. We are curious to know if DOE received system-wide feedback from teachers, who are providing instruction and support services to students, and students, who are receiving instruction and support services, and if there will be an ongoing, continuous feedback loop with all stakeholders on the progress to these targets. If so, we would welcome a DOE presentation to the BOE on this mechanism. We would also like to suggest that at some point, families and community members also be included in this feedback loop, as this support is also critical to the success of students.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

¹ <https://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Assessment/Pages/Georgia-Student-Growth-Model.aspx>

HE'E Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21

Alliance for Place Based Learning

American Civil Liberties Union

Atherton YMCA

Education Institute of Hawai'i

*Faith Action for Community Equity

Fresh Leadership LLC

Girl Scouts Hawai'i

*HawaiiKidsCAN

*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance

*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists

Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Education Association

Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

* Hawai'i State PTSA

Hawai'i State Student Council

Hawai'i State Teachers Association

Head Start Collaboration Office

It's All About Kids

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

Junior Achievement of Hawaii

Kamehameha Schools

Kanu Hawai'i

Kaua'i Ho'okele Council

Keiki to Career Kaua'i

Kupu A'e

*Leaders for the Next Generation

Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Native Hawaiian Education Council

Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Special Education Provider Alliance

*Teach for America

The Learning Coalition

US PACOM

University of Hawai'i College of Education

* Youth Service Hawai'i

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the Coalition.*

March 25, 2024

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo a nui loa for the opportunity to offer my full support for Dr. Brandon Keoni Bunag's candidacy for the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. Dr. Bunag is an excellent candidate for this position given his significant professional experience, educational qualifications, and strong character.

Dr. Bunag brings extensive experience working in Hawai'i charter schools to the commission. We worked together on the Hālau Kū Māna (HKM) governing board around 2009-2010 for nearly eight years before he was hired as the Po'o Kula. As a governing board member, Dr. Bunag was integral to bringing stability to the board and, in turn, HKM during a time of tremendous huluhia. I believe he was prepared to fulfill this kuleana because of his educational and administrative experience, deep understanding of culturally-based education (and its dissonance with HDOE systems), advanced training in education research, and ability to listen and understand multiple stakeholder concerns. By the time he was hired as Po'o Kula, HKM was in a very stable position with a fully functioning administrative system, balanced budget, and streamlined governing board.


Dr. Bunag brought this leadership to the position of HKM Po'o Kula. Prior to his hire, we were averaging a new Po'o Kula every 2-3 years. In my two terms on the governing board, I worked with four Po'o Kula. As folx already know, Po'o Kula is an incredibly challenging job – not only are you, effectively, the executive director of a severely under-resourced organization, you are also the educational leader in addition to all the other kuleana that accompanies a community-based school like the facilities manager and community outreach liaison. However, Dr. Bunag assumed this significant kuleana to continue to move HKM forward by strengthening the school's administrative structure, bringing veteran teachers into administrative leadership to continue to build upon HKM's outstanding instructional reputation, and grow HKM's reach through networking in our broader educational community. And, also key to his effective leadership, he kept track of education and charter school-related legislation, offered testimony, and kept current with education research. This is all to say, Dr. Bunag is fully aware of the day-to-day and broader systems challenges and opportunities Hawai'i charter schools face. For me, this kind of lived experience managing a charter school and familiarity with state-level legislative and educational systems are essential to being an effective state-level leader.

Finally, Dr. Bunag also helped to organize and establish the non-profit arm of HKM, Papa Kū Māna (PKM), on which I served as secretary and then president shortly after I completed my second term on the governing board. It was because of Dr. Bunag that I agreed to continue to serve HKM. Following Dr. Bunag's departure from HKM, he became reengaged with PKM and, again, provided our very small board with stability so we were able to garner additional resources to support the school.

In closing, Dr. Bunag's leadership on the Hawaii State Charter School Commission with the lived experience of a charter school leader who is kind, thoughtful, and open. On a personal note, he is also, quite simply, a great person to work with because he is collaborative and outcomes oriented but with careful attention to fair and transparent processes.

Should you have any questions regarding my letter of support for Dr. Bunag's candidacy for commissioner, please feel free to contact me via email (kahunawai.wright@gmail.com) or phone ((808)551-4066).

Ke aloha 'āina,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EKWright', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin Kahuna-waika'ala Wright, PhD