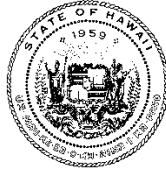


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



WARREN HARUKI
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

February 22, 2024

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Warren Haruki
Chairperson, 2024 Commission Mid-Term Nominations
Investigative Committee

AGENDA ITEM: Investigative Committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92-2.5(b)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes) investigation relating to nomination of individuals to serve as members of the State Public Charter School Commission; findings and recommendations on nomination

I. BACKGROUND

On January 5, 2024, the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) informed the Board of Education (Board) that a mid-term vacancy had occurred on the Commission, with the need to fill the vacancy. The newly appointed commissioner would complete the remainder of the term ending June 30, 2026.

Pursuant to [subsection 302D-3\(c\), Hawaii Revised Statutes \(HRS\)](#), the Board is responsible for appointing the members of the Commission.

The Board followed its previously adopted process for the nomination and appointment of individuals to serve as members of the Commission, as explained in Chairperson Warren Haruki's memo to the Board on January 25, 2024. This process included establishment of the investigative committee (Committee) to nominate individuals for appointment at the Board's January 25, 2024, general business

meeting, to which Board Members Bill Arakaki, Kahele Dukelow, Makana McClellan, and I were designated to serve on, on which I would serve as chairperson.

The Board published on its website a call for applications and an application form, as well as notified charter school stakeholders, including the Commission, governing boards, and charter school directors, from January 12, 2024.

II. FINDINGS

The Committee received four applications, all of which met the submission deadline of January 26, 2024. Of the four applicants, the Committee found that one was best qualified and suited to serve on the Commission, and voted unanimously to nominate the following to complete the remainder of the term of the mid-term vacancy, which ends June 30, 2026, effective the date of appointment:

- Brandon Keoni Bunag, whose cover letter and resume are attached as **Exhibit A**.

III. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends the Board appoint the aforementioned individual 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.

Proposed Motion:

“Moved 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.”

This report concludes the work of the Committee as tasked by the Board.

Exhibit A

**Brandon Keoni Bunag's Cover Letter and Resume
(contact information redacted)**

January 22, 2024

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

Aloha mai kāua,

It is with eagerness and great interest that I offer my resume in consideration for an appointment to the Hawaii State Charter School Commission. I hold a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California and have been deeply engaged in Hawaiian-focused and culture-based education for over a decade.

My professional experiences in past and current education leadership roles has equipped me to lead, motivate, mentor and coach a team of highly capable educators to deliver a top-notch, quality education focused on student outcomes – social, emotional and academic. Prior to joining the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum as its Director of Education and now Vice President for Public Programs, I served as the Poo Kumu (Head of School/Principal) of Hālau Kū Māna (HKM), a public charter school in Honolulu. In this role, I was given the opportunity to influence the educational journey of students through strategic decision making, facilitative leadership and effective communication between multiple stakeholder groups of the school community. Our unique school-wide vision serves as our “North Star” and we believe to have developed a framework for achieving our vision. One of the successes, during my tenure, was the implementation of a dual-credit program in partnership with Kapi’olani Community College

As an executive in a nonprofit organization with a background in Hawaiian culture-based education, educational leadership and strategic planning, I have become adept in program / curriculum development, implementation and assessment as well as community engagement strategies that connects a wide array of Hawaiian cultural content to individual passion. My success as a leader has been founded on an ability to build collective efficacy amongst the team I have the honor of serving with. I am a self-driven and motivated leader whose passion is to be of service to our community.

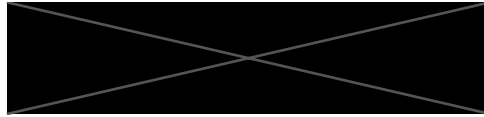
These experiences noted here are a brief snapshot of my commitment to education, record of integrity, civic engagement and high ethical standards. My experience in and part of a charter school provides me with real experiences of the countless successes and challenges that charter schools face. I am genuinely excited for this opportunity and confident that I will positively contribute to the great work the Hawaii State Charter Commission is engaged in and continuously work towards authorizing and maintaining a standard of high-quality charter schools throughout Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to discussing the possibility and my qualifications with you in more detail.

Me ka ha’aha’a nō,



Brandon K. Bunag, EdD

Brandon Keoni Bunag, Ed.D.



EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD), University of Southern California, *August 2012*

Dissertation: *“A Closer Examination of Resource Allocation Using Research Based Best Practices to Promote Student Learning: Case Studies of Hawaiian-Focused Charter Schools in Hawaii”*

MASTER OF ARTS, Political Science, Indigenous Politics, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, *May 2006*

BACHELOR OF ARTS, Hawaiian Studies, emphasis on Traditional Society, University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, *May 2003*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI

June 2019 – Current

Vice President of Public Programs (February 2021 - current)

- Provide strategic leadership to the Public Programs Division (Exhibits, Education, Visitor Experiences, Events & Facility Rentals, and Sustainability).
- Lead and support a talented group of professionals in the development, execution and evaluation of the Museum’s public programming, visitor experiences and volunteer/internship program. These include executing aligned strategy(ies) that advances the Museum’s Knowledge Core (Collections, Research and Living Culture) through in-person and virtual programs and experiences and positions the Museum as a partner and asset for the community.
- Develops long range plans and strategies for the Museum’s public program departments (Education, Exhibits, and Visitor Experiences) that advances the Museum’s mission and strengthen its financial and organizational foundation.
- Develops, implements, evaluates and improves systems that create efficient and effective conditions that advance institutional goals
- In collaboration with Institutional Advancement, develop and cultivate strategic community partnerships (private, individual, nonprofit and business sector) that will contribute to the advancement of the Museum’s strategic initiatives through public engagement and programming
- Maintains and develops the Museum’s image and reputation and protects the organization’s brand and intellectual property.
- Recommends and implements changes in organization and operations as required for the development and growth of the Museum.

Director of Education (June 2019 - January 2021)

- Provide strategic and operational leadership for the Museum’s Education Department including supervision of staff, volunteers, and docents, and the development and management of the department’s budget.
- Develop and implement a long-range plan that will increase and/or improve current offerings of the museum’s educational programs - to include, but not be limited to, field trip visits, outreach, daily visitors

and enculturation/professional development for community partners and organizations and be aligned to the Museum's strategic plan.

- Collaborate with collections, research, exhibits, visitor experience, and institutional advancement, as relevant, in the concept generation and content development of unique, relevant and innovative programs.
- Create and cultivate meaningful partnerships with veteran agencies, organizations, and community groups aligned with the museum's strategic goals to broaden the impact of the museum.
- In collaboration with Institutional Advancement and other museum staff, take lead on seeking, conceptualizing, designing, and submitting grant proposals in support of Museum public programs and educational initiatives.
- Manage education-related grants including federal agencies, State of Hawaii, and national and local private foundations. Serve as Principal Investigator on education related grants.

Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School, Honolulu, HI
Po'ō Kumu (Head of School/Principal)

August 2014 – June 2019

- Responsible for strategic leadership of the school – responsible for creating a long-term strategic plan involving multiple stakeholders with varying perspectives; make decisions that strengthen the organization, drive organizational change that is supported with research and data.
- Academic Leader – responsible for building, improving and maintaining an academically rigorous program that is grounded in Hawaiian culture, values and traditions and prepares students for college and/or career success; provide instructional and administrative support to all teaching faculty and support staff; facilitate collaborative discussions that involve student learning; educational programming and overall organizational success
- Organizational and instructional leader for the school, functions as the Head of School and responsible for the continuous improvement and day-to-day leadership of the school
- Financial Management – Ensure financial policies and procedures exercise financial controls and prudent spending in order to maintain a healthy financial reserve; develop and manage annual operating budget; implement sound financial practices that support the school's vision and mission.

Pacific Rim Christian University, Honolulu, HI
Adjunct Faculty

January 2019 – May 2020

- Responsible for the instruction of the assigned course(s) (GE 2309, Hawaiian Language and Culture).
- Utilize an array of instructional strategies to engage students in the course content
- Provide support to students, as needed
- Communicate effectively

Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, HI

April 2005- July 2014

Director of Operations, Extension Educational Services Division
April 2011 – July 2014

- Implement strategic initiatives for the division that are in alignment with Education Strategic Plan and Divisional Tactical plan
- Coordinate management of data, data analysis and reporting and present for continuous improvement of divisional programs
- Plan, design and develop student/program assessments and evaluations that are culturally sensitive and relevant to divisional programming
- Establish systems and processes for longitudinal tracking of student participation and impact data
- Create short and long-term strategies for continuous improvement of divisional business processes, policies and systems that affect programming

- Provide leadership and oversight of divisional collaborations with key entities that enhance divisional programs or provide support for non-KS programs that benefit Native Hawaiian learners
- Provide leadership in the recruitment to enrollment (RTE) process for EES programs (Explorations Series and Kamehameha Scholars)
- Responsible for the maintenance of the student database (Chancery SMS), which include report development, data cleansing, data input and data standards
- Engage in systematic monitoring and assessment of all divisional collaboration programs

Assistant Director, Enrichment Department, Extension Educational Services Division

November 2008 – April 2011

- Provide educational leadership to the development, revisions, implementation and evaluation of Enrichment Programs; inform instructional practice
- Assure appropriate curriculum, effective instruction, and assessment tools are being created and implemented to measure student success
- Establish tools and a system of linking program evaluations to department dashboard
- Lead a professional learning community among staff to further develop knowledge and skills
- Coach, develop and monitor staff performance
- Network with internal and external entities to leverage and maximize resources to conduct programs throughout the State of Hawai'i
- Operational management in the day to day business of the department (budget planning and monitoring included)

*note: served as interim from January 2008 – November 2008

Coordinator/Trainer, Enrichment Department, Extension Educational Services Division

March 2007 – January 2008

- Develop and revise community and culturally based programs
- Engaged with community resources to maximize learning experiences for students
- Create assessment tools to measure student learning

Program Specialist, Enrichment Department, Extension Educational Services Division

September 2006- March 2007

- Develop Hawaiian culture focused curriculum and materials aligned to Hawai'i Content Performance Standards, and Nā Honua Maoli Oli (Hawaiian Culture based guidelines)
- Deliver instruction to students, primarily in grades 4-8

Cultural Resource Coordinator, Distance Learning Department

April 2005-September 2006

- Assist in the development of curriculum and material to include but not limited to Virtual Fieldtrips, supplemental learning activities, and lessons
- Serve as a Hawaiian Cultural resource for the development of Distance Learning Material

University of Hawaii – Leeward Community College, Pearl City, Oahu

August 2011 – May 2014

Lecturer – Part-time

- Responsible for teaching a diverse student population of traditional students, working adults and returning students with an array of educational and personal experiences
- Responsible for teaching the following courses in a face-to-face format
 - Hawaiian Studies 107, Hawaii: Center of the Pacific – an introduction to the unique culture and history of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands

- Hawaiian Studies 291, Contemporary Hawaiian Issues - a critical study and interdisciplinary introduction to contemporary, domestic and international Hawaiian issues within their historical, social, cultural and political contexts

Accreditation Committees

Hawaii Baptist Academy, HAIS Visiting Team Member, April 2017

Kamehameha Schools Hawaii Campus, HAIS Visiting Team Member, April 2018

Religious Affiliation

Kawaiaha‘o Church

- Luna Ho‘omalua (Church Moderator), July 2021 – June 2023
- Church Deacon, Installed October 2018
- Church Member since 2016

Community Service

Lei Ho‘olaha CDFI, 501 (c)(3) Organization, Director, January 2021 - current

USA Softball Hawaii, Oahu Junior Olympics, 501 (c)(3), Secretary, 2018 - current

Papa Kū Māna, 501(c)(3) Organization, Director, 2020 - 2022

Native Hawaiian Education Council, Council Member, 2012 – July 2017

- Past Officer, 2015 - 2016

- Chairperson, 2014-2015

Hālaui Kū Māna Public Charter School, Governing Board Member, 2009 – 2014

References

Available upon request