



Administrative Testimony
Testimony of Kamanaʻopono Crabbe, Ph.D.
Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

State of Hawaiʻi Board of Education
AGENDA ITEM VI.B: BOARD ACTION ON APPOINTMENT OF THREE INDIVIDUALS
TO SERVE AS MEMBERS OF THE STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

May 16, 2019

1:30 p.m.

Queen Liliʻuokalani Building

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of Dr. Gary Kalehua Krug's reappointment to the Hawaiʻi State Public Charter School Commission (Commission). OHA believes that Dr. Krug's previous service as a member of the Commission, his valuable and practical insight and perspectives, and his educational and professional background all strongly counsel his continued membership on the Commission, as it carries out its important mission to authorize high-quality charter schools in Hawaiʻi.

Throughout his previous terms on the Commission, Dr. Krug has amply demonstrated his willingness and ability to provide it with crucial support in the fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities. Hawaiʻi public charter schools must meet academic performance measures as well as financial, organizational, and operational performance measures set forth in their charter contracts with the Commission; reviewing and ensuring that these performance measures are met is one of the Commission's most important functions. As chair of the Commission's Performance and Accountability Committee, Dr. Krug has accordingly served a critical role in leading the Committee, and ultimately the Commission, in its review of all 37 of Hawaiʻi public charter schools, to determine whether they met the aforementioned performance measures, as well as determine the appropriate steps needed to address any performance deficiencies.

As Vice-Chair of the Commission itself, Dr. Krug has also lent valuable and practical insight and perspectives in its activities and decisionmaking. Most notably, he has consistently advocated that charter school stakeholders and support organizations be solicited for input and feedback before the Commission makes decisions on matters of particular significance. This has resulted or will result in valuable stakeholder and other outreach in the development of charter renewal criteria; the facilities funding workgroup recommendations report submitted to the Legislature in March 2019; and the pending charter school governance and academic performance framework, with upcoming community stakeholder meetings on these subjects now planned for all islands where charter schools are located—Hawaiʻi island, Maui, Molokai, Oʻahu, and Kauai.

Dr. Krug's commitment and demonstrated capacity to serve on the Commission is also reflected in his academic and professional background. A graduate of Kamehameha

Schools, his subsequent lifelong academic pursuit of Hawaiian language and education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Hawaiian Language, a Bachelor of Education in Elementary Education/Hawaiian Immersion, a Masters of Elementary Education in Curriculum Studies, and a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Hawai‘i-Mānoa. His professional activities likewise reflect a dedication to education and Hawaiian education in particular: after gaining valuable experience as a public school teacher, Dr. Krug now serves as an Educational Specialist in the Department of Education’s Office of Hawaiian Education (DOE-OHE), working to advance programs to implement state constitutional mandates and Board of Education policies in Hawaiian Studies and the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program. Among his many community-based activities, Dr. Krug has also previously served as President of the ‘Aha Kauleo Council, which advises the DOE on the state’s Hawaiian Language Immersion Program. To the extent that 17 of the 34 public charter schools in Hawai‘i are culturally-based Hawaiian-focused or Hawaiian Language Immersion charter schools, Dr. Krug’s academic background and ongoing work in Hawaiian culture and immersion education will allow him to continue bringing valuable perspectives and insights to the Commission, particularly with respect to this unique and defining component of our charter school system.

These are just a few highlights of Dr. Krug’s many accomplishments and experiences, which make him highly suited for continued membership on the Commission. OHA believes that Dr. Krug’s service has been and will be invaluable to the Commission and its work, and we greatly appreciate his willingness to remain on the Commission.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Board to **SUPPORT** the reappointment of Dr. Krug to the Hawai‘i State Public Charter School Commission.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

‘A‘ohe lua e like ai me ka ho‘ona‘auao ‘ana o ke kamali‘i. Nothing can compare in worth to the education of our children.



May 13, 2019

TO: General Business Meeting: Agenda Item VI, Section D: Investigative
Committee

FR: Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

RE: IN SUPPORT OF DR. SYLVIA HUSSEY TO THE STATE OF HAWAI'I
PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Aloha e Hawai'i Board of Education,

Kanaeokana, the Kula Hawai'i Network which includes membership of all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools (HFCS), DOE Hawaiian Medium Education schools, and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations, is in strong support of Dr. Sylvia Hussey's nomination to the State of Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission for another term.

As a Hawaiian education network, Kanaeokana's mission is to collaboratively develop and strengthen a Native Hawaiian education system—built on a strong 'ōlelo Hawai'i and 'ike Hawai'i foundation—to grow and sustain aloha 'āina leaders. Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools are a critical component of this Hawaiian education ecosystem and we feel Dr. Hussey, with her extensive education administrative experiences, knowledge of federal education policy and appropriations processes, and demonstrated commitment to Hawaiian education moves us to strongly support her nomination to the Commission.

Dr. Hussey has been instrumental in leading the development of the Commission's strategic plan, with input from the community and charter school stakeholders. A renewed term would assure consistent guidance and implementation of the plan.

Dr. Hussey's other accomplishments include her work in assisting the Hawai'i and Alaska congressional delegations to ensure the reauthorization of the Native Hawaiian Education Act in 2015. Her educational leadership and steadfast commitment to improving the educational success of Hawai'i's indigenous students and families is notable and Kanaeokana is excited that Dr. Hussey has committed to serving another term.

Therefore, we humbly ask the Board of Education to appoint Dr. Sylvia Hussey for another three year term to the State of Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission.

Me Ka 'Oia'i'o

Kōmike Advocacy,
Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network



May 13, 2019

TO: General Business Meeting: Agenda Item VI, Section D: Investigative
Committee

FR: Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

RE: IN SUPPORT OF DR. KALEHUA KRUG TO THE STATE OF HAWAI'I PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Aloha e Hawai'i Board of Education,

Kanaeokana, the Kula Hawai'i Network which includes membership of all 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools (HFCS), DOE Hawaiian Medium Education schools, and over 50 other Hawaiian education organizations, is in full support of Dr. Kalehua Krug's nomination to the State of Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission for another term.

As a Hawaiian education network, Kanaeokana's mission is to collaboratively develop and strengthen a Native Hawaiian education system—built on a strong 'ōlelo Hawai'i and 'ike Hawai'i foundation—to grow and sustain aloha 'āina leaders. Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools are a critical component of this Hawaiian education ecosystem and we feel Dr. Krug has the knowledge and tested experience to provide balanced and judicious expertise to the Commission so that our 'ohana of 17 Hawaiian Focused Charter Schools have the supports in place to thrive and meet their respective missions.

Dr. Krug's passion for Hawaiian language and cultural practices place him in a unique position to evaluate the diverse Hawaiian culture based curriculum and assessments that are bedrock to HFCS. Dr. Krug's experience and knowledge of Hawaiian language assessment development will contribute to the revision of the academic performance framework as well as to the academic growth of the Hawaiian medium/immersion charter schools.

Beyond his scholarly expertise and accomplishments, Dr. Krug is a cultural practitioner that brings deep insights and perspectives to the policy domain. His commitment to serve another term is laudable and we have great appreciation for his willingness to do so.

Therefore, we humbly ask the Board of Education to appoint Dr. Kalehua Krug's for another three year term to the State of Hawai'i Public Charter School Commission.

Me Ka 'Oia'i'o

Kōmike Advocacy,
Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

Testimony on agenda item VI, C, Board Action on Board Policy E-700, Public Charter Schools

Proposed Board of Education Policy E-700 establishes a new purpose policy for our state's charter school system, which includes implementation of innovative educational practices. Yet, the proposed policy does not address the State Legislature's intent with regard to the direction of charter school activities, as expressed in the preamble of Act 130 of 2012, which states:

The legislature finds that this Act will support new approaches to education that accommodate the individual needs of students and **provide the State with successful templates that can dramatically improve Hawaii's educational standards for the twenty-first century.** This Act will create genuine opportunities for communities to implement innovative models of community-based education.

While the proposed policy emphasizes community-based school models and innovation, it fails to address the manner in which charter schools were originally meant to export innovative practices to traditional Hawai'i Department of Education schools.

In my view, **charter schools have failed to fulfill their obligation to provide innovative models for adoption by our state's public schools.** Rather than provide templates for replication through HIDOE, they have effectively become a "mini HIDOE," in which best practices are shared within a closed charter school network, if at all.

Moreover, we must always be cognizant of the fact that the language of "innovation" has been used by proponents of educational choice to undermine the purpose and funding of traditional public schools. In other states, charters have been associated with "innovation" to sustain efforts to privatize education and de-unionize teachers and school staff, with the flexibility afforded to charters then manipulated by education privatizers to promote an education agenda built on boosting business profits, rather than generating holistic, student-centered learning experiences for our children.

As the Network for Public Education states, charter schools "often stifle innovation," often "hire less experienced teachers who don't plan to stay in the school for very long," and "do not value the teacher/family relationships that emerge in communities over time." This is, in part, why local charter school funding has come under greater scrutiny at the State Legislature, with policymakers seeking to understand how financial mismanagement has undermined the educational goals and outcomes that charter school flexibility are intended to advance, and passing measures that establish greater financial accountability for both individual charter schools and Hawai'i's overall charter school network.

It is time to take a serious look at our whether or not our state's charter school system truly serves student needs. Accordingly, I urge the board to consider delaying approval of proposed policy E-700 until a later date, so that stakeholders can ensure that the policy aligns with Hawai'i's charter school legal framework under HRS §302D and long-term educational vision.