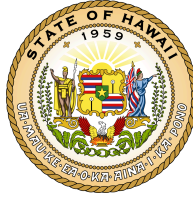


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



ROY M. TAKUMI
CHAIRPERSON

**STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
PAPA HO'ONA'AUAO**
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

May 14, 2026

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mary Hattori
Chairperson, 2026 Commission Regular-Term Nominations
Investigative Committee

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

I. BACKGROUND

On June 30, 2026, the terms of three commissioners on the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) are scheduled to expire. These commissioners are: Makalapua Alencastre, Brandon K. Bunag, and Lehua Veincent.

Pursuant to [subsection 302D-3\(c\), Hawaii Revised Statutes \(HRS\)](#), the Board of Education (Board) is responsible for appointing the members of the Commission. The nominees selected will serve three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

The Board followed its process for the nomination and appointment of individuals to serve as members of the Commission, as explained in Chairperson Roy Takumi's memo to the Board on March 12, 2026. This process included establishment of the

investigative committee (Committee) – charged with reviewing the applications received, and recommending nominees from the pool of applicants – at the Board’s March 12, 2026, general business meeting, to which Board Members Bill Arakaki, Elynn Chung, Kahele Dukelow, and Mary Hattori were appointed, with Board Member Hattori serving as chairperson.

The Board published on its website a call for applications and an application form, as well as notified charter school stakeholders, including governing boards, charter school directors, and the Commission, on March 5, 2026.

II. FINDINGS

The Committee received six applications, all of which met the submission deadline of March 26, 2026. Of the six applicants, the Committee found that three were the best qualified and suited to serve on the Commission for three-year terms beginning beginning on July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029:

- Brandon Bunag, whose nomination letter and resume are attached as **Exhibit A**;
- Lehua Veincent, whose cover letter and resume are attached as **Exhibit B**; and
- Ryan Mandado, whose cover letter and resume are attached as **Exhibit C**.

III. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends the Board appoint the aforementioned individuals to the Commission, each to serve three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029.

Proposed Motion:

“Moved to appoint the following individuals to the Commission, each to serve three-year terms beginning on July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029:

- **Brandon Bunag;**
- **Lehua Veincent; and**
- **Ryan Mandado.”**

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

Exhibit A
Brandon Bunag's Nomination Letter and Resume (contact information redacted)

March 24, 2026

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

Aloha mai kāua,

I respectfully accept and certify my nomination to continue serving as a commissioner on the Hawai'i State Public Charter School Commission. I am honored by this consideration and remain committed to advancing high-quality public charter education across Hawai'i.

For the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as a commissioner, contributing to the Commission's work in authorization, oversight, and accountability. This experience has strengthened my understanding of the Commission's statutory responsibilities and the balance required to support school autonomy while ensuring equity, transparency, and strong student outcomes.

In addition to my service on the Commission, I bring extensive experience in education leadership and nonprofit administration. I previously served as Pōo Kumu (Head of School/Principal) of Hālau Kū Māna, a public charter school in Honolulu, where I led strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and school-wide systems to support student social, emotional, and academic success..

I currently serve as Vice President for Public Programs at the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, overseeing educational programming, strategic initiatives, and community partnerships grounded in Hawaiian culture-based education. Across my leadership roles, I have developed strengths in program development, assessment, organizational leadership, and collaborative governance.

My combined experience as a charter school leader, nonprofit executive, and current commissioner provides me with a practical and well-rounded perspective on the opportunities and challenges facing charter schools. I am committed to integrity, public service, and continuous improvement, and I would be honored to continue serving on the Commission.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a nō,



Brandon K. Bunag, EdD

Brandon Keoni Bunag, Ed.D.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Kanaka ʻŌiwi minded and mission-driven executive with over 15 years of experience driving strategic initiatives, operational excellence, and culturally grounded education and community programs across Hawaiʻi and the Pacific. Proven expertise in nonprofit management, institutional development, and organizational leadership. Skilled in aligning systems, people, and mission to strengthen performance and long-term sustainability. Dedicated to building meaningful partnerships, empowering communities, and leading innovative, high-impact programs that advance organizational goals and honor cultural stewardship.

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 Hawaiʻi at Manoa, *May 2006*

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, Honolulu, HI

June 2019 – Current

Vice President of Public Programs (February 2021 - current)

- Spearheaded strategic leadership for the Public Programs Division, directly managing the Exhibits, Education, Public Programs, Visitor Experience, Events and Facility Rentals departments.
- Increased public engagement through innovative in-person and virtual programs advancing the Museum’s Knowledge Core, which consist of the Museum’s collections, research and living culture. Some examples include the Science and Sustainability Festival, Mālama Hāloa Kalo Festival, O’ahu Intertribal Powwow, Museum After Hours and Mele After Hours.
- Drove community partnership efforts, cultivating relationships with new and existing nonprofit, private organizations and government entities to enhance the Museum’s impact and community relevance.
- Secured over \$5M in federal, state, county and private foundation grants to support existing Museum programs and pilot new ones.
- In collaboration with senior leaders, developed strategies to increase revenue to further support Museum operations.

Director of Education (June 2019 - January 2021)

- Developed 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.

- Created partnerships with neighboring schools to increase access for students to Museum spaces and build capacity with teachers to better utilize Museum resources for teaching and learning
- Secured \$100K from private foundations to support to pilot of School – Museum partnerships.

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

August 2014 – June 2019

- Drove strategic and operational decision making on a daily basis for the good of students, the school and the school community (including parents and stakeholders).
- Established sustainable community partnerships that aided in the schools' ability to deliver a well-rounded, culturally grounded educational program.
- Initiated the school's first dual-credit program for high school students. Program provided an opportunity for students to enroll in college level courses and earn college credit.
- Elevated and maintained a culture of academic rigor grounded in Hawaiian-culture based education, which resulted in continuous academic growth evidenced by yearly increases in state assessments
- Increased school enrollment which resulted in an increase in funding for school operations.
- Managed a limited annual budget of \$1.5M, while serving 140 students in grades 4 – 12, and employing 20 teachers, aides, support staff. Consistently delivered positive year-end budget.

Kamehameha Schools, Honolulu, HI

April 2005- July 2014

Director of Operations, Extension Educational Services Division

April 2011 – July 2014

- Implemented 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
- Planned, designed and developed student/program assessments and evaluations that are culturally sensitive and relevant to divisional programming
- Established systems and processes for longitudinal tracking of student participation and impact data
- Created short and long-term strategies for continuous improvement of divisional business processes, policies and systems that affect programming
- Provided 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
- Engaged in systematic monitoring and assessment of all divisional collaboration programs

Assistant Director, Enrichment Department, Extension Educational Services Division

November 2008 – April 2011

- Provided educational leadership to the development, revisions, implementation and evaluation of Enrichment Programs; inform instructional practice
- Assured appropriate curriculum, effective instruction, and assessment tools are being created and implemented to measure student success
- Networked with internal and external entities to leverage and maximize resources to conduct programs throughout the State of Hawai'i

*Coordinator/Trainer, Enrichment Department, Extension Educational Services Division
March 2007 – January 2008*

*Program Specialist, Enrichment Department, Extension Educational Services Division
September 2006- March 2007*

Cultural Resource Coordinator, Distance Learning Department
April 2005-September 2006

Appointments

Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission, Commissioner
Term: April 2024 – June 2026

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 - Kalawina

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

Community Service

United By Softball, 501(c)(3), Founding Board Member, Secretary July 2024 - current
Lei Ho‘olaha CDFI, 501 (c)(3) Organization, Director, January 2021 – September 2024
USA Softball Hawaii, Oahu Junior Olympics, 501 (c)(3), Secretary, 2018 - June 2024
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

Dr. Lehua M. Veincent



March 13, 2026

Selection Committee
State Public Charter School Commission
State of Hawai'i

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in continuing as a member of the State Public Charter School Commission. I was appointed as a State Commissioner for Charter Schools in July 2023. My appointment ends in June 2026. With over four decades of experience in education as a teacher, administrator, and community leader in Hawai'i, I remain deeply committed to strengthening educational opportunities for our youth and ensuring that charter schools continue to provide high-quality, innovative learning environments for students across the state.

My career reflects a longstanding dedication to education and the development of young people academically, socially, and culturally. As Principal of Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i High School, I oversee a comprehensive educational program serving grades 9–12 and lead more than one hundred faculty and staff members while supporting the growth and development of our students. Prior to this role, I served as Principal in the public sector at the DOE's Keaukaha School and SoH's Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School where our leadership team successfully moved the school out of academic corrective action and into good standing through a focus on rigorous instruction, cultural relevance, and strong partnerships with families and community organizations. Throughout my career, I have worked to ensure that schools nurture not only academic success but also the character, identity, and civic responsibility of students.

My professional record demonstrates a commitment to integrity, civic responsibility, and high ethical standards. In every leadership role I have held, I have prioritized transparent decision-making, accountability, and the cultivation of trust among faculty, families, and community partners. I believe these values are essential to effective governance and would guide my service on the Commission as we work collectively to ensure responsible stewardship of public charter schools and their missions.

I also bring experience with complex educational systems and governance structures. Early in my career, I co-founded Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School, one of the first twenty-four charter schools established in the State of Hawai'i, where I served as principal and helped design academic programs and governance systems for a culturally grounded

secondary school. This experience, along with my work in large educational organizations and community boards, has given me insight into performance-based accountability, strategic planning, and the operational challenges associated with charter school management.

Equally important, my professional experiences have required collaboration across diverse groups of educators, community leaders, families, and governing boards. I have served on several boards and advisory organizations and have worked closely with unions, community foundations, and higher education partners. These experiences have strengthened my ability to listen thoughtfully, build consensus, and contribute productively to collective decision-making processes.

Finally, I am committed to remaining actively engaged and informed regarding best practices in charter school governance. My academic training—including a Doctorate and two Master's in Education—combined with my professional work in school leadership and culturally grounded education has shaped my understanding of effective governance and accountability structures. My third Master's in Business Administration allow me to share by business acumen in finances and operations. I remain eager to continue learning and contributing to policies that support high-performing charter schools that serve the diverse communities of Hawai'i.

It would be an honor to continue contributing to the advancement of public charter schools in our state. I appreciate your consideration and welcome the opportunity to continue the Commission's work in strengthening educational innovation and opportunity for Hawai'i's students.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lehua M. Veincent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "V".

Dr. Lehua M. Veincent



DR. LEHUA M. VEINCENT

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i (Principal)
 - Facilitate school improvement plan for Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i High School that includes Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; School Governance, Student Support, School Climate, and Nohona Hawai'i.
 - Restructure career and grade level academy program of Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i High School.
 - Promote 'ōiwi leadership amongst students through programs and activities.
 - Establish the Kaunaloa Dual Credit enrollment program on campus; Establish adjunct instructors with current KSH high school faculty members.
 - Guide Hawai'i Cultural-Based Education at the high school campus.
 - Establish and facilitate governance structure of Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i High School including Administration Team, Content Teams, Academy Teams, Grade Level Advisors.
 - Collaborate effectively with Kamehameha Schools Faculty Association-Hawai'i throughout the school year and through three (3) collective bargaining sessions (2012, 2015, 2020).

- State of Hawai'i Department of Education (Principal/Vice Principal)
 - Facilitate school improvement plan for Keaukaha School K-6 that moved the school out of academic failure status.
 - Plan and conduct school level meetings focusing on curriculum and instruction, student support, school climate, organization, budget, and cultural-based education
 - Facilitate curriculum and instruction of benchmark maps, scope and sequences, and multiple assessments.
 - Collaborated with community and business organizations in raising and raising a total of \$250,000 to cover educational programs that promoted innovation at Keaukaha Elementary School that placed the school IN GOOD STANDING as a result of passing state assessments.

- Facilitate school's leadership team to discuss school finances and operations, analyze student data, and plan, implement, and review programs.
 - In collaboration with business and community partners, facilitate activities and events for family and community members to bridge the school, home and community (i.e. kupuna day, May Day, Evening of Song, We Got Your Back Program (provides family with groceries every two weeks), monthly 'Ohana Night).
 - Work collaboratively with faculty and staff union organizations and representatives - United Public Workers (UPW), Hawai'i State Teacher's Association (HSTA), and Hawai'i Government Employees Association (HGEA).
 - Carry forth operationally and academically schools plan towards academic excellence as Vice Principal at Hilo High Intermediate School (2001-2002) and Hilo High School (2002-2003).
 - Work cooperatively with members of the Parent-Teacher Association, school Non-Profit Foundation, and business and community partners
- Hawai'i State School – Charter School (Principal/Teacher)
- Established one of the first twenty-four (24) charter schools in the State of Hawai'i - the Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School, a 7th – 12th grade cultural-based public charter school in Keaukaha. Existed as the 3rd public high school in Hilo.
 - Managed the administration, assets, and custodial duties of the school and its members.
 - Managed grant assets in the establishment of school facilities in Keaukaha.
 - Established Academic Tracks at Ke Ana La'ahana Public Charter School: Ocean and Shorelines Conservation, Land and Forestry Conservation, Health and Wellness, Hula and Performing Arts, Vocation and Technology, Genealogy and History
- Hawaiian Language Immersion Programs – Kula Kaiapuni
- Assisted in the opening of the first Hawaiian Language Immersion Program in the State of Hawai'i in 1987 in Keaukaha, Hawai'i.
 - Assisted in the opening of the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program in 1990 in Pā'ia, Maui.
 - Assisted in the opening of the secondary Hawaiian Language Immersion Program – Ke Kula 'o Nāwahītokalani'ōpu'u in Hilo and Kea'au. Served as administrator-in-charge.
- Community Educational Programs (Department of Education, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center, Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation)
- Plan, organize, instruct, and oversee summer school for high school students for 15 years with the Queen Lili'uokalani's Children Center and Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation.

- Plan, organize, instruct, and oversee adult Hawaiian Language and culture classes (beginning, intermediate, and advance Hawaiian Language, *mele* (music), *ulana lauhala* (lauhala weaving), *oli* (chant))
- Plan, organize, instruct, and oversee night tutorial services for students grades Kindergarten through college in Keaukaha

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCES

July 2012 – Present

Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i

High School Principal, Grades 9-12

- Oversee 100 faculty and staff members of Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i High School
- Oversee athletic department of 11 staff members and 200 coaches (head, assistance, volunteer)
- Responsible for school leadership and governance; curriculum, instruction, and assessment, school climate, and student support
- Restructure high school career and grade level academy system
- Oversees and facilitates school level meetings: career and grade level academy meetings, content meetings, administration meetings, and school leadership meetings
- Plans and oversees KSH high school budget
- Plans and oversees KSH high school professional development
- Responsible for high school in-service trainings
- Established the Kaunaloa Dual Credit Program for KSH high school
- Implements cultural-based education opportunities for faculty, staff, and students.
- Communicates effectively with HS stakeholders; established the quarterly *E Ola e Kamehameha* family and community bulletin
- Monitors, reviews, and approves: My Learning Plan, PeopleSoft, ADP, Success Factors
- Implement student support and discipline strategies to minimize referrals and Discipline
- Implement SAT preparation classes for high school students
- Monitors safety and health protocols of the high school
- Schedules and monitors all student activities on campus
- Implemented I Mua Week Homecoming in celebrating high school culture and alumni
- Brought back full school Ho'ike to embrace full school pride and promote the concept of give back

January 2006 – June 2012

Keaukaha School

Elementary Principal, Grades K-6

- Established Positive Behavioral Support System entitled "Got Pono?". Decreased the number of discipline referrals; program established statewide *E Ola Pono* Program
- Established *Mauli Keaukaha* Philosophy of Knowledge that linked academia to culture in 2006, collaboration with teachers to align academia content areas to cultural learning
- 2006-2007 – Keaukaha School MET Adequate Yearly Progress after 25 years of Corrective Action
- 2007-2008 – Keaukaha School MET Adequate Yearly Progress for 2nd straight year bringing Keaukaha School out of status corrective action – In Good Standing, Unconditional
- Lobbied, monitored, scheduled total schoolwide facility renovations from September 2009 – April 2010
- Lobbied for facility funding for new Keaukaha Cafeteria
- Worked with Business and Community Partners in established the "Adopt-a-Class" program
- Reestablished the Keaukaha School Foundation and solicited community leaders to lead the non-profit arm

*July 2003 – January 2006 Ke Ana La‘ahana Public Charter School
Intermediate and High School Principal, Grades 7-12*

- Co-Founder of the Ke Ana La‘ahana Public Charter School in 2001
- Established Academic Tracks for students in Grades 7-12
- Facilitate curriculum, instruction, and assessment discussion, implementation, and evaluation
- Facilitate curriculum instruction on cultural-based and place-based education

*July 2002 – June 2003 Hilo High School
Vice Principal, Grades 9-12*

- Vice Principal in-charge of history, language arts, and foreign language departments, special education department, cafeteria, discipline
- Facilitated meetings for all faculty and staff members
- Facilitated instructional strategy meetings with Educational Assistants
- Restructured special education department that provided on-going monitoring of targeted students

*July 2001 – June 2002 Hilo Intermediate School
Vice Principal, Grades 7 & 8*

- Facilitated meetings for all faculty and staff members
- Established the Positive Behavior Support program

*January 2001 – June 2001 Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies
State Resource Teacher, Department of Education*

- Resource Teacher in-charge of Hawai‘i Island Hawaiian Language Immersion Program, curriculum and instruction, programs, and assessments

*December 1999 – August 2000 Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation
Community Coordinator under the Lauhuki Prenatal and Preschool Family Base Center.*

- Facilitate community mapping project – oral histories, community demographics, community programs

*July 1995 – June 1997 Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u
Teacher-In-Charge (Under Hilo High Intermediate and Hilo High Schools)*

OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

July 1997 – January 2001	Teacher, Social Studies Grades 7-12, Department of Education, Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u (Hawaiian Language Immersion 7-12)
July 1995 – June 1997	Teacher, Grade 5, Department of Education, Keaukaha School, Hilo, HI
July 1994 – June 1995	Teacher, Social Studies, English Language Arts, Fin Arts Grades 6-8, Ke Kula ‘o Nāwahīokalani‘ōpu‘u (Hawaiian Language Immersion 7-12)
July 1993 – June 1994	Teacher, Grade 5, Department of Education, Keaukaha School, Hilo, HI

July 1990 – June 1993	Teacher, Department of Education, Pā'ia Elementary School, Maui, HI. SY 1990-1991 – Grades 1 & 2, SY 1991-1992 – Kindergarten, SY 1992-1993 – Grades 3 & 4
July 1987 – June 1990	Part-Time Teacher, Department of Education, Keaukaha School, Hilo, HI – Grades Kindergarten, 1 & 2
1985-1987	Business Assistant, Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawai'i
1983-1985	Clerical Assistant, United States Department of Agriculture

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCES

1986 – 2012	Instructor of Hawaiian Language, Department of Education Community School for Adults, Hawai'i and Maui Islands
2005 – 2006, 2010 – 2012, Fall, 2023, Fall 2024	Instructor, Education Department, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hilo, HI. Course: Education 310 – Foundations in Education
2004 – 2006	University Supervisor for Student Teachers, Education Department, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hilo, HI
2004 – 2013	Instructor, Department of Education's Pre-Hire Substitute Course/Recertification Course for Substitute Teachers
1999 – 2000	Instructor, Hawaiian Language, Hilo Community College, Hilo, HI
August 1994 – May 2000	ITV Hawaiian Language Conversation, Hilo Community School For Adults, Department of Education, PREL, UH-ITV, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, Hilo Community College; Producer, Host, Instructor, Curriculum Developer. 1994-1995 – <i>E Ho'i I Ka Mole</i> , 1995-1996 – <i>E Kupu A'e A Kupu</i> , 1998- 2000 – <i>E Ō Mai</i>
1994 – 2012	Coordinator and instructor of Keaukaha Night Tutorial Program for Grades K-Post-Secondary and Summer School Programs for high school students

EDUCATION

Masters in Business Administration Grand Canyon University	<i>Awarded: December 2019</i>
Doctorate's in Philosophy – Education: Curriculum Studies University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Dissertation Title: <i>Mauli Keaukaha: Cultural Knowledge and Education in the Keaukaha Community (See below abstract.)</i>	<i>Awarded: May 2016</i>
Masters of Education in K-12 Educational Administration University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	<i>Awarded: May 2003</i>
State Certificate in K-12 School Leadership, State of Hawai'i Department of Education	<i>Awarded: May 2002</i>

Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction University of Hawai'i at Mānoa	<i>Awarded: May 2000</i>
Certificate in Teacher Education – Elementary Education University of Hawai'i at Hilo	<i>Awarded: May 1990</i>
Bachelor's in Business Administration University of Hawai'i at Hilo	<i>Awarded: May 1988</i>
Bachelor's of Arts in Hawaiian Studies University of Hawai'i at Hilo.	<i>Awarded: May 1988</i>

HONORS

February 2015	Legacy of Leadership and Service Outstanding Leadership Award For Distinguished Leadership in Education, Administration, and Community Organization; St. Joseph School.
May 2009	National Distinguished Principal Nominee – Hawai'i Island Principal of the Year
February 2009	University of Hawai'i at Hilo Distinguished Alumni Award – The Association of the Alumni and Friends of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo
October 2008	2008 Native Hawaiian Education Award – Ipu Ka'eo Educator Award Kamehameha Schools/Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement
May 2000	Nā Manu o Ka'ae Award - Promotion of Hawaiian Language through UH-ITV program, "E Ō Mai!" - Presented by the 'Ahahui 'Ōlelo Hawai'i – UH-Mānoa

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Mauli Keaukaha: Cultural Knowledge and Education in the Keaukaha Community.

Dissertation for the Doctorate's of Philosophy in Education, College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. 2005 – Present

Ke Ana La'ahana: An Indigenous Education Initiative in a Hawaiian Community.

A Plan B Paper Submitted to the Department of Education and Curriculum Studies College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Spring 2000

Positive Behavior Support Systems.

A Plan B Paper Submitted to the Department of Education Administration, College of Education, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Spring 2003

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Proficient in the Native Hawaiian Language; Oral, Written

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

- Executive Board Member; Hui ‘Oihana – Native Hawai‘i Chamber of Commerce
- KāMauiHou Executive Board Member (non-profit). Focused on development of Native Hawaiian well-being programs.
- Paiāulu Executive Board Member. Work with Native Hawaiian businesses and organizations.
- State Commissioner, State Public Charter School Commission Board, July 2023 – June 2026. Appointed by the State of Hawai‘i Board of Education
- Executive Board Member, Hawai‘i Care Choices (formerly known as Hospice of Hawai‘i) (2020-Present)
- President, Keaukaha School Foundation, a non-profit organization in support of educational endeavors at Keaukaha School (2015-2019)
- Board Member, Mauna Kea Management Board (4 year term); appointed by University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents (2014-2018)
- Board Member, St. Joseph School Board (2014-2018)
- Local School Board Member, Ke Ana La‘ahana Public Charter School Board Chair (2001-2003; 2010-2019)
- Cultural Member, Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES)
- Member, Advisory and Advocacy Group to the Education Department, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.
- Athletic Board Member, Hilo High School

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Ordained Minister, American Marriage Ministries
 - License to Perform Marriage Ceremony, State of Hawai‘i, Department of Health, License #2017-14486 (Expiration – July 24, 2022)
- Member of Hale o Nā Ali‘i, Hālau o Kalākaua
- Merrie Monarch Festivals

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

March 25 & 26, 2012	International Pacific Rim Conference (PACRIM) on Disabilities 2012. Title: <i>‘Ekolu Mea Nui – Cultural Foundation in Learning and Heart of Teaching</i>
January 28, 2012	Kahua Mentoring Program – Department of Education & Kamehameha Schools Title: <i>Mauli Keaukaha: Duty vs. Responsibility</i>
January 13, 2012	Hilo-Laupāhoehoe-Waiākea Complex, Principal’s Meeting Title: <i>Renewal of School and Community Connection</i>
January 9, 2012	American Astronomical Society, Austin Texas Title: <i>Hawaiian Worldview: Lenses for Seeing the Balance of Science and Culture in Hawai‘i</i>

December 16, 2011	Hilo-Laupāhoehoe-Waiākea Complex, Principal's Meeting Title: <i>Keaukaha School Analyzing Data: Change is Inevitable!</i>
July 22, 2009	Kahua Mentoring Program – Department of Education & Kamehameha Schools Title: <i>Mauli Keaukaha</i>
May 4, 2009	International Pacific Rim Conference (PACRIM) on Disabilities 2009 Title: <i>Cultural Foundational Principles</i>
February 2009	Kahua Mentoring Program – Department of Education & Kamehameha Schools Title: <i>Mauli Keaukaha</i>
August 2007	Public Broadcast System (PBS) Hawai'i – Live Show Presentation Title: <i>Got Pono?</i>
March 28, 2007	Native Hawaiian Education Association Conference Title: <i>Genealogy & History: Be Proud of Who You Are And Where You Come From</i>
March 23, 2007	Presentation to the Phi Theta Kappa, Alpha Epsilon Chapter Title: <i>Gold, Gods, and Glory: Family and Communal Ties</i>

CURRICULUM PUBLICATIONS

Ku'ula Marine Resource Management Curriculum, Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation
Ma'iola Indigenous Health Curriculum, Edith Kanaka 'ole Foundation
Ulana Lauhala, Consortium for Teaching Asia and The Pacific (CTAPS), East-West Center

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Song Composition, "*Aloha I Ke Kai Uli*", Artist: Lito Arkangel; CD: Ku'upau (2018)

Dissertation Abstract

Title: *Mauli Keaukaha: Cultural Knowledge and Education in the Keaukaha Community*

Abstract:

Here in Hawai'i, there is a concern as to whether or not students of Hawaiian ancestry understand their own potential as humans who can operate productively in a society that has been built in a capitalist, westernized format. Do Hawaiian children understand what it means to be "Hawaiian" as well as understand the values and morals that are unique to them as Hawaiians within various settings including their home, their community, and their school? Do they understand their duty to their heritage, lineage, and land? By fostering such an understanding of cultural identity and cultural self-awareness as tied to students' experiences of genealogy, history, traditional practices, language, and place, a foundation of learning can be established that is directly linked to the *hana* (work) of our *kūpuna* (ancestors). This unique teaching and learning is the "heartbeat" and "spirit" of knowledge; this is "*Mauli*."

This dissertation takes a look at historical and contemporary educational systems within the Hawaiian community of Keaukaha and aims to find ways to decrease the dissonance of learning between home/community and the school through indigenous ways of knowing unique to the Keaukaha community or *Mauli Keaukaha*. This study captures the thoughts of *'ike kūpuna* (traditional knowledge and practices) as well as reflections on education in the Hawaiian community of Keaukaha through oral history interviews with nine (9) prominent *kūpuna* (elders) within the Keaukaha community. The study further examines if and how this traditional knowledge can be transmitted amongst generations and integrated into the community's current-day public schools through pedagogical practices where learning is purposeful, meaningful, and experiential-based. The study concludes by considering how the foundational knowledge (*'ike maui*) that exists in the *Mauli Keaukaha* can link the Keaukaha community and homes with Keaukaha schools so that rituals and routines of Hawaiian traditions and practices are honored and daily student experiences are validated in contemporary school settings.

Exhibit C
Ryan Mandado's Nomination Letter and Resume (contact information redacted)

March 11, 2026

To the Members of the Selection Committee,

It is an honor to submit my application for a seat on the State Public Charter School Commission. With over a decade of experience across the Hawai'i Department of Education, the charter school sector, and the private sector, I have developed a comprehensive understanding of the operational and ethical rigors required to lead high-performing educational systems. My career has been defined by a commitment to the social, academic, and character development of Hawai'i's youth.

As the Founding Chief Academic Officer and Chief Education Officer (CEO) of DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach, I led the establishment of one of Hawai'i's newest and fastest public charter schools. This involved managing a \$7 million operating budget and overseeing a multi-million dollar facility construction project. I managed the school's performance contract while simultaneously leading two distinct boards: a school board focused on state compliance and a non-profit board, DreamHouse, Inc., focused on philanthropy and facilities. This dual-governance experience has given me a direct, practical understanding of how to hold schools accountable to the public interest.

Beyond traditional academics, I have prioritized identity and leadership development for all students. My record spans serving as a Special Education Department Head at James Campbell High School, managing over 300 individualized education programs, to teaching adult learners at the Waipahu Community School for Adults. These roles have instilled in me an interest in ensuring that the charter school system serves as a high-performing alternative that meets the unique needs of every learner.

My experience as a Senior Diversity Specialist at Google, where I led diversity and development initiatives for North America, required a high degree of collaborative leadership among diverse global colleagues. Whether through my Nexus Fellowship training in systemic change or my work as an Adjunct Professor at Hawai'i Pacific University, I have consistently demonstrated a record of integrity and civic virtue. I am fully prepared to engage constructively with fellow members and hold our body to the highest ethical standards of transparency and fairness.

Through my EdD in Educational Leadership from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and my ongoing MBA at Johns Hopkins University, I remain at the forefront of best practices in educational governance and organizational management. I am committed to being a conscientious, attentive member who is available for the rigorous engagement required to shape policies that will strengthen Hawai'i's charter school system.

Thank you for your consideration of my candidacy and for your service to our community.

With so much aloha and gratitude,

Ryan Canoneo Mandado

RYAN CANONEO MANDADO

EDUCATION

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI 2020 - 2023

EdD - Doctorate in Educational Leadership

Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program

Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. 2021

Certificate in School Finance

Carey School of Business, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 2023-Current

Master of Business Administration - Focus on Business Leadership & Marketing

School of Education, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD 2015 - 2017

Master of Science in Education

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, HI 2011-2015

Bachelor of Arts in Chinese & American Studies, Honors

University Presidential Scholar

Phi Beta Kappa

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Public Charter School 2019 - 2025 |Kapolei, Hawai'i

Founding Chief Academic Officer 2019-2022; Chief Education Officer (CEO)

- Completed a multi-million dollar construction project to establish the DreamHouse Center - Hawai'i's newest public charter high school.
- Oversee a \$7 million operating budget for two school sites - middle and high school.
- Developed two boards - a school board focused on a state approved contract to establish the school and a non-profit board, DreamHouse, Inc. which focused on philanthropy and facilities management.
- Implement the school's academic model and programming focused on leadership and identity development for all students.
- Coach and mentor instructional leaders on high-quality pedagogical practices involving project-based learning, inquiry-based learning, and deeper learning.
- Facilitate weekly teacher professional development opportunities.

Google 2022-2023 | Remote - Hawai'i

Program Manager, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Learning & Development

- Led Google's popular Culture Add program for all of North America. Managed a facilitation team to train ~100 people a week and engaging with hiring managers to foster Culture Add mindsets when engaging candidates and diverse talent.
- Executed learning and development experiences for 200 of Google's Horizontals network in the recruitment organization. The content focused on candidate advocacy and inclusive searches.
- Developed microlearning learning modules focused on the use of precise and inclusive language and how to increase Indigenous representation at Google.

Hawai'i Pacific University 2020 - Present | Honolulu, Hawai'i

Adjunct Professor

- Instructed graduate level courses in the master of educational leadership program.
- Courses taught: Contemporary Issues in Education, Diversity and Social Change, Self-Management in Education, and Foundations of Hawaiian-Based Cultural Education

James Campbell High School 2015 - 2019 | 'Ewa Beach, Hawai'i

Department Head of Special Education / Special Education Teacher Mentor, HSTB Certified, Highly Qualified in English, Social Studies, and Special Education, English Inclusion, Social Studies, & STEM Teacher / 2015 TFA Corps Member

- Served as the Special Education Department Head for the largest public high school in Hawai'i managing 30 teachers, and supporting over 300+ students with individualized education programs.

- Collaborated with administrators and district personnel on high-end cases related to Special Education.
- Lead and facilitated department-wide data collection systems to drive instruction and services.
- Facilitated meaningful collaborative spaces with complex area high schools to address issues related to inclusion.
- Applied mentor teacher training to provide instructional coaching and support to new teachers.
- Engaged service providers with departmental activities to improve student educational placements.

Waipahu Community School for Adults 2017-2019 | Waipahu, Hawai'i

Competency-Based (CB) Program Instructor

- Guided adult learners in a high-school equivalent program to earn a diploma for future employment.
- Mentored adult learners in the post-secondary application process and future employment process.

Teach For America – Tulsa National Institute 2018 | Tulsa, Oklahoma

Corps Member Advisor (CMA) for English Language Arts

- Managed and coached twelve first year Teach for America Corps Members in English language instruction.
- Monitored teacher data collection to ensure effective and productive learning in classrooms.
- Taught learning environment, classroom management, and culturally relevant strategies for teachers.
- Facilitated diversity, equity, and inclusive affinity spaces to discuss the importance of identity in education.
- Facilitated Special Education for empowerment sessions for all educators

Educational Leadership Development

The Equity Lab Nexus Fellowship 2020 - 2022

- Training focused on self, adaptive leadership, technical leadership, and the equityXdesign process for racial justice and systemic change.

APIA Scholars Social Innovation Fellowship 2020-2021

- Training focused on design thinking principles and learning how to apply these skill sets to mobilize higher education solutions for APIA students.

Hope Street Group Teacher Fellowship 2018 - 2019 Teacher Fellow

- Facilitated complex-wide focus groups to gather teacher input on project-based learning implementation.
- Organized meetings with education policy makers to discuss, plan, and create action plans on how to improve public education in Hawai'i.
- Wrote an educational article about the importance of work-readiness program in Special Education.
- Article can be read here:

<https://www.hawaiiiteachervoices.com/our-voices/2019/3/15/workplace-readiness-in-special-education>

Rural Schools Leadership Academy 2018 - 2019 Stream 2 Leadership Cohort

- Collaborated and participated with other school leaders in the Teach For America network to think about how to improve schools in rural regions.
- Visited rural schools across the nation to learn from.

Educational Grants Won

- **Hawai'i Department of Education 2019 Innovation Grant(s) - \$30K**
 - Project: 'Ewa Limu Project, Genome Science and Community, Museums in Schools
- **Hawai'i Department of Education 2018 Innovation Grant - \$70K**
 - Project: James Campbell High School Transition Center for Students in Special Education
- **Hawai'i Schools Digital Media Grant - \$3K**
 - Project: LEAD: DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach
- **Teaching Tolerance Educator Grant - \$5K**
 - Project: Many Voices: Multi-Racial Identity in Hawai'i
- **Federal Charter School Expansion Grant - \$1 million**