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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: GM 577 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TERRY L. HOLCK, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2011.

April 14, 2008

ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Sakamoto and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports GM 577, which submits for consideration and confirmation Gubernatorial Nominee Terry L. Holck to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

The Association is in support of the nomination of Terry Holck. Ms. Holck is a courageous pioneer, as is evident in her move from Ewa Elementary School (a regular Department of Education school) to Voyager School (a public charter school),

She is a leader at her school. Her colleagues have entrusted her with the responsibilities of serving on the school's negotiations team and as a teacher representative on its board.

She is always open to new ideas. Mrs. T., as she is affectionately called by students, is dedicated to them and spends countless hours learning new systems and preparing for classes. Ms. Holck takes on challenges readily and eagerly as evidenced by her willingness to face the challenges that are part and parcel of serving on the HTSB. A conscientious person, she takes pride at being the best at what she does. Ms. Holck possesses an in-depth knowledge of education and what it takes to be a top-notch educator. She will be a positive addition to the HTSB as she exemplifies the best of the teaching profession.

We urge the committee to confirm Terry L. Holck to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board and pass GM 577.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

VOYAGER



A Hawaii Public Charter School

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Education Committee
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

April 4, 2008

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Terry Holck who has been nominated for the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board.

I have worked closely with Terry throughout my six years at Voyager and have consistently found her to be an outstanding professional as well as a person of unusual integrity, commitment, and honor. As Lead Teacher and one of the few teachers who has been at Voyager from the beginning, Terry has been instrumental in the growth of Voyager from a fledgling start-up charter to the successful professional learning community it is today. Her vision, her ability to problem solve, and her unfailing commitment to overcome any obstacle has truly been the foundation on which the school has thrived. Voyager would not be what it is today without the leadership and dedication of Terry Holck.

Terry has many characteristics and skills that make her a perfect choice for the HTSB. A variety of teaching placements in vastly different settings, extensive training and experience in best practices and research based education methodologies, leadership roles at the school level and with the teacher's union, and years of experience in the classroom across many different grade levels combine to uniquely position Terry as both a master teacher and an educational leader. However it is not just what she has done that makes Terry unique, it is the high standards she holds for herself and others, and her willingness to do whatever it takes to push the level of quality to the highest possible point. Unlike many others who give up when the challenges become daunting, Terry continues to seek answers to questions, alternatives to roadblocks, and to ask "how" it can be done. She goes above and beyond in all that she does in a humble, persistent way that inspires others to rise to higher levels of performance and commitment.

It has been a great honor to work side by side with Terry for these last six years. She has been a tremendous source of inspiration and strength for me. In addition to bringing a unique charter school perspective, the Board will benefit from the many gifts, talents, and skills she brings to the table. She is a well respected professional of the very highest caliber. Terry will be a tremendous asset to any organization fortunate enough to have her as a member.

Sincerely,

Susan Deuber, Principal

VOYAGER



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April 4, 2008

Dear Senator Sakamoto and Members of the Education Committee:

It is a privilege to write a letter of recommendation for Mrs. Terry Holck for the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. I have worked with Terry for the past two years at Voyager Public Charter School, where she is a valued member. I highly recommend her for this position because of her teaching experience, and professionalism.

Terry demonstrates a strong dedication to excellence in teaching and leadership. Terry's teaching experiences in various schools have given her the insight she needs to handle the task of teacher licensing and the concerns that arise within this topic. Terry has sought out opportunities to grow as a teacher leader through continued professional development that is not only beneficial to her students, but her colleagues as well. She provides training and support for teachers concerning a variety of topics at Voyager. Terry is a member of our local school board, and is active in the decisions made at the school level. She brings a fresh perspective to our discussions and it is obvious that Terry believes students deserve the best teachers. Terry strives to provide a high quality education to all students. I believe these experiences have given her the knowledge she needs to serve on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Terry handles all of her responsibilities in a professional manner. In her position as lead teacher, Terry is responsible for scheduling, professional development and teacher support. She performs each of these duties with remarkable talent. Terry is able to listen to others and reflect on their perspective. She is very direct, yet able to state her concerns in a respectful way. She does not back down when an issue needs to be dealt with. Terry successfully determines all the details of a situation before making a decision. Terry's work is evidence that she sees teaching as a rewarding profession. She has set high standards for herself and others and is dedicated to excellence in all tasks she assumes.

Terry is an organized person and handles multi-tasking several job titles flawlessly. She is not afraid to ask for help. She delegates responsibilities when she is spread too thin. She has a network of professionals she reaches out to collaborate with when ideas or problems arise.

I highly recommend Terry Holck for a position on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. She would be an excellent asset for Hawai'i's educational system.

Sincerely,

Amy Vorderbruegge

Voyager Public Charter School

Methodology and Training Coordinator

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April 9, 2008

Mr. Norman Sakamoto
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 230
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Norman Sakamoto,

My name is Bonny L. Chikamori, and I have been teaching in the State of Hawai'i for over 10 years. Currently, I am a teacher at Voyager Public Charter School. This letter, nevertheless, is to request your consideration of Terry-Lynn Holck to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Teaching is a multifaceted profession, but Terry is very proficient in addressing all these areas. Not only has Terry devoted countless hours to develop her ability to effectively engage her students in meaningful learning experiences, she also inspires her colleagues to do the same. Just having the opportunity to observe the way she works, encourages others to strive for the same standards of professionalism. Additionally, dialogues with Terry definitely reveal her commitment to the teaching profession, as they are reflective and always focused on the learner. She is also involved, and would often take the lead, in teacher trainings, whole school events, and even community functions. Clearly, her ability to guide and affect growth would make her valuable asset to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Thus, it is with high regards, for her as a compassionate person and dedicated professional that I would definitely recommend Terry-Lynn Holck to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Sincerely,

Bonny L Chikamori

Bonny Lau Chikamori
Teacher

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April 8, 2008

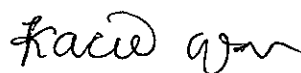
Senator Norman Sakamoto
415 S Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Norman Sakamoto,

My name is Kacie Won and I am honored to be able to write a letter of recommendation for my former teacher, Mrs. Terry Holck. There are few people who exude warmth when they hug because it only comes from people who are dear and special. In almost everyone's lifetime there is at least one person who is very astounding. For me that person is Mrs. Terry Holck or Mrs. T as we affectionately call her. She is the most courageous, caring and inspirational person I know. She has been my role model and someone I hope to become when I grow up. Mrs. T always does 1000%. In particular, for Voyager School's first eighth grade graduation, she did everything she could to make it over the top. It was held at the McCoy Pavilion and she had lights, speakers and even the Mayor was the guest speaker. She also makes learning fun and interesting. For example, in the second grade when we were learning about the Native Hawaiians, she created a project that made us create our own ahupua'a. We made it out of two cardboard boxes, paint, tissue paper and a lot of other crafts. She also took us to the Big Island and showed us the places that we studied about. She is also a great friend, second mom and teacher. For example, one time Mrs. T stayed after school to help me and my friend Sarah with a history magazine project due that week. We knew that she had better things to do, but she never made us feel less important. I have moved on and am now in the eighth grade at Punahou School. I still keep in touch with Mrs. T and I feel I always will. She always finds time to listen to me and gives me advice not as a teacher or parent, but as a friend that I can trust. I am glad that other people have finally recognized how valuable she is and I hope this letter will validate how important she is to me and to the Department of Education. I am very fortunate to have been one of her students and know that she will touch many more lives, teachers and students alike in a positive way.

Sincerely,

Kacie Won



Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice-chair

Senate Committee on Education
Governor's Message 577
Confirmation of Appointment of Terry L. Holck to
The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Monday, April 14, 2008; 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 225

Testimony

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Jim Williams, and I am testifying as an individual. Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of the appointment of Terry Holck to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

I have known and observed Terry Holck in her interactions with students and colleagues when she was a teacher at Ewa Elementary School and more recently as a teacher at Voyager Public Charter School. As a founder and continuing Board member of Voyager, I have seen Ms. Holck in a variety of capacities, including classroom teacher, local school board member, faculty leader and mentor to new teachers. Terry is very conscientious in all of her assignments and conducts herself with a high degree of professionalism. She always keeps the best interests of her students as her top priority.

In her role as a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Ms. Holck will be called upon to invest time in preparation, to learn about the current standards, to consider recent local and national developments, and to apply that preparation and knowledge to the decisions made by the Board. Based on my experience, I am confident Terry will perform her responsibilities diligently and with the wisdom of a veteran teacher who knows and values those characteristics that will truly benefit students.

Terry Holck, in my work with her and observation of her, has demonstrated the highest level of integrity. Her commitment and professionalism are readily apparent based on my association with her. I hope you will recommend confirmation of Ms. Terry L. Holck as a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony in support of the appointment of Terry Holck to the Teacher Standards Board.

Jim Williams
60 N. Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817