

GM284

**89 Pukolu Way
Wailea, HI 96753**

February 16, 2009

**Honorable Senator Norman Sakamoto
Chair, Education and Housing Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813**

Dear Senator Sakamoto:

**Re: Recommendation of Dale C. Webster for Education Commission
of the States**

It is an honor to recommend Dale Webster for confirmation by the Senate to continue as a member of the Education Commission for the States. Dale provides a remarkable 'fit' with the Commission's task in identifying what is working, and what is not working, with education policy within states.

I have known Dale for a number of years, as a friend. He has an outstanding background, with experience as the business manager at the Haleakala Waldorf School, and with hands on experience as a lecturer at the University of Hawaii's Maui Community College. He brings a very even- handed, level headed approach to every challenge and every opportunity.

When we participated together in an halau, he was known as Uncle Pono – which reflects very well on the recognition by others of his goodness and moral qualities. Dale is an excellent communicator, and a very logical and organized person. He will continue to be an asset to the Education Commission for the States.

Sincerely,

**Travis O. Thompson
Chair, Hawaii Public Housing Authority**

Senator Norman Sakamoto
Chair, Education and Housing Committee
Hawaii State Capital, Room 213
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Feb 19,2009

Dear Senator Sakamoto,

Dale Webster is a fully qualified member of the Education Commission of the States. I am writing this letter to endorse Dale's reappointment to this commission. I hope that you will agree that his service on this commission for the last 4 years merits your consideration to appoint him to another term.

Dale is a very well rounded businessman, with significant experience in the arena of Education. He was a contributing part of the management team at the Haleakala Waldorf School for the last seven years. You will note from the rest of his resume that he has had a wide variety of experiences during his business career. I believe that our educational system can only benefit from input from balanced individuals with ideas from many fields. Dale is one of those kinds of people.

In addition, Dale is a very personable individual, who has the capacity to get along with a wide variety of people. This is certainly a characteristic that will serve him well on the Commission. He likes to dig into issues and find the substance of the problem behind the fluff. Education is certainly in great need of people who are willing to put in time and effort to help find solutions to the vast problems that we face.

Thank you for considering my endorsement. I look forward to seeing Dale being given the opportunity to serve our state in this manner.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Mitchell
2758 Panepoo St.
Kihei, HI 96753
808-874-4016



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March 2, 2009


Senator Norman Sakamoto
Chair, Education and Housing Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
415 S. Beretainia St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Sakamoto,

It is my privilege to once again write a letter of support for Dale Webster to serve on the Education Commission of the State. I worked closely with Dale here at Haleakala Waldorf School for five or so years and found him to be genuinely interested in education and what opportunities will best foster the fulfillment of children's potential. Dale is also a man of integrity and a person where his word is his pledge. He is dedicated, reliable, and well read, so that he is abreast of developments in our world and how that might affect education.

I am pleased to give Dale Webster my highest recommendation for service on the state's education commission. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Aloha,



Jocelyn Romero Demirbag
Interim Chair of School

212 Kamakoi Loop
Kihei, Hawaii 96753
March 9, 2009

Senator Norman Sakamoto
Chair, Education and Housing Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 213
415 S. Beretainia Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 284: Nomination to the Education Commission of the States

Senator Sakamoto:

Below, as requested, is my response to your 2-27-09 questionnaire.

Why do you wish to be a member of the Education Commission of the States?

I think this Commission provides an excellent forum for addressing, in part, the pressing needs of education in Hawaii.

What do you perceive are the role and responsibilities of a member of the Education Commission of the States?

Members of this commission work together to access the vast resources of the National Education Commission (ECS) to:

- Benefit from relationships with members of other states
- Participate in data gathering activities with all ECS Member States
- Learn from research done by ECS what works in education policy and practice
- Transfer these ideas into policy and practice for Hawaii

Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Education Commission of the States why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of this Council.

I have had a life long relationship with education: First, as a student through four years of college, as a life long learner, as a parent of three children, as a candidate for School Board in New York, as a lecturer at Maui Community College, as a Business Manager of Haleakala Waldorf School, and finally as a member of the Education Commission of the States 2005 – 2009. I earnestly desire to participate in the improvement of the education provided for our children in Hawaii. I have many ideas which have the potential to enable this improvement. I have had the good fortune to be exposed to a variety of educational systems, including private schools. I appreciate the tremendous value of education. I have developed some communications skills which will be helpful in nurturing improvement.

Name the three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Education Commission of the States?

Dedication, commitment and caring are three qualities I aspire to. These qualities will be valuable in understanding and promoting the best for our parents, our educators, our children.

Can you foresee any conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Education Commission of the States? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I can not foresee any possible conflicts.

What are three ways that the Education Commission of the States should/must help meet the education needs in Hawaii?

1. To learn from ECS research, from sister state's experience and from others interested in educational reform, what works.
2. To parlay these ideas and experience into specific plans to foster improvement in Hawaii.
3. To garner support for making these improvements happen.

What goals should the Education Commission of the States set and how would you propose to measure them?

1. That commissioners make full access of the resources of the National ECS including:
 - a. Research of ECS
 - b. Attendance at ECS National forums
 - c. Networking with other state's commissioners
2. That we meet to agree upon actions to be taken in Hawaii, including
 - a. Legislation that will further our ideas
 - b. Action by DOE
3. That we measure by improvements in:
 - a. Grade level competence metrics
 - b. Graduation rates
 - c. Increases in graduates seeking teacher training in college
 - d. Number of High School Graduates attending college.

How have you benefited from your Education Commission of the States participation?

Attending the annual ECS National Conference was enlightening. I learned much from networking with other participants as well as sessions on International Benchmarking, A Nation at Risk, Learning What Works from the Gates Foundation, No Child Left Behind and Early Childhood.

What do you see as your most significant contribution to Education Commission of the States during your past term?

I was able to share my ideas with many Hawaii Educators subsequent to the Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

Dale C. Webster