



Hearing date:
Tuesday,
February 24,
2009, 1:15 p.m.
Senate Human
Services
Committee
Room 016

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 016

Subject: **Nomination of Charles E. Larson to the Early Learning Council**

As Executive Director of Good Beginnings Alliance, I strongly support the nomination of Charles E. Larson to the Early Learning Council as the representative for the center-based early childhood programs.

I have known Mr. Larson for over 15 years. I believe him to be well-acquainted with the needs and resources available for Hawaii's early childhood center-based programs.

During the past six months I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Larson as he co-chairs the Finance Subcommittee for the Early Learning Council. I believe his experience locating and putting together multiple funding streams to support his early childhood programs in Hawaii is invaluable to this Council. In addition, his "out of the box" thinking will ensure that this committee will develop thoughtful and innovative financing recommendations to the Early Learning Council.

Mr. Larson is a dedicated early childhood professional and a very knowledgeable authority as to how good programs for young children should function. In his current position as Executive Director of Seagull Schools, Inc., he has developed programs statewide and ensured these programs would be of high quality. He is deeply aware of the problems center directors face when hiring teachers, paying adequate wages, and creating high quality environments for children.

In conclusion, Good Beginnings Alliance is a strong supporter of the new Early Learning Council and we believe Mr. Larson to be a valuable member of that Council. I urge your support for Charles E. Larson's nomination.

For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502;
Ichun@goodbeginnings.org



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February 9, 2009

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
and Committee Members
Committee on Human Services
State Senate-State of Hawaii
415 S. Beretania St., #226
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and Committee Members:

RE: Consideration and Confirmation to the Act 14 Early Learning
Council, Gubernatorial Nominee Center-Based Provider: Chuck Larson

Chuck Larson, Executive Director and co-founder of Seagull Schools has been a leader in the field of early education for many years. He has demonstrated his understanding of the needs of young children and their families, establishing and operating 5 preschools in Hawaii that operate on Oahu and the Big Island.

Mr. Larson was key to the formation of the Childcare Business Coalition in 1997. Our Coalition, a group comprised of primarily multi-site providers which operate over 50 preschools on 4 islands, works to promote quality center-based preschool programs and to advocate for public policies which support that effort.

Chuck is uniquely suited to represent center-based providers on the Early Learning Council due to his depth of knowledge with regard to the components required to support successful public-private partnerships, a basic premise on which the early learning system will be based. Seagull Schools operates a Pre-Plus site in _____ in partnership with DHS and on a DOE site; he operates one of the states largest preschools in Honolulu in partnership with the City of Honolulu and he operates a center on the Big Island in partnership with the Mauna Lani Hotel.

He is known as an innovator and a collaborator in the world of early education, developing partnerships to support both the construction and on-going operations of Seagull's facilities. He is an "out of the box" thinker and brings a refreshing perspective to the Council in approaching long-standing issues. Chuck serves as Co-Chair of the Funding Sub-Committee and provides valuable guidance to the group as they work to develop possible funding options.

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Chuck Larson to the Act 14 Early Learning Council as the Center-Based Provider representative.

Sincerely,

Christina Cox
President



Seagull Schools

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 Email: seagull@aloha.com

Presentation Before the Senate
 Committee on Human Services
 Chuck Larson
 Early Learning Council

Chair Chun-Oakland of the Senate Human Services Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present my background for your consideration to my confirmation to The Early Learning Council.

Since my earliest days as an undergraduate student I have recognized the importance of early education and have dedicated my professional career to supporting its implementation and growth.

As a male student, my attainment of a B.A. degree in primary grade education set me apart from other education majors and the Masters degree I earned in Teaching Exceptional Children further prepared me with hands-on teaching skills that would be necessary to work with teachers and special needs children.

As the executive director of Seagull Schools for the past 39 years, I have been developing projects that have had significant implications for our state that include the first group infant, toddler center, the first resource and referral program, a model intergenerational care center and the design and construction of three partially state funded child care centers.

My history of involvement in the field of early education also includes extensive writing and lecturing on specific related topics and participation on boards and committees that determine rules and policy.

I have served as the President of Hawai'i Intergenerational Network (HIN) since 1999 and am a founder and member of the Childcare Business Coalition which strives to promote collaboration.

I sincerely believe that in the overall continuum of Hawai'i's education system, that a focus on early education is our best bet to bring our state out of the doldrums.

I also suggest that we stop using the term preschool and instead call it "First School" so that people will have the proper perspective of its importance.

By being familiar with the needs and existing resources for very young children, I can help provide the leadership needed to capitalize on opportunities and make important decisions. I look forward to supporting our state's educational objectives through my membership on The Early Learning Council and ask for your support of my nomination. Thank you.



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School Locations

Kaihua & Administrative Office - 261-8534
 Kapolei & Food Service - 674-1444
 Adult Day Center - 674-1150
 The Early Education Center, Honolulu - 533-0004
 Mauna Lani, The Big Island of Hawaii - 885-3557
 Kapolei Pre Plus - 674-0101

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LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Re: GM 298, Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Ihara, Jr:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer support for the nomination of Charles E. Larson as a Gubernatorial Nominee for the Early Learning Council. My name is Robert G. Peters and I am the chair of the Early Learning Council as well as Head of School at Hanahau`oli.

I have know Chuck for over 20 years as he has headed Sea Gull Schools and we have worked together a number of times on behalf of early learning in Hawaii. Chuck is committed to young children and quality learning. He is also extremely capable when it comes to identifying funding sources, both public and private. The Council as it moves ahead will increasingly need the types of skills Chuck possesses and will benefit from his knowledge of the early learning community as well as the general landscape of early learning both federally and locally.

Chuck is a creative thinker who moves ahead undaunted by challenges and this seems the type of council member we shall continue to need. I give my support to the nomination of Charles E. Larson and hope that you will also.

RLP