

February 24, 2009
1:15 pm
Conference Room 016

LATE

TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

Re: GM 300, Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee Crystal Ray K. Naone

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Ihara, Jr of the Committee on Human Services:

My name is Robert G. Peters and I serve as the Head of School at Hanahau'oli and the Chair of the Early Learning Council. Thank you for this opportunity to give testimony in support of Crystal Ray K. Naone, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Council

Kanoe (Crystal Ray) is an early childhood advocate with special knowledge of the diverse cultural needs of Hawaii's families as well as a background in fund raising and philanthropy. Kanoe represented the Native Hawaiian Community Based organizations on the Act 259 Task Force for which I served as co-Chair. Kanoe's comments, suggestions and wise counsel helped the Task Force to better see the needs of our native families as well as potential sources of funding support for their communities. As Chief Executive Officer of the Institute for Native Pacific Education and Culture (INPEACE), Kanoe will bring a voice to the Council which needs to be heard as it meets the requirements of Act 14. She will be a strong spokesperson for the goals of the Council, the needs of our Island families and also a facilitator for the Council's efforts to seek private funding to support its initiatives and public funding as available.

Kanoe is an articulate, clear thinking and collaborative individual. Her membership on the Early Learning Council will add to both its strength, sense of purpose and diversity. I hope you will see fit to approve of her nomination.