

GM 301

TESTIMONY

Presentation before the Senate Committee on Human Services

February 24, 2009

Lora Perry

The Early Learning Council

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara Jr., and esteemed members of the Senate Committee on Human Services.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to appear before you today. Thank you for the opportunity to present background information about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Early Learning council.

I was born and raised in Hawai'i. I attended Hawai'i Loa College, receiving a Bachelor Degree in Human Resource Management and University of Manoa where I received a Masters Degree in Education. My thesis was on the subject of Family/Child Learning together in a non-center-based educational setting.

During my 30 years in the field of Early Childhood Education I have held various positions (i.e. classroom assistant, classroom teacher working with various ages - infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary school students and their families, traveling preschool teacher, working with and for families in a mobile preschool environment; director of a preschool; Child Development Associate advisor and national representative for Home Visiting and Center-based candidates; Early Childhood consultant for various organizations; Trainer in the field of Early Childhood Education and Family Literacy (certified by the National Center for Family Literacy); and for the past 8 years I created and currently direct a comprehensive four component Family Education(Adult Education, Parent Education, Childhood Education and Parents and Children Together) program where families come together and are engaged in Family/Child learning. This program is housed in a Department Of Education school in Waimanalo.

I am fortunate to have been involved in a variety of Early Childhood educational settings, all of which have included the family as partners in their children's education. I am passionate about providing high quality Early Childhood Education to all young children no matter what their socio-economic background, existing risk-factors or disabilities; and to provide this education in whatever setting the family chooses. A position on the Early Learning Council would allow me to serve Hawai'i's children and their families in a meaningful way. My years of experience, knowledge of Early Childhood Education, my work with families and communities all will contribute to the council's effort to create an Early Childhood System for all young children in

our state. I would be honored to serve on this council and am dedicated and committed to doing whatever is necessary to make the Early Learning System become a reality.

I humbly ask you to support my nomination to the Early Learning Council. Thank you.



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 Lora A. Perry to the Early Learning Council**

The Good Beginnings Alliance is a policy and advocacy organization focused on Hawaii's youngest children and their families. We strive to ensure a nurturing, safe and healthy development for all children from pre-birth to age eight. We believe all children deserve safe and supportive environments that meet their needs as they grow and develop.

As Executive Director of Good Beginnings Alliance, I strongly support the nomination of Lora A. Perry to the Early Learning Council as the representative for the Family Child Interactive Learning Programs.

I have known Lora for over 20 years, both personally and professionally. She is not only a dedicated teacher of young children but also a very knowledgeable authority as to how good programs for young children should function. Her current work with Native Hawaiian families and their young children provides a wealth of experience as to family child learning programs and the array of services and programs that are necessary to truly offer the best to start to all of Hawaii's keiki.

During the past six months I have had the pleasure of working with Lora as a co-chair of the Direct Services Subcommittee for the Early Learning Council. I believe her deliberate inquiry and inclusive thinking have ensured that this committee will develop thoughtful and practical direct service recommendations to the Early Learning Council.

In conclusion, Good Beginnings Alliance is a strong supporter of the new Early Learning Council and we believe Lora to be a valuable member of that Council. She brings a wealth of experience working in family child interaction programs. And, she possesses early childhood higher education degrees which provide a strong foundational knowledge as to what is good practice for young children.

I urge your support for Lora Perry's nomination.

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

February 19, 2009

Aloha Honorable Senator Chun-Oakland,

It is with great confidence, honor and hope that I recommend Lora Perry for the Early Learning Council. The task of the Council is daunting. There is much at hand in creating an early learning comprehensive system for four year olds for the state of Hawai'i. The ideal nominee for the Council would be one who has experience as an early learning practitioner, researcher, administrator, familiar with National standards and "best practices." The nominee, Lora Perry is outstanding in all of these qualities.

As an early learning practitioner, she has served in the field of early childhood for over 20 years. Much of her classroom experience is in at-risk communities, which is a much-needed voice on this council. She worked with the Kamehameha Traveling Preschools, Early Head Start and her current position as the Program Manager for Na Pono No Na 'Ohana, a comprehensive Family Education Learning system in Waimanalo.

Her Master's in Education was under the tutelage and mentorship of Stephanie Feeney, PhD., a notable researcher, instructor and advocate of early childhood education. At the University of Hawai'i, Lora was exposed to the practice of research and practicum at the highest level. She is also one of two active Family Literacy Trainers operating on the West Coast of the United States. The National Center for Family Literacy is a scientific-based, research and "best practices" organization that is on the forefront of literacy in the Nation. As a certified NCFL trainer, Lora is required to attend annual conference to keep abreast with the latest in research and trends in regards to early learning literacy.

As an administrator, she has scrutinized budgets and managed programs with an annual operating budget of over a million dollars. She also has experience in working with government agencies on both the state and national level as an advocate for early childhood and family education learning. She also brings the unique experience of both writing and reviewing grants for the Native Hawaiian Education Act of the USDOE.

Lora's dedication to her work and the desire to educate young children can be seen in her active involvement in the study and practice of incorporating "best practices" and National Standards such as the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), NELP (National Early Learning Panel), "Getting Ready to Read" research as well as Native Hawaiian practices and approaches into her program and classroom learning environment.

Finally, her drive for excellence is arguably second to none. Her passion, dedication, combined with integrity, intellect and humility will be a welcomed addition to the Early Learning Council. I recommend Lora Perry with my highest regard.

Sincerely Yours,

Danny "Ka'eo" Goya
Ka Pa'alana Homeless Family Education Program Director
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February 22, 2009

Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chairman
Senate Committee on Human Services

To Chairman Senator Chun-Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

I wish to recommend the Committee on Human Services approve Governor Lingle's nominee, Ms. Lora Perry, as a member of the Early Learning Council.

For more than 30 years, Ms. Perry has worked extensively with young children and their families. I have experienced personally her expertise in delivering quality early education services as a colleague and early childhood teacher with Kamehameha Schools. I have also experienced her dedication to families and their overall well-being as a contractor and evaluator of the Family Literacy program in which she currently serves as a co-director. Finally, I have experienced her commitment to the field of early education as a friend and fellow student obtaining our undergraduate and graduate degrees together.

I know she has the attitudes, skills, and knowledge to complete the tasks identified by Act 14 and the Early Learning Council. I am confident that she will do all that she can to assure a quality early learning system is in place for Hawaii's young children and their families.

Thank you in advance for approving Ms. Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. This is important work and I believe Ms. Perry will be a definite asset.

Sincerely,

Melodie Vega, MAEd

Owner/Consultant

Early Childhood Educational and Management Services

Chairperson

Senate Committee on Human Services

Address

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Lingle's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has had extensive work with children and their families in Hawai'i for 30 years. I have experienced her expertise personally as a colleague and friend. Ms. Perry is committed to improving the outcomes for all children of Hawai'i, and for as long as I have known her, has worked tirelessly and diligently toward this end. She is currently a director of the Na Pono No Na 'Ohana Family Education program in Waimanalo, which has served hundreds of children and their families; thereby, providing these children with a quality early educational foundation and given critical support and training to their parents. She is also a well-qualified trainer and mentor and has provided many early childhood educators with solid professional development opportunities. Ms. Perry is dedicated and committed to making a difference in the lives of children and families. I commend Governor Lingle for this nomination and can think of no better person for this role. She is honest and hard-working -- a dedicated individual who has my utmost respect.

Thank you in advance for approving Ms. Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. This is important work and with Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication I feel that she will be an asset to the children and families in our state.

Sincerely,

Gail Omoto

2001 Aupuni Street #503

Honolulu, HI 96817

February 13, 2009

Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

Dear Chairperson and members of the Committee on Human Services,

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Lora Perry in support of her confirmation of her Governor's appointment to the Early Learning Council.

I have known Ms. Perry for 18 years and have spent the last 8 years working alongside her in a Family Education program in Waimanalo (where families attend and learn together). I can attest to her dedication to providing families with the highest quality education. She is an expert in the field of early childhood education and shares her expertise through mentoring, teaching and now directing an exemplary family education program.

I feel that Lora will be an outstanding member of the Early Learning Council. She is a person of integrity, someone who gives 100% to anything she is involved with and is definitely a "get-it-done" person. Her commitment to providing education to all will be invaluable to our state.

Sincerely,

Cathy Javor
41-636 Poalima St.
Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795