

Tracy Calderwood
716 Sibley Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818
April 13, 2009

Chair Carol Fukunaga
Vice Chair Rosalyn Baker
Honorable Senators
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology:

I am honored to write this letter in support of appointing Jeffrey Piontek to the Board of the High Technology Development Corporation. It has been my great pleasure to work with Mr. Piontek as the Head of School for the Hawaii Technology Academy where his current administration is preparing our students for the workforce by providing a rigorous academic program, coupled with training on the use of 21st century skills in an innovative and relevant style that has students and families reinvesting themselves in a process that many have felt left them behind. His dedication to every child learning, every student succeeding and his selfless devotion to pursuing "what works" is inspiring to watch as he reaches out to students who have lost hope and ignites that spark in them that enables them to gain the skills they need to be competitive in the global economy. The programs, Mr. Piontek is implementing and the community partnerships he has developed in just this first year are the kinds of opportunities students and their families have long waited for in public education.

Mr. Piontek's resume' makes a very impressive statement for his own educational excellence with two master degrees and now his pending PhD. The many accolades and accomplishments that Mr. Piontek has dedicated his life to; demonstrate his deep conviction in advancing educational opportunities and raising the standard in education across the nation in every opportunity that comes his way. Mr. Piontek is resourceful and has forged partnerships and developed programs that have garnered national attention as well as over 20 million dollars for educational opportunities in the last 5 years alone.

Mr. Piontek has demonstrated he has the intellect and education to be an incredible asset to the High Technology Development Corporation, but what should be equally important to this Committee is that he possesses great vision, a strong work ethic and unwavering devotion to excellence. His appointment would ensure strong leadership that is willing to do what needs to be done and to employ creative and insightful problem solving that will move this Board toward completing their mission and improving opportunities; allowing Hawaii to gain important education and workforce program success. Mr. Piontek's leadership will cultivate opportunities that will re-establish Hawaii leadership and excellence in the global setting. Mr. Piontek has an excellent track record for scaling up

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programs that are already in place and providing an opportunity for these programs to gain international recognition.

I strongly encourage the Committee to confirm Mr. Piontek's appointment to the High Technology Development Corporation thus providing the High Technology Development Corporation someone that is on the cutting edge of technology and workforce preparation with a global vision and a heart full of aloha.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Calderwood".

Tracy Calderwood
Director, Hawaii Families for Educational Choice
Founder Chair, Hawaii Technology Academy

LATE

April 14, 2009

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of appointing Jeffrey Piontek to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation. I have worked with Mr. Piontek as the Head of School for the Hawaii Technology Academy where his current programs are preparing our students for the workforce by training them on the use of 21st century skills needed to be competitive in the global economy.

His eagerness to develop innovative applications, work on robotics, STEM education, Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair and as the president of the State of Hawaii Science Teachers Association (2009-2011) where he has developed an infrastructure of preparation for teachers that will prepare our children for the workforce or higher education.

Mr. Piontek is an outstanding candidate for this position and I recommend his consideration and approval by the committee. It would provide the High Technology Development Corporation to work with someone that is on the cutting edge of technology and workforce preparation for the global economy.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Louis Saint-Cyr
Chair, Hawaii Technology Charter School Board

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

To: The Honorable Carol Fukunaga, Chair,
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair,
and Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and
Technology

Nomination of Jeffrey Piontek (GM 574)

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of appointing Jeffrey Piontek to the board of the High Technology Development Corporation. I have worked with Mr. Piontek as the Director of Instructional Technology in NYC where Jeff was instrumental in developing a free wireless network for students that were socioeconomically disadvantaged in conjunction with the Bronx Borough president and Cablevision. As well as many other projects to help bridge the Digital Divide. Our collaboration continued through the funding of Title IID, Enhancing Education Through Technology grant where I had the opportunity to implement various projects that brought technology innovation to NYC classrooms with Mr. Piontek.

Mr. Piontek is highly respected by his peers for his willingness to collaborate and his dedication to educating every student. His passion, expertise and character are his true assets. He is very strong in his fundamentals, and is a keen observer, and therefore is quick in assimilating concepts. His eagerness to develop innovative applications, work on robotics, STEM education, Hawaii State Science and Engineering Fair are just a few examples of his leadership. As the president of the State of Hawaii Science Teachers Association (2009-2011) he developed an infrastructure of preparation for teachers that will prepare our children for the workforce or higher education. Although no longer a NYC educator we continue to collaborate through multiple ongoing student initiatives.

It is an honor to have the opportunity to recommend him for consideration and approval by the committee. Mr. Piontek would provide the High Technology Development Corporation the opportunity to work with someone that is on the cutting edge of technology and workforce preparation for the global economy.

Celine Azoulay-Lewin

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Technology Innovation Manager
New York City Department of Education
Cazoula@schools.nyc.gov