

GM544



GOV. MSG. NO. 544

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

March 4, 2011

The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Tsutsui and Members of the Senate,

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board**:

<u>HAWAI'I TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD</u>	<u>TERM TO EXPIRE</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
Louise Cayetano	6/30/2014	Elementary School (O'ahu)

*Sincerely,*

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 29, 2011

Re: Nomination to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Dear Senator Tokuda,

Thank you for your congratulatory letter of March 21, 2011. I am responding to your letter with my written statements to the questions you asked.

I decided to apply to serve on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board because I believe that all students deserve highly qualified teachers who can provide them with the necessary skills to become productive citizens. I also felt that the opportunity to serve on the Board would provide me with opportunities for professional growth to make me a better teacher.

I feel that I am qualified for this position because I work well with people in general. I possess effective communication skills, am not afraid to disagree, and I base my decisions on evidence rather than assumptions.

I feel that I have always developed strong partnerships with my parents over the twenty years I have taught. Each year, I pay visits to the homes of my students. My students and their parents are provided my cell phone number from the first day of school. They are allowed to contact me during non-school hours.

I have also developed partnerships between the schools I have taught at and outside organizations. For example, I partnered with the University of Hawai'i's Center for Disability Studies which in turn earned Fern Elementary the connectivity to engage in video teleconferencing and new technology for students (computer, printer, digital and video cameras, and a tripod). My partnership with the University of Hawai'i led to international partnerships with schools in Samoa and Japan through the use of video teleconferencing equipment. When the Department of Education wanted to pilot the AEPL (Asian, European, Pacific Language) foreign language program in the elementary schools, I immediately volunteered in order to provide my students with broader opportunities.

Two years later, every classroom in Fern Elementary was receiving either Japanese or Spanish language instruction that continued for several years. Funding over the years was provided to us from the Department of Education due to the program's success.

My training and experiences while working at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific prepared me with the skills needed in dealing with a variety of people from departmental staff, administrators, board of directors and irate patients as I managed the accounts receivables for the hospital.

Senator Jill N. Tokuda

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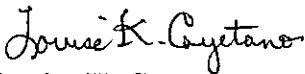
I perceive the role and responsibility of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board as one of great importance and that teacher quality and student achievement are in direct correlation. I see every child as my grandchild. I expect the best education for them and to ensure that, it would be our responsibility as Board members to not provide or extend teaching licenses to those whom we feel are not highly qualified to teach in Hawai'i's public school system.

One short-term goal I have is to develop a working relationship with others on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, and the Board of Education. A long-term goal of mine would be to help develop a more positive image of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. I foresee members of the Hawai'i Teachers Standards Board being more visible in the community through outreach activities. Such activities could be volunteering occasionally to clean streams, assist with recycling events in communities, or school improvement projects in our public schools. I feel that this will foster more connectivity with teachers in the field.

I do not foresee any conflicts of interest that could arise during my service on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. If there were any conflicts of interest, I would want to address them. If the issue could not be resolved, then I would willingly resign from my position on the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

I thank you for this opportunity to share my statements with those present today.

Sincerely,

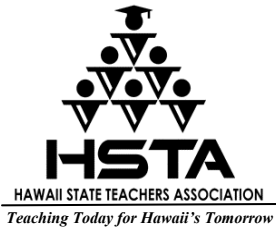


Louise K. Cayetano

Nominee to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

GM544

Testimony



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## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: GM 544 – LOUISE CAYETANO, Gubernatorial Nominee, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

April 1, 2011

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association wholeheartedly supports the appointment of **Louise Cayetano** to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Ms. Cayetano has been a teacher in Hawaii since 1988.

She is involved in both educational and community activities. Ms. Cayetano has taught at Lanakila Elementary, Leihoku Elementary, and Fern Elementary schools. During her tenure as an educator, she participated in numerous projects and activities such as: piloting foreign languages in the school for Honolulu district; instructor DASH – UH Manoa Program Summer Institute; technology partnerships with Aina Haina Elementary and UH Manoa Department of Disability Studies; distance learning with Samoa, Japan; complex robotics competitions; NASA Space Tomato Seed project; Leeward Space Simulation Program.

Ms. Cayetano is also an active participant in Alliance for Drama Education; Hawaii Science Teachers Association; Alpha Delta Kappa; and the Hawaii State Teachers Association where she is on the Honolulu Chapter Executive Board and also served as HSTA's teacher lobbyist in 2010. She also takes an active role in National Education Association activities and programs.

Ms. Cayetano is involved in KANU Hawaii, an environmental organization. Also, through KAUPA (Kalaheo Ahupua'a Ulu Pono Ahahui) that is a non-profit organization created to instill an environmental ethic of caring for the land, she organized and supervised the Kalihi Steam clean-up involving the community and students from a host of schools. For her efforts in this project, Ms. Cayetano

was honored as a Hawaii Thousand Friends Organization 2008 Unsung Heroes and also received a Senate certificate of recognition for her dedication as a volunteer for the Kalihi Stream Clean-ups.

We are confident that her expertise, enthusiasm, dedication to the profession as well as the community will be a great asset to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. The board is a very important vehicle by which the public is assured that teachers in the classrooms are qualified to teach. There are standards to which teachers must meet. These standards are set by the board and those who set and monitor standards must themselves be of the highest caliber. Louise Cayetano is in this level of competency.

We urge this committee to confirm the appointment of Louise Cayetano to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony  
Senate Committee on Education  
April 1, 2011  
Conference Room 225  
State Capitol  
GM 544

Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Education Committee.

My name is Arlene Lee-Williams and I am testifying in support of the nomination of Louise Cayetano to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

The function of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board is to set standards for the teaching profession and to determine who meets those standards for licensure in the state of Hawaii. Who else should determine fitness for the profession than those in the profession?

Louise Cayetano is a veteran teacher who has successfully taught in this state for 20 years. In addition to her teaching assignment, Ms Cayetano manages to make time for other education activities that will benefit students as well as the community. She became a member of the Kaupu Environmental group and spearheads Stream Clean Up Day. This activity to clean up Nuuanu Stream includes not only the students and parents of Fern Elementary School but students from the middle and high school in the complex. What a wonderful example for the students. She sits on the board for the Alliance for Drama Education. She is active in her professional organizations and a leader in the Hawaii State Teachers Association and the National Education Association.

Before her being a teacher, Ms Cayetano worked at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific as an administrator of patient admissions. One of her duties included managing quality control of her department. That quality control experience will contribute to her role as board member of the Standards Board.

Ms Cayetano knows teachers and teaching. She has advocated for teachers. It is the reason that the Governor has nominated her to this board. I urge the committee's favorable recommendation of Ms Cayetano.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this written testimony.



March 31, 2011

Aloha,

It is with paramount pleasure that I write this letter in support of LOUISE CAYETANO, for the consideration and confirmation for the Hawaii State Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee. Mrs. Cayetano has been an active Hawaii State Department of Education employee for over 25 years. As an educator, she brings a wealth of experience in tending to and sculpting of young minds. Louise spends many hours in her class well after all her students have left, assessing, planning and preparing for the next day, week and month, in moving her students toward achieving proficiency of the Hawaii State Standards.

As a member of Ms. Cayetano's group of pupils, learning does not only take place within the 4 walls of her classroom, her students are taken out into Kalihi Stream and Waianae coast, on her own time, on many, many Saturdays, to become stewards of the land. Throughout the years Mrs. Cayetano has been an advocate of cleaning up polluted waterways, she has taken hundreds of student volunteers to remove debris from our rivers and streams in Honolulu and the Leeward districts. Former students continue to volunteer their Saturday mornings with Mrs. Cayetano making Kalihi stream a healthier habitat. Learning is an active process both in and out of the classroom.

Louise Cayetano is an excellent candidate for this position as she knows Hawaii's struggles and challenges with moving students to meeting academic benchmarks and showing progress as she is at the core of current political focus. She is a classroom teacher at Mayor Joseph J. Fern Elementary School, a public school where 86% of the student population lives in poverty, receiving free/reduced lunch, more than 50% come to school speaking little or no English, ill-prepared to learn and well below their counterparts in other school districts. She has witnessed the change in clientele and the demands made upon teachers - an increase in the amount of work, expectations to bring all students to grade level standards no matter what circumstances the students come with.

You should know that Louise is a loyal and true believer in the public school system; she rolls up her sleeves and digs right in – she makes many attempts to right wrongs, stands firm in her belief that no one is going to pull us out, we need to do the work ourselves. Her students love her, she communicates frequently with parents and bring them up to speed with their child's educational needs and successes, and, participate in all school parent and community meetings.

She is a Hawaii State Teacher's Association representative in every sense as she is in the classroom daily, working with students, parents and staff members for many years. Louise Cayetano makes a well-rounded candidate for this position.

Respectfully,  
Tiare Uli'i, Principal  
Mayor Joseph J. Fern Elementary

**Erin Conner**

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**From:** Laverne\_Moore/MCKINLEY/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 30, 2011 8:31 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** GM544 Testimony

Testimony: GM544                      Friday, April 1, 2011                      Time of Hearing: 1:15 p.m.

TO: Chairperson Jill Tokuda and Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani,

I Laverne Fernandes Moore, a special education teacher at McKinley High School and a former co-chairperson of the Department of Education's Adult and Community Education Advisory Council am pleased and honored to submit testimony on behalf of Louise Cayetano who is Governor Abercrombie's appointee to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Louise Cayetano is an appointee who is committed and able to undertake this responsibility.

I have had the distinct privileged of working with Louise Cayetano for more than 15 years. We have collaborated on joint teaching assignments, community service projects, professional activities, staff development training, and served together on chapter, state, national boards/committees and ethnic caucuses representing educators, school support staff, students, parents and communities.

Louise Cayetano posses the following professional and personal skills: good interpersonal skills; ability to interact with team members and institutional personnel in a courteous and collegial manner, ability to work toward consensus in team deliberations, ability to make unbiased profession judgments about education units based on the application of national standards, word processing skills and access to email, well organized, overly prepared for all occasions, a strong critical thinker, exhibits a keen sense in adapting materials/curriculum to meet the needs of our diverse students and members, and serves as a strong advocate on behalf of educators, children, families and communities.

This appointment is an opportunity for Louise Cayetano to make very direct and important contributions in building a true profession in teaching. She will be a strong addition to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I ask for your favorable consideration on her appointment.

Mahalo, Laverne Fernandes Moore

March 30, 2011

To the Education Committee:

Regarding measure number GM544

Senator Jill Tokuda, and Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani

I appreciate the opportunity to write on behalf of my colleague, Mrs. Louise Cayetano and to give testimony regarding her character, her willingness to serve her peers, community, and state, and her worthiness toward this appointment.

I have known Louise for many years. She was my coordinating teacher when I was a student teacher at Fern Elementary. I admire and respect her and was privileged to be able to work with her as a new teacher when I was hired at Fern. When I look back on the semester I was with her, I recall the things I learned. First, she never raised her voice with the students. She showed patience and kindness where in some situations, it could have been anger. In all the years I have known her, I have never seen her angry with her students. Her care for her students is evident in how she treats them. Second, Louise has a high regard for her peers. When she speaks of a colleague, it is with kind words, praise, and good wishes. I have never heard her speak ill-will toward or about anyone. Louise is one of the nicest people I know. She will go out of her way to help, if she sees you need it. I hold her in high esteem. Third, Louise is a hard worker. For years, she has volunteered her time on the weekends to coordinate the stream clean-ups in our community. She works hard to maintain a great working relationship with her grade level. She is one of the first to arrive at school and almost always, one of the last to leave! She is the finest example of a professional teacher. Last, I believe Louise can do the job. I have never known her to give up or not finish anything she set her mind to. Her integrity to do what is right and to do what is necessary to help our students is her standard.

Louise is passionate about helping our students achieve to their fullest potential. I know she feels she can help to make a difference or help to make changes in a student's life. If she can help one, I know she feels she can help many. I am confident that she will do her best because I trust in her ability to do so. She will not allow herself to give anything less than a hundred percent. I testify that all statements are true and believe that Mrs. Louise Cayetano is qualified to actively participate on the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board.

Susan Otaguro, Teacher

Fern Elementary