

GM546



GOV. MSG. NO. 546

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**:

HAWAII TEACHER  
STANDARDS BOARD

TERM TO EXPIRE

REMARKS

Barry Wurst

6/30/2014

Elementary School (Maui)

Sincerely,  
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Neil Abercrombie".

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

March 25, 2011

Barry Wurst  
1200 Olinda Rd.  
Makawao, HI 96768  
(808) 280-1971  
[Wurstb001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Wurstb001@hawaii.rr.com)

Senator Jill Tokuda  
The Senate  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my ideas in regards to my nomination to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Barry Wurst

**1. Why did I decide to apply to serve on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board?**

As a teacher, parent, child advocate and community member, I believe that it is essential to provide students with well qualified teachers. To meet this need, it is necessary to have an organization to promote standards to move our education system forward. I believe that my years in education have provided me with experiences and insights have prepared me to help promote the profession of education by promoting quality and excellence. As a teacher, I have experience in both elementary and high school, as well as general education and special education. As a parent, I have had to advocate for my own children when they were not receiving the best possible education. Together, these experiences have helped me to form my particular views on what it takes to provide quality education for all of Hawaii's children.

**2. Given my understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, why do I believe that I am qualified for the position?**

Having taught for over twenty-five years, worked in the federal and state governments, and lead a negotiations team during some of our state's most contentious times, I have had the opportunity to work with many different people in many different situations. My tenure on the Committee for Citizens with Disabilities helped me to deepen my understanding of the needs of the community. As a certified and licensed teacher and a former independent business person, I understand and appreciate the need for increased professionalism. As a classroom teacher, I also understand the need for and appreciate having guidelines to improve the profession. My years as a faculty representative at my school and a chairperson on the HSTA Negotiations Committee have also helped me to see not only the needs of the teachers, but also to appreciate the needs and concerns of administration. Together, these experiences have helped to prepare me to be a contributing member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

**3. What do I perceive the role and responsibility of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board as it relates to teacher quality and student achievement?**

Having high standards leads to improved teacher quality, which ultimately leads to increased student achievement. Teacher quality is not just having graduated from an accredited institution. It goes far beyond that. Teachers need to be able to focus on providing quality instruction. To do this, they need support from the various parties involved in education. They need clear and consistent goals. (The days of revolving programs must end.) Incoming teachers from out of state must be better prepared to teach in Hawaii. The culture of our state is so different, that without proper support, success may be extremely difficult. Research indicates that schools with consistent staffing are more successful, so it would be in our best interest to better prepare and support teachers so that they may provide that desired quality education.

Additionally, to provide quality teachers, we must encourage and support the achievement of higher education. More opportunities must be made available if we are to have teachers remain current in best educational practices. Given that so many teachers have second jobs and/or families, more programs must be found and approved so that our classroom teachers can achieve advanced degrees. Only thus, can we truly support teachers to continue to improve themselves educationally and provide a greater quality education.

Finally, the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board needs to have an increased reciprocal relationship with teachers and the other involved parties. Teachers receive different

directions, mandates and suggestions from their employer, union, licensing board and governance authority, making success and quality teaching difficult to achieve. All four parties must use greater common sense and increased communication in providing direction and structure for our teachers. Also the HTSB needs to make greater effort to reach out to teachers to keep them informed about the licensing process, share new educational opportunities, and to be aware of current challenges so that they can be addressed as we continue to strive for greater quality education.

**4. Identify one short- and one long-term goal as a Hawaii Teacher Standards Board member and how I would accomplish these during my term of service.**

I actually have four goals that I would like to pursue as a member of the board.

My short-term goal is to give a “face” to the HTSB. Too many teachers have no knowledge of the HTSB, what it does or how it exists to help them to be better teachers and to provide Hawaii’s students with a quality education. While HTSB has gone “paperless” in order to make information more accessible, the website is still cumbersome and lacks the ability to personally reach out to teachers. The HTSB needs to be more teacher friendly. To do this, HTSB members should reach out to teachers by visiting schools, attending HSTA Representative meetings and taking the time to talk with teachers and administrators. This will help the HTSB to take temperature checks about what is really happening in the schools, as well as to help promote the need to maintain and increase licensure. With this, HTSB videos (as found on the web site) can be shown at schools on the administrative days to promote teacher awareness to ensure that they are maintaining their licensing status and encouraging them to work towards acquiring new skills (education).

One long-term goal is to improve the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers. This would require a four-pronged approach involving the BOE, DOE, HSTA and the HTSB. It will require greater communication and cooperation among the four parties. This is essential if we are to minimize the yearly need for “Emergency Hires,” “Code Ws” (those not yet having passed Praxis) and “Code 5s” (those having no education degree). In starting each school year with qualified teachers, we can begin to move in a direction that would provide all of Hawaii’s children with highly qualified teachers, thereby making them more ready to become productive members of society.

A second long-term goal specifically addresses Special Education. To avoid possible litigation and to provide the best possible educational experience for our students with varying degrees of disabilities, Special Education teachers must be adequately trained.

Emergency hires or reassigned teachers (out of their area of certification) need immediate training. When students with intense needs enter the school, the teacher needs to be provided with immediate training to support the safety needs, as well as educational needs, of that new student.

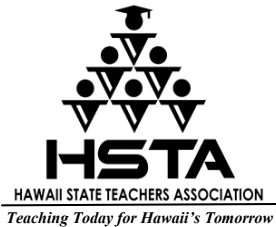
My third long-term goal is to expand options for continued higher education. Many of the approved advanced degrees offer Master's of Education degrees in the same disciplines. More areas of study need to be offered, and more on-line only programs need to be approved. In this way, we can support more teachers attaining higher levels of education and being more highly qualified.

**5. Can I foresee any possible conflict of interests that could arise during my service on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board? How would I overcome any possible conflicts of interest?**

The possibility of a conflict of interest is ever present. As of this moment, however, I see no particular issue that might pose problematic. If one arises, though, I believe that I would notify the chair immediately and seek their input on how I should respond. While I have always considered myself to be fair and able to see both sides of an issue, I also am willing to excuse myself if the chair feels that an issue may not receive fair treatment because of my being too close to the issue.

GM546

Testimony



1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 λ Fax: (808) 839-7106 λ Web: www.hsta.org

**Wil Okabe**  
President

**Karolyn Mossman**  
Vice President

**Joan Kamila Lewis**  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Alvin Nagasako**  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: RE: GM 546 – BARRY WURST, 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 supports the appointment of **Barry Wurst** to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Mr. Wurst has been an educator for over 25 years, 22 years of which have been spent in Hawaii in the special education arena at the elementary and high school levels. He is also a psychologist and biologist and as such was employed by the FAA, was on the President's Task Force on Air Piracy; he also worked in Florida on biological control.

He is an active participant in HSTA activities at the school and state levels as a champion for teachers. He was twice identified as Teacher of the Month at King Kamehameha III Elementary. Mr. Wurst is also active in the community, especially with his involvement on the Maui Commission for Citizens with Disabilities and as an Aerospace Education Office of the Maui Civil Air Patrol for which he has been recognized with awards and commendations.

The work of the board is to guarantee to the public, the quality of teachers who teach in the public school system and to advocate for our students. Mr. Wurst is dedicated to his profession and his knowledge about what teaching is all about will greatly contribute to the work of the board.

We urge this committee to confirm the appointment of Barry Wurst to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Senate Education Committee

Committee on Education

Teacher at Hilo High School

Friday, April 1, 2011 at 1:15 p.m., room 225

Support for Barry Wurst nominated for the Hawai'i Teacher's Standards Board,  
Senate Confirmation GM 546.

I am writing in support of Barry Wurst who has been nominated for the Hawai'i  
Teacher's Standards Board.

Barry and I met over 8 years ago while working on our teacher contract on the  
Negotiations Committee for HSTA. He worked tirelessly on our contract, to make  
certain all teachers were treated fairly and with dignity, while making certain the  
youth of Hawai'i were receiving an education second to none.

Mr. Wurst is a very knowledgeable educator, who will weigh all information prior to  
making a decision. He places the rights and needs of those he is serving above his  
own desires. He does not have an agenda, but will do what is right.

Barry is first and foremost an educator, and therefore will be able to make the right  
decisions when it comes to judging what is best for Hawai'i youth.

He is a well-seasoned teacher who has had to teach under very difficult situations,  
and yet he came through on top, making sure his students were getting a fair  
education. As the saying goes, "Been there, done that." He has stories to share that  
will put tears in your eyes. Barry has lived it with his Special Education Students.  
Ask some of them, they would be a great source of information.

In all, I can't tell you how much respect I have for Mr. Barry Wurst. He will definitely  
be a positive influence on our Hawai'i Teacher's Standards Board.

And to the Committee on Education, I say Mahalo nui loa for giving me this  
opportunity to testify today on behalf of my friend and fellow educator Mr. Barry  
Wurst. He will make a fine member on our Hawai'i Teacher's Standard's Board.

Valerie Jean De Corte  
ELL Teacher Hilo High School  
974-4021 ext.2292  
valdecorte@hawaiiantel.net

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 27, 2011 8:40 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** buk1818@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM546 on 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM GM546

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: carlo marchetti  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [buk1818@aol.com](mailto:buk1818@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 3/27/2011

### Comments:

I am writing this testimony to support Barry Wurst for Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I Carlo Marchetti, Special Educaiton teacher for 13 years in Maui County, and for 31 years total.

I have known Barry Wurst the last 9 years on the island of Maui. I have been to many meetings with him when he was leader in the HSTA Negotiations. He knows Board of Educaiton Policy, Chapter 89, HSTA Contract, and he knows what it is like being a teacher working for the Department of Educaiton in Hawaii.

I have also worked with Barry when in negotiations with the Board of Educaiton and Department of Education. Barry is a team player, and can keep confidential information confidential when necessary.

He had a good working relationship with 16 committee members and with the Maui Chapter teachers.

Barry has many skills, and is an airplane pilot teacher for the youth on Maui. He is a farmer and businessman, and also a special education teacher. He can look at points of view from the businessman point of view, and from a teacher point of view.

He has worked with Administration in the Department of Educaiton and Board Members in a very amicable manner.

I Highly recommend Barry Wurst for Hawaii Teacher Standards Board,

From Carlo Marchetti  
31 years teaching special education.  
HSTA Negotiations Committee member  
Special Education Teacher Maui County 13 years.  
Principal Designee Biggs Elementary School Special Education Teacher, California 19 years  
Kahului, Maui, Hawaii.

Antonino Toscano  
EA - SPED department at  
King Kamehameha III Elementary School

Dear Sir,

I've been working at King Kamehameha III Elementary School for the past 10 years and with Barry Wurst for the last 6. *Barry is* my friend and mentor and I can't give him enough praise for his great work with the kids. As you know, he works in the *Special Education* department and I witness daily his skills as an educator and dedication to the youth. I couldn't think of a more qualified and caring person to be appointed to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. He understands the curriculum and how to implement it after been inside the classroom for so many years. His work's ethic, experience, and character makes Barry a valuable asset to any working group o project.

If you care about our keiki's future, Barry is the one.

Aloha,

Antonino Toscano

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 28, 2011 8:20 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** avisleona@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM546 on 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM GM546

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Avis Kaona  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [avisleona@yahoo.com](mailto:avisleona@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 3/28/2011

### Comments:

I support the recommendation of Barry Wurst to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. I have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Wurst for several years in our teachers organization and have found him to be a dedicated public servant. He has been in the classroom for many years and his experience will bring additional expertise to the board. He will make decisions based on the needs of the keiki of Hawaii first and also take into consideration the challenges of educators. He will bring knowledge in public education and outstanding leadership skills. Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Avis Kaona (Middle School Teacher/Kauai)

Testimony for EDU 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM GM546

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Alan Isbell

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [writenow1@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:writenow1@hawaiiantel.net)

Submitted on: 3/30/2011

Comments:

Aloha. I am a teacher at Wailuku Elementary on Maui. I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Barry Wurst to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board.

The nominee would be an ideal candidate for the board, having worked "in the trenches" in his job as a teacher. He knows first-hand how unresponsive HTSB has been in the past to teachers seeking licensing or license renewal.

Mr. Wurst has dedicated countless hours of his time in positions of leadership with Hawaii State Teachers Association. He has demonstrated his willingness to volunteer for what he deems is right, and lead the fray as well.

Please give your consideration to confirming the appointment of this most worthy nominee. Mahalo.

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 31, 2011 6:43 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** lagbasd001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM546 on 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM GM546

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Dianne E. Lagbas  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [lagbasd001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:lagbasd001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 3/31/2011

### Comments:

Nomination for Barry Wurst to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board

I wish to support the nomination of Barry Wurst to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. I have known Barry as a teacher at King Kamehameha III Elementary School since 1999. Barry is an experienced teacher. He has also been involved with the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA). Barry has extensive knowledge in all aspects of teaching.

All in all, I feel that Barry Wurst would be an asset to the HTSB and would bring with him his knowledge and passion for supporting teachers and students.

Senate EDU Committee

Travis Nakamura, 1556 Noelani St., Pearl City, HI 96782

Friday April 1, 2011 at 1:15 p.m

Support for Senate Confirmation GM 546

I have shared a professional and personal relationship with Barry Wurst since the year 2000. I am his family's financial consultant and was introduced to him through his wife, Patricia Wurst, who is a teacher at Sacred Hearts School in Lahaina. I strongly support Senate Confirmation GM 546.

Barry exemplifies the five core propositions. He has been a committed special education teacher for the past 23 years and is also a Captain of the *Maui Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol*, acting as the Aerospace Education Officer and teacher of Aerospace Science to the cadets.

Barry is very passionate about education. His passion has even driven him to run for the Maui Seat on the Board of Education to make sure that special education remains a top priority for our school systems in Hawaii. At King Kamehameha III School, his daily mission is to care deeply for the students he interacts with, knowing how much extra attention and support is needed to provide a quality education to these gifted students. Barry understands the value of making a difference in the lives of the younger generation.

Barry feels that it is important to continually manage and monitor the effectiveness of his students' learning and works closely with the students' families to ensure that their educational needs are being met.

Barry continually strives to stay current in special education issues, topics and various community groups. He is a member of the Kiwanis club. *Kiwanis* is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. Barry is an advocate and volunteer for the disabled members of the community and as such, had been appointed by the Mayor of Maui to be a committee member of the Citizen's with disabilities. Barry also is a Senior member for SAREX, a search and rescue to help support the local Coast Guard, Civil Defense and DEA.

Over the 25 years that Barry has been teaching, he has learned a tremendous amount from his students and has appreciated the opportunity that teaching has presented to him. He has been recognized twice as Educator of the Month and once as Aerospace Educator of the year. In this time, it is evident that Barry Wurst has been a pillar to his community and his contributions will continue to provide special opportunities for gifted students at King Kamehameha III School as well as for the cadets in the Civil Air Patrol. I whole-heartedly support Senate Confirmation GM 546 and am grateful for having the opportunity to provide this testimony.