

GM570



GOV. MSG. NO. **570**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

March 14, 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 **Education Commission of the States**:

EDUCATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATES

TERM TO EXPIRE

J.N. Musto

6/30/2015

Sincerely,
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Abercrombie".

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i



March 28, 2011

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
State Capitol, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: Gubernatorial Nomination to the Education Commission of the States (ECS)

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Noted below are my responses to your questions concerning my appointment to the Education Commission of the States.

(1) *Why did you decide to apply to serve on the ECS?*

When considering how I might be of service to the new Administration, the implementation of the new Constitutional Amendment calling for an appointed State School Board was being considered by the Legislature. It motivated me to look at the Education Commission of the States for a historical perspective of this governance issue and how it has evolved. The more I thought about this specific topic and the general mission of the ECS, the more I reflected on my work in recent years with the Hawai'i P-20 Council. My entire professional life has been in the realm of public education, with the major emphasis in the college and university academic communities with its emphasis not only on instruction but also research. I concluded that if I did have some expertise and experience that would be useful to the Governor and our state, it is probably best reflected in the policy and research work of the ECS.

(2) *How do you see the ECS supporting the development and improvement of Hawaii's P-20 educational system?*

The ECS was established as a compact of states gathering together to share their experiences, questions, and challenges in the hope that through research and study they might find answers. The mission of the ECS is to assist state legislatures, governors, and educational leaders in the formulation of policies, statutes, and procedures to answer the question of how best to approach a public system of education beginning with early child education and continuing on through advanced university degree programs. It is often difficult for well-motivated legislators and state

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
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Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>



officials to move rational change through the political process, but they are certainly helped when the ideas have the support of a national compact of states looking at similar issues. In this regard, the research and position papers of the ECS as well as the conversations can be quite powerful tools in moving along a public policy of education that includes all the elements of P through 20.

(3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of an ECS commissioner, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, experiences, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the ECS. Highlight the three qualities you feel make you a highly qualified candidate.

Commissioners will be dealing with real life questions that impact public education. These questions have their roots both in the practice of teaching and the ability of states, often through political localities, to fund the total educational enterprise. Secondly, the Commission is quite large, and to be effective, the individuals must understand the dynamics of large-group decision-making, even though there is a steering committee and work groups. In addition, the work of the ECS includes all levels of public education, with an emphasis on the K-12 sector. I believe my background is uniquely well-based to be able to address each of these responsibilities. I would list the following aspects of my background:

- My personal public school experience includes being part of the post-Sputnik science revolution as a student in the “new educational reform” of inquiry-based science education in the specialized high school physics program. I went on to become a junior high school and high school biology teacher, active in the development, research, and teaching of the various methods of the BSCS biology curriculum. My academic pursuit then turned from science to law and education, and experiencing the challenge of achieving the Ph.D. I went on to teach educational law, public sector employment, while also spending two years supervising student teachers in both Michigan and Wisconsin. In a word, I have seen it all from education on the Indian reservations to the most advanced university research facilities.
- As the Executive Director of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), I have represented the most unified system of post-secondary public education in the country. This work not only required the ability to organize and represent the diverse interests of 4000 faculty members, but also challenged me to argue for support of public higher education, while balancing the other public interests and seeking state financial support, including the Department of Education, social services, and health. All of this requires an understanding of the process of compromise and interest based decision-making. To continue to survive, one must be able to differentiate between real needs, certain wants, and personal desires.



- One of my volunteer activities that has given me the most satisfaction over the years has been the work that began with the Neighborhood Justice Center of Honolulu (NJC). This was the beginning of community-based alternative dispute resolution. From my work with NJC to my service now as the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) State Director of Ombudsmen (working to mediate employment issues under the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) for military personnel), I have learned to help people find mutually acceptable solutions to their own problems. Over the decades in Hawaii, I have had many opportunities to assist private and public groups in the facilitation of meetings, the drafting of documents, and the development of strategic plans. I cannot think of a more essential set of skills for any member of the ECS to bring to his/her service as a commissioner.

(4) Please identify one short- and one long-term goal you would have as an ECS member and how you would accomplish these during your term of service.

I believe one of the most immediate concerns for every state will be finding budgetary solutions to the replacement of federal support for public education that has come from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This is particularly a concern for post-secondary education, and now—especially for Hawaii—the funds currently being received as a recipient of *Race to the Top* grant program from the Department of Education. I believe that ECS can be influential in helping to focus the allocation of future federal support once these sources of funding expire. As an individual, I have no delusions over my ability to achieve a solution to this question, but I can certainly guarantee that I will not let those around me forget that “education is to the states, what defense is to the federal government.”

In the long term, my goal is to see that the ECS pursue the issue of the role of public higher education beyond vocational goals, which is as important as finding work is to everyone. I believe that the history of the United States has demonstrated that that we have prospered as a nation because of the unique development of statewide systems of *public* colleges and universities. In large part, this has been achieved through both applied and basic research. In the private sector there is always a market for applied research, but it is only the federal and state governments that have the capacity to support the basic research that goes beyond just science. Perhaps I can be a voice in support of our renewed appreciation for the American system of public education.

(5) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the ECS? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I can see no conflicts of interest, personal or professional, arising from my serving as an ECS commissioner with my duties as the Executive Director of UHPA. Should any such possibility arise, I would first declare that I saw a potential conflict and ask for a determination. Should one be determined, I would recuse myself from the discussion

The Honorable J. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education



Page 4
March 28, 2011

of the issue or the decision-making. I would rely upon the State Ethics Commission in all such matters.

If you have further questions, please let me know and I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

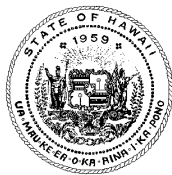
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. N. Musto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

J. N. Musto, Ph.D.
Executive Director

JNM:pt

GM570

Testimony



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Friday, April 1, 2011, 1:15 PM
State Capitol Room 225

Testimony of
Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Education Committee
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

GM 570
Consideration and Confirmation of J.N. Musto
to the Education Commission of States

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to nominate Dr. J.N. Musto to the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Musto has had a distinguished career in education and is a fine representative of Hawaii to ECS.

Musto would be one of seven Hawaii representatives to ECS which is a national compact of states. ECS is a resource to states, providing information and data with respect to improving public education.

Musto meets the qualifications for ECS described in Hawaii Revised Statutes §311-1. By virtue of his training, experience, knowledge and affiliations, he is well positioned to “reflect broadly the interest state government, higher education, the state education system, local education, lay and professional, public and nonpublic educational leadership.” Musto has been a secondary school science teacher and a university professor. He has also been a university professor both public and private institutions: Northern Michigan University, University of Hawaii at Manoa and Hawaii Pacific University. For the last 30 years, Musto has been the Executive Director of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly representing the university faculty. Musto is also a member of the Hawaii P-20 Council which addresses the state’s educational interests broadly from early childhood education through higher education.

Musto also meets the HRS §311-1 requirement of “represent(ing) leading national organizations of professional educators or persons concerned with educational administration.” Musto is active in national educational and labor associations including the American Arbitration Association and Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution. He has given numerous presentations at the National Education Association (NEA).

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that you confirm J.N. Musto for Education Commission of the States.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony presented before the
Senate Committee on Education
April 1, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.
By MRC Greenwood
President, University of Hawai'i

Nomination of J.N. Musto (GM570)

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I support the nomination of J.N. Musto as a commissioner on the Education Commission of the States (ECS).

As Executive Director of the University of Hawai'i Professional Assembly (UHPA), Dr. Musto has had many years of exemplary experience and service with UHPA, the exclusive bargaining representative of the faculty of the University of Hawai'i system, the only public higher education institution in the state. His would be a knowledgeable voice that would contribute a faculty perspective to ECS discussions about challenges in higher education both nationally and locally. J.N. would be an excellent addition to the state's representation at ECS.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for J.N. Musto.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII "KAPI OLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Arts and Sciences Division

March 29, 2011

Aloha:

I am happy to write this letter of support for Dr. J. N. Musto who has been nominated for a position on the Education Commission of the State (ECS) by Governor Abercrombie.

I have known Dr. Musto for many more than ten years in his capacity as Executive Director of the university of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA). In the past three years I have had the privilege of learning from him in my capacity as a Director of the UHPA board. Prior to this I have worked with him as a member of UHPA s Collective Bargaining Committee in two contract negotiations.

Dr. Musto is, without a doubt, a resource to our community. He possesses an institutional memory that holds more than three decades of Hawai s s higher public education history. I know of no one, and I challenge anyone to produce another individual, who understands the subtle details of the history of the University of Hawai i, better than Dr. Musto. In my experience, it has been rare to find another individual in the room who commands the knowledge and perspective that he possesses.

His position at UHPA has always been that of an advocate for a system of public education that reaches all of Hawai i s citizens, regardless of their circumstances. He is an idealist in this regard, believing our state is best served when all its citizens have access to a quality, complete and challenging education. I know of no better advocate, and as a community college professor, would not want any other than J.N. Musto for my students.

But Dr. Musto has not only represented the faculty of the University system. As a member of the EUTF trust, he has represented all public workers, advocating their rights and needs for adequate and affordable health care.

The ECS will only benefit from Dr. Musto s candor, intelligence, and pragmatism.

Me ke aloha,

Sharon Rowe, Ph.D., M.F.A
Associate Professor, Philosophy

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HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA
Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0011
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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 1, 2011

G.M. 570 – Submitting for Consideration and
Confirmation to Education Commission of the
States, Gubernatorial Nominee, J.N. Musto, Ph.D

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the nomination of J.N. Musto, Ph.D, to the Education Commission of the States.

Dr. Musto's educational background – Masters Degree and Ph.D in Biology from the University of Michigan, and diverse educational employment history, combined with his many professional accomplishments, make him an ideal appointment to the Education Commission of the States. As the current Executive Director for the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly, the public sector union that represents the faculty of the community colleges, undergraduate, graduate and professional schools in the statewide university system, Dr. Musto has represented his membership for over 30 years with diligence and perseverance. In his career, Dr. Musto has also served as a guest lecturer, instructor, and assistant professor. He is well respected among his peers and is passionate about educational advancement.

The mission of the Education Commission for the States is to assist states in developing effective policies and practices for public education by providing data, research, and analysis. The Commission also facilitates collaboration, the exchange of ideas among states and long-range strategic thinking. We are confident that Dr. Musto will provide valuable input and will excel as a member of the Commission.

It is our pleasure to offer our unequivocal support for the confirmation of Dr. J.N. Musto to the Education Commission of the States.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy Perreira
Executive Director



1201 16th St., N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Dennis Van Roekel
President

Lily Eskelsen
Vice President

Rebecca S. Pringle
Secretary-Treasurer

John I. Wilson
Executive Director

March 29, 2011

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

Dear Senator Tokuda:

It gives us great pleasure to provide a letter of support for the nomination of J.N. Musto, Ph.D., to the Education Commission of the States.

Dr. Musto is an accomplished and respected education leader who serves as the Executive Director of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly, the higher education affiliate in Hawaii for the 3.2 million-member National Education Association.

Dr. Musto has developed a strong and notable track record of achievement, and has consistently demonstrated a keen ability to anticipate the needs of educators, providing leadership and vision throughout his education career, which encompasses K-12 and higher education. He has helped to build a collaborative, trusting, and productive working relationship as Executive Director of UHPA, balancing the diverse priorities of his 4,000 members and a myriad of public interests.

Dr. Musto's contributions have been invaluable in advancing the cause of quality public education in Hawaii. With vigor and determination, he has effected real change for students, education professionals, and public education.

We highly recommend Dr. Musto and encourage you to give his nomination the highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis Van Roekel
President

John I. Wilson
Executive Director

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

THE SENATE
Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

State Capitol Conference Room 225
Friday, April 1, 2011; 1:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 570
J.N. MUSTO
FOR EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES**

The ILWU Local 142 supports G.M. 570 for the confirmation of J.N. Musto to the Education Commission of the States.

The Education Commission of the States is an interstate compact to improve public education by facilitating exchange of information, ideas, and experience among state policymakers and education leaders. Dr. Musto is well suited to serve on this commission because of his wealth of experience in public education.

Dr. Musto was educated in Michigan, receiving his Ph.D from the University of Michigan, but has been in Hawaii more than 25 years, serving as the Executive Director for the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly since 1980. He is an staunch, well-respected labor leader, recently recognized for his leadership by the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs. However, he is foremost an educator who believes in public education, both at the K-12 and post-secondary level.

Whenever given the opportunity, Dr. Musto advocates for a strong public education system and encourages anyone who will listen that education is the key to building a better democracy and a better society. He will seize the opportunity to network and partner with other states in the Commission to improve the policy and practice of education in Hawaii. He is articulate, practical, tenacious and able to work collaboratively. His vast experience with local and national organizations have given him the ability to effectively represent Hawaii on the Commission.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Dr. J.N. Musto for appointment to the Education Commission of the States.

March 28, 2011

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: James De Ste Croix, Ph.D.
Leeward Community College, Professor
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly, Board of Directors Member
(808) 537-1371/ (808) 292-5463

RE: **Senate Confirmation Hearing, 1:15 p.m., Friday, April 1, 2011**
GM 570—Testimony in Support of J.N. Musto to the Education Commission of the States

As a Leeward Community College faculty member over the last twenty years, I have had the opportunity of working with the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly as a union representative, contract negotiations team member, grievance committee member, and Board of Directors member. During those years, I have been privileged to know Executive Director J.N. Musto who has been instrumental in creating a world-class organization that has more than met the needs of both his membership and the citizens of Hawaii. His confirmation to the Education Committee of the States can only strengthen Hawaii's public education at all levels.

Dr. Musto's greatest strength lies in his talent for conceptualizing the whole of public education and how faculty, administration, students, state officials, and state bureaucracies all blend and interact within the context of higher education. Because of that general approach, UHPA is today a national model organization built on innovative principles of shared governance and shared responsibility. The union and the UH system (of teaching and research institutions) both have a common goal of enhancing educational opportunities and the standard of living for the people of Hawaii.

Although the public schools in Hawaii are not part of the university, they essentially determine the quality of the university's education; well prepared students are more likely to profit from higher education than their less-prepared counterparts. Throughout my years of participating on the various UHPA committees, especially those dealing with contract issues, Dr. Musto has never lost sight of this fundamental connection, one that continuously informs the organization's decisions on workload, administrative responsibilities, and various procedures. Through his leadership, UHPA effectively works with public education from kindergarten through graduate school.

Currently, Hawaii is experiencing severe economic challenges that are not going to disappear any time soon. Because any recovery will require a strong public education component, I am convinced that we need to place experienced and proven leaders in the right educational positions as quickly as possible. Given his experience and dedication, Dr. Musto is an ideal candidate for membership on the Education Commission of the States.

Erin Conner

From: Brent Sipes [sipes.brent@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 1:30 PM
To: EDU Testimony; Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland
Subject: Testimony supporting the Confirmation of JN Musto

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Senator Suzanne Oakland Chun

Consideration and Confirmation to the Education Commission of the State, Gubernatorial Nominee, J.N. MUSTO, for a term to expire 6-30-2015
Friday, April 01, 2011
1:15PM

Dear Senators Tokuda, Kidani and Oakland Chun:

I wish to testify in support of Dr. J.N. Musto's confirmation to the Education Commission of the State. I have had the honor of working with Dr. Musto for over 20 years, as a member of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly(UHPA) and more recently as a Director of the UHPA Board.

Dr. Musto is an intelligent and well informed citizen. He is a critical thinker who quickly grasps complex situations. Dr. Musto will be able to interpret information and data concerning our State's educational needs and resources. He is able to see and understand multiple perspectives on an issue. Consequently, he can formulate policies and plans for the improvement of our public education at all levels. Dr. Musto is well versed in the diverse aspects of public education in Hawaii. His is an articulate speaker who can convey and advocate a message clearly and concisely. Dr. Musto is leader who guides people into making the right choices.

Dr. Musto is an excellent appointment for the ECS. He will serve the citizens of Hawaii well if confirmed. If you have questions or wish additional information, please contact me (sipes.brent@gmail.com).

Yours truly,

Brent Sipes
1949 Naio St.
Honolulu, HI

Erin Conner

From: Paulette Feeney [paulettecfeeney@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 6:32 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support for JN Musto, Candidate for Education Commission of the States

I strongly support the appointment of J.N. Musto to the Education Commission of the States. J.N.'s training, experience, and knowledge as Executive Director of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), representing faculty of the entire UH educational system, gives him unique access to current research in all aspects of education, including scope of instruction, organization, administration, and instructional methods and standards employed or suitable for employment in public P-20 educational systems. His affiliations with other Hawai'i union leaders, the governor, and lawmakers have broadened his perspective on the interests of state government, higher education, the state education system, local education, lay and professional, public and nonpublic educational leadership. Under his leadership, UHPA has long been affiliated with the National Education Association, one of the leading national organizations of professional educators, keeping it abreast of current developments across the country. His service on the board of EUTF under the previous administration has made him extremely aware of the challenges facing our State as our population ages and costs of health care soar. While J.N. currently serves a particular constituency, his own retirement is on the horizon, and he is well aware of the difficult choices policy makers face. In short, he is exceptionally well qualified to serve on this commission.

Sincerely,
Paulette Feeney
Faculty Specialist, University of Hawaii at Manoa
(Speaking as an individual)

Radcliffe & Associates, LLC

222 South Vineyard Street, Suite 401, Honolulu, HI 96813-2453 Phone (808) 524-4459 Fax (808) 599-4340

March 30, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225

RE: GM570 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Education Commission of the States, Gubernatorial Nominee, J.N. MUSTO, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the Governor's nomination of Dr. J.N. Musto for the Education Commission of The States.

I have known Dr. Musto for over thirty years as a friend and colleague, and I worked with him as his chief deputy for seventeen of those years. He is the proverbial gentleman and scholar.

A family man, he is a role model for others, and as evidence of that, he is active in his church and in the community. He is a trustee and deacon of Central Union Church, and has served on numerous community boards and commissions.

Recognized nationally as a thinker, writer, and speaker, on education policy, he has served us here in Hawaii in a wide variety of capacities including Hawaii Literacy, Inc., the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii, the Employer-Union Health Fund Trust, the Neighborhood Justice Center, the Hawaii P-20 Council and a host of others.

He brings a very strong and highly trained intellect to the position and is also known and respected nationally as a hard worker and an expert on issues having to do with public education, particularly higher education.

The Governor has made a sound and a wise choice in nominating J.N. for this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments.

Sincerely,

John H. Radcliffe

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 9:06 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: mingbaoy@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM570 on 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM GM570

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ming-Bao Yue
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: mingbaoy@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/25/2011

Comments:

I strongly support the appointment of Dr. J.N.Musto to the Education Commission of the State. As the Executive Director of UHPA, Dr. Musto bring over 30 years of experience in Higher Education to the position. He has intimate knowledge of the UH-system and he is a familiar face in the state and the legislature. I am confident that his contribution to the commission will be substantial.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 3:23 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: dduffy@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for GM570 on 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/1/2011 1:15:00 PM GM570

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Duffy
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dduffy@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 3/29/2011

Comments:

I am writing in support of Dr. Musto's nomination to the Education Commission of the States. Dr. Musto brings to the Commission a wealth and diversity of experience, as a teacher of junior and high school students, as a graduate student and researcher, and as a professor, as a union leader, as a counselor, mediator and union leader. He has experience on the G-20 Council in the state and knows our educational needs and challenges as well as anyone. Perhaps not least I might mention he can work with anyone, if he can work with both National Guardsmen and university professors.

In my conversations, I have found him deeply thoughtful and unwilling to offer simple solutions for complex problems.

Education is the state's most important problem, more so even than finances. JN will bring to the table expertise and a commitment to contribute. I very much hope you will confirm him.

Many thanks.

Personal Testimony Submitted to the
Senate Committee on Education
March 29, 2011
4:00 p.m.
by
Joyce M. Najita

GM 570, CONFIRMATION HEARING TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, J.N. MUSTO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015.

Chair Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Joyce M. Najita, and I am a Researcher with the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Director of the Industrial Relations Center. I am pleased to provide personal testimony on GMO 570. This testimony does not represent the position of the University of Hawai'i or the Industrial Relations Center.

This is being sent in strong support of the nomination of Dr. J.N. Musto to the Education Commission of the States.

Dr. Musto is supremely qualified to serve as Commissioner. He has served with distinction not only as Executive Director of UHPA, the University of Hawaii faculty union, but in all of his numerous appointments to public and private organizations. He not only brings a huge store of knowledge and experience in Hawaii's higher education system unsurpassed by any individual, but he has applied exceptional energy and spirit in all his endeavors. Finally Dr. Musto is honest, trustworthy, and dedicated to the principle of equality and justice. It will be a great disservice to the good of the State of Hawaii to not approve Dr. Musto's nomination to the Education Commission of the States.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in Dr. Musto's behalf.

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
and Members, Committee on Education

March 30, 2011

Testimony in Support for GM 570
Committee on Education Hearing
April 1, 2011, Room 225, 1:15 P.M.

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Leticia Colmenares, associate professor of chemistry at UH-Windward Community College. I am writing in support of the appointment of Dr. J. N. Musto as member of the Education Commission of the State (ECS).

I have known Dr. J. N. Musto for 3 years now in my capacity as member of the Board of Directors of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA). Dr. Musto is the Executive Director of UHPA and a Trustee in the State of Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF). He has volunteered his services in the Neighborhood Justice Center of Honolulu (NJC) and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) State Director of Ombudsmen.

I find JN to be a very good communicator with strong leadership and organizational skills. He is very innovative and creative in finding solutions to various problems. He has a very strong commitment to higher education and is passionate about public education in the state of Hawaii. Recently he was recognized for his leadership by the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs.

Dr. J. N. Musto has been leading the University of Hawaii professional faculty for most of his life. I am convinced that given his qualifications and experience, Dr. Musto can contribute significantly to the ECS. In view of this, I strongly request the approval of Dr. Musto's appointment.

Thank you for his opportunity to testify.

Leticia Colmenares, Ph.D.

Testimony by John Wendell regarding GM 570 in SUPPORT of the appointment of J.N. Musto to the Education Commission of the States for a term to expire 6-30-2015. Hearing by the Senate Committee on Education held on Friday, April 1, 2011 at 1:15PM, Conference Room 225, State Capital.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and the members of the Senate Committee on Education it is with much enthusiasm that I support the nomination by Governor Abercrombie of Dr. J.N. Musto for a seat on the Education Commission of the States (ECS). I have known Dr. Musto for over 20 years and have worked with him extensively in his capacity as Executive Director of UHPA. I could spend a great deal of the committee's time highlighting Dr. Musto's extensive qualifications but I think his record stands solidly on its own merits without additional comments from me and I think Governor Abercrombie and this committee would be hard pressed to find an individual more qualified to serve on the Commission.

What I would like to emphasize instead is an important skill that Dr. Musto possesses that unfortunately is often lacking by those that try to grapple with the many difficult challenges facing our education system. That skill is his ability to determine what can be accomplished within both the opportunities and constraints of the task at hand. Many people, both within and outside the political realm, let ideology cloud their vision to the extent that they fail to see what can actually be accomplished to make progress towards the goals shared by all. Everyone, without regard to ideology and party affiliation, wants the most skilled and educated population possible for the State of Hawaii. What often divides us are the specific means for accomplishing that goal and it is this division, more than the lack of resources, that holds us back and causes us to fall short of achieving that goal. The most important asset that Dr. Musto brings to the table is his ability to listen to all sides and formulate a workable solution that all of the parties can get behind and support. I have seen him do this time and time again and it never ceases to amaze me how he can move forward what appears to be a hopelessly deadlocked situation by getting the parties involved to understand and respect each others ideas and perspectives, so that they can move forward to accomplish their mutual goals. That is the only way we will ever move forward in the daunting task of optimizing our education system so that we can secure our intellectual and economic future in this increasingly interconnected world.

In conclusion I congratulate Governor Abercrombie for nominating Dr. Musto to the ECS and urge this committee to confirm Dr. Musto's appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

John P. Wendell, Ph.D.
Kailua, HI

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF DR. J. N. MUSTO TO THE EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES

I am happy to speak today in support of the nomination of Dr. J. N. Musto to the Education Commission of the States. I have known him ever since he came to Hawai'i in 1980, always as a person of the highest integrity. I've known him from a number of vantage points, as a member of the University of Hawai'i faculty and its union (UHPA), as a member of the Board of Directors of that union and (for six years) its president—and later, after my retirement, as a member of the UH Board of Regents (for five years).

Whatever the situation, I have noticed that people pay attention to what J. N. has to say. Not that he speaks that often or that much, but when he does, it is clear that he has given the matter careful thought and analysis, and may be counted on for pros and cons and alternative solutions. They find him worth listening to. (He's a little like that broker in the ads a few years ago, "When E. F. Hutton talks, people listen.")

Nor does he have a one-track mind. It's not always about the faculty contract and the state's economy, or labor negotiations. His resumé shows something of the breadth of his interests and his service to Hawai'i to date, including the Aloha United Way, the Neighborhood Justice Center, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH), which seeks from across the street to facilitate the flow of research dollars to the state. His service often has had something to do with education in the broad sense. Especially timely is his membership on the P-20 Council, that group that follows students from preschool through graduate school, and is concerned with preventing drop-outs and raising the general education level of our population.

I support J. N.'s nomination enthusiastically. I believe that he will represent Hawai'i well on the Commission, and will help find ways to filter the experiences of the other 49 states, as seen from the national level, back into improving our educational system here in Hawai'i.

Byron W. Bender

March 31, 2011

Testimony regarding **GM570**

to: Senate Education Committee, State of Hawaii

for consideration and confirmation to the Education Commission of the States,
Gubernatorial Nominee, J.N. MUSTO, for a term to expire 6-30-2015

Senators:

I submit this testimony in **full support** of the appointment of Dr. J.N. Musto as a Hawaii Commissioner on the Education Commission of the States [ECS].

I have served as President of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly [UHPA] President for two years, since April 2009. Prior to 2009, I served as a Director of UHPA since 2004. Previously I participated on the Grievance Committee of UHPA and as a Faculty Representative.

Today I speak **as an individual** with intimate knowledge of the outstanding work and accomplishments of Dr. Musto over the twenty-one year period of my professorship at UH Manoa. His career in Hawaii has benefited greatly not only the faculty, but the students and institution of the University of Hawaii and the citizens of the State of Hawaii. It is not an accident that he was recently recognized with the prestigious HIPA award in the Labor Leadership category.

Only two people are allowed to speak officially on behalf of UHPA, according to our bylaws: JN as Executive Director and myself as President. I submit to you that the overwhelming majority of the faculty of the University of Hawaii would agree with my personal stance on this nomination to ECS: appoint Dr. J.N. Musto as a commissioner.

With my responsibilities as President of UHPA, I have worked more closely with Dr. J.N. Musto over the past two years than with any other single individual in my twenty-one years in Hawaii. This includes my professional activities at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, in the UH System, and in community activities outside my immediate family and church. **I know J.N. Musto very well.** I don't always agree with him, but I always DO respect his viewpoint and position.

JN has been a tireless worker for the citizens of Hawaii. He is extremely knowledgeable on so many facets of public higher education, as well as labor and both public/private unions in general. From your legislative interactions, you all know that he is extremely articulate.

The bottom line of my testimony can be summarized as follows:

I can think of no one more qualified to be a Commissioner of the Education Commission of the States [ECS], as described by the ECS mission and vision statements, in the entire State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Duane E. Stevens, Ph.D.

Professor of Meteorology
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology
University of Hawaii at Manoa

President
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

NOTES:

From <http://www.ecs.org>:

The Mission of the Education Commission of the States

The mission of the Education Commission of the States is to help states develop effective policy and practice for public education by providing data, research, analysis and leadership; and by facilitating collaboration, the exchange of ideas among the states and long-range strategic thinking.

Our Vision

To be the leader and key resource in the process through which the states continually learn from one another as they work to improve teaching and learning for their citizens.

HAWAII Commissioners:

Neil Abercrombie, Governor
Ann Botticelli, Kamehameha Schools
Hans Chun
Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education
Roy Takumi, Chair, House Education Committee
Jill Tokuda, State Senator
Dale Webste