

GM651

Testimony



Donald G. Horner
Chairman & CEO

April 4, 2011

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

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Thank you for your letter of March 30, 2011. My written statement to the questionnaire follows:

1. Why did you decide to apply to serve on the BOE?

I am a product of the public school system. The reason I am privileged to occupy my current position is a direct result of the dedication of public school teachers. Therefore, I welcome the opportunity to give back to the public educational system. Public education remains a cornerstone of our American democracy. And, as CEO of a large local employer, I've seen first hand the challenges when our employees are not prepared for the work force. We must do better.

2. In light of recent changes to the Board's composition, how do you perceive the role and responsibilities of individual members and the overall role of the BOE in regards to educational decision-making?

I've had the privilege to serve on the current BOE for the past two months. My sense is the role of the new BOE should be more strategic versus tactical. We should support the superintendent in developing an overall strategic plan and diligently monitor its progress. However, we should not be engaged in the micro-management of the execution of the plan.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the BOE, 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 BOE. Highlight the three qualities you feel make you a highly qualified candidate.

I began my career 33 years ago as a trainee at First Hawaiian Bank. I've had the privilege to work within a variety of job functions that involved strategic change and personnel management. I found through experience, that people are the solution, not

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Page 2
April 4, 2011

the problem. Therefore, as a BOE member, I shall be an advocate for the employee. Also, in my career, I have never met an operational system that could not be improved upon. Consequently, I shall work through the superintendent to challenge our employees to be creative and flexible to identify and embrace new methods to work smarter, not harder. Lastly, I intend to be a "numbers" person. I have a passion to ensure performance is measured. I feel an obligation as a fiduciary of the taxpayers' investment in education. As the board chair and CEO of a \$15.0 billion business that is accountable for 650,000 customers' life savings, I appreciate the significant and serious fiduciary responsibilities of serving our State's 178,000 students.

4. Please identify one short- and one long-term goal you would have as a BOE member and how you would accomplish these during your term of service.

The short-term goal would be to review and amend the cumbersome BOE by-laws and policies. These currently are restrictive and place too much micro-management responsibilities upon the BOE. In my judgment, these responsibilities should be transferred to the superintendent.

The longer-term goal would be to build an accurate set of metrics in order to better hold the DOE responsible for student achievement and fiscal accountability.

5. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Education? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any specific conflicts. However, should any arise, I would immediately declare the conflict and abstain from voting on the issue.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,



Donald G. Horner



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Wednesday, April 6, 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

GM651 Confirmation of **Donald G. Horner** to the
State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

In February, I had the pleasure of appointing Donald G. Horner to a vacancy on the current BOE. Now, I am pleased to support the confirmation of Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education for an appointment as an at-large member and Chair of the Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2014.

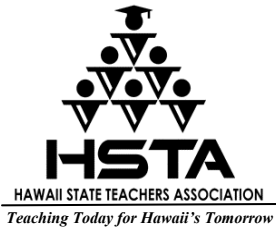
Horner is board chairman and chief executive officer of First Hawaiian Bank. First Hawaiian Bank is one of Hawai'i's large private sector employers and has operations statewide. Prior to employment at First Hawaiian as a credit analyst beginning in 1978, Horner was an officer with the U.S. Navy.

Horner is recognized as a business, civic and community leader in Hawai'i. Horner has extensive experience in board governance in working with his board at First Hawaiian Bank and in serving on many boards throughout the state. Horner's board service includes The Nature Conservancy, Children's Discovery Center, Filipino Community Center, Hawai'i Visitors and Convention Bureau, and Hawai'i Business Roundtable. Horner's community service and board leadership in education includes Mid-Pacific Institute Trustee Emeritus, 'Iolani School Board of Governors, and advisory boards of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Shidler College of Business and School of Nursing.

Horner is committed to public education. He grew up in North Carolina where he graduated from a public high school before earning degrees from the University of North Carolina and the University of Southern California. His late wife, Rowena, grew up on Kaua'i and graduated from Waimea High School. He has served as the Vice Chair of the Department of Education's Interagency Working Group that implemented the Reinventing Education Act of 2004 and played a leadership role in responding to Senate Concurrent Resolution 115 (2008) in which KPMG worked with Moanalua Complex Schools to identify critical DOE rules and policies that impede effective decision making, administration and teaching.

Horner has the skills and experience to oversee an organization as complex and large as Hawai'i's public schools system. He has the leadership and character to develop the structure and culture of this new appointed BOE to work effectively and collaboratively with the Superintendent to bring about a New Day in public education in Hawai'i. Horner brings credibility to the seriousness of my commitment to effective governance of the BOE in order to restore public confidence in our public schools and to improving educational outcomes for our children and the state.

As you know, I believe that my administration will be judged on the success of the BOE. I am confident in Horner's leadership as Chair of the BOE. I look forward to working with him and encourage you to confirm him.



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Wil Okabe
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Karolyn Mossman
Vice President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer

Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: GM 651, GM 653, GM 654, GM 657, GM 659 – Gubernatorial Nominees for
State of Hawaii Board of Education, DONALD G. HORNER, KIMBERLY
GENNAULA HAGI, BRIAN J. DE LIMA, JAMES D. WILLIAMS,
WESLEY P. LO

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports the appointment of **Donald G. Horner, Kimberly Gennaula Hagi, Brian J. De Lima, James D. Williams, and Wesley P. Lo**, to the Hawaii Board of Education.

Each of these nominees brings with them dedication, enthusiasm and a vast knowledge base to a Board of Education that will oversee the Department of Education with the Governor maintaining ultimate accountability.

Diverse backgrounds, hard working, experienced decision-makers, exceptional integrity – these are all traits reflected in each of these individual nominees. These talents and abilities will join together to improve public education in Hawaii.

The nominations of Mr. Horner Ms. Gennaula Hagi, Mr. De Lima, Mr. Williams and Mr. Apo to the Board of Education and are well-deserving of your confirmation. We urge your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Erin Conner

From: cnakamura@thelearningcoalition.org [cheri.nakamura@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:45 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: GM 651: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD G. HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2014
Attachments: HEE Voting Members and Participants 20110301.pdf

HE'E Coalition

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April 6, 2011

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Conference Room 225

GM 651: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD G. HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

Hui for Excellence in Education, (HE'E), a statewide education coalition working to improve public education through family and community engagement, has reviewed the Governor's nominees for the Board of Education and found that all of the nominees meet the minimum qualifications required in the new law creating the appointed BOE (Act 5 of 2011).

HE'E is made up of voting, non-voting members (list attached), individuals and policy makers. HE'E's endorsement is supported by at least 75% of its voting members. This insures that any action taken by the group is of significant importance to the coalition as a whole.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura

HE'E Coalition Director



HE'E Coalition Voting Members (*) and Participants

*Academy 21

DOE Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Support

DOE Parent Community Networking Center

*DOE Windward District

*Faith Action Community for Equity

*Good Beginnings Alliance

Harold K.L. Castle Foundation

Hawai'i Charter School Network

*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition

*Hawai'i Education Matters

Hawai'i P-20

*INPEACE

Joint Venture Education Forum

*Kanu Hawai'i

*Leaders for the Next Generation

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

*Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

*Parents and Children Together

Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i

Punahou School PUEO Program

UH College of Education

UH Law School

United States Army

Lyla Berg

Norman Sakamoto



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Kailua, HI 96734
Tel: 808-888-6922
www.hawaiieducationmatters.org

April 6, 2011

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 1:15 pm
Conference Room 225

GM 651: Comments on Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD G. HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

Hawaii Education Matters (HEM) is a non-partisan, non-profit parent advocacy organization dedicated to quality public education in our state.

We feel that the amount of information provided on Mr. Horner by the Governor was limited. Please consider asking Mr. Horner the following questions, taken directly from the new law Act 5. We hope these questions will help the Committee better evaluate the candidate. In addition we have included a question related to community and family engagement and would ask that you also consider this question in your evaluation of the candidate.

1. Please have the candidate describe his experience with collective bargaining.
2. Please have the candidate describe his experience with complex organizations.
3. Please have the candidate describe his experience working among diverse colleagues and in developing consensus based policies.
4. Because HEM is a parent advocacy organization we would like to hear the candidate's thoughts on enhancing parent and community engagement in our public schools. Does the candidate know of any particularly effective community engagement models that could be replicated?

HEM was recently named in SCR 145 by Senator Tokuda (a concurrent resolution to develop a statewide parent/community engagement policy) to work with BOE on developing this policy prior to the 2012 legislative session. What does the candidate feel is the role of community and family engagement is in the educational success of the public school student?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Davis, MPH
Executive Director

 **First Hawaiian Bank**
999 Bishop Street Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Presentation to the Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Education

Wednesday April 6, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Education

I am Neal Okabayashi and I submit this testimony as an individual and not on behalf of First Hawaiian Bank. I strongly support the confirmation of Donald G. Horner to the Board of Education.

I have known Mr. Horner for almost half my life, pre-dating my joining First Hawaiian Bank. When I started doing government affairs for the Bank, I had the opportunity work with Mr. Horner on a variety of bills, including bills related to education and the Kroc Center. He would set aside his bank work and spend hours with me on educational legislation. It was then that I could witness upfront and personal his passion and knowledge for education, his keen sense of innovation while balancing the varying interests of the stakeholders. His drive to make the Kroc Center in Kapolei a reality speaks volumes of his drive to improve opportunities for our children. When I asked him why he was spending so much time on the Kroc Center, he said he wanted the kids in the Leeward Coast area to have the same facilities that the Iolani and Punahou kids enjoy. It is that sense of passion coupled with his diverse background in both banking and now tourism, that will serve our Board of Education and our State well. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the Governor's nomination of Mr. Horner to the Board of Education.

To: Senate Education Committee
April 6, 2011
1:15 pm Conference Room 225

Fr: Kathy Bryant-Hunter

RE: GM 651: Testimony in Support of Don Horner

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee members,

I strongly support the appointment of Don Horner to the Board of Education. In 2005-6, I was asked to facilitate the DOE Interagency Working Group (IWG) established by Act 51: Reinventing Education. The purposed of the IWG was to implement a consolidation of education related resources from other state departments to the DOE. The intent was to give DOE control over all assets, staff, and resources that relate to DOE facilities and programs. The IWG included the Directors of all relevant State Departments, the Governor's Office, and unions, and was Co-Chaired by Don Horner and another community leader.

As the Facilitator, I worked closely with the Mr. Horner. I found him to be thoughtful, fair, and intelligent. He was extremely committed to improving the education system, and worked hard to see that IWG completed their work in a timely and effective manner. The IWG's task was not easy and in many ways, unprecedented. Mr. Horner committed an enormous amount of time to the effort, and he took the responsibility very seriously. He was thoroughly prepared for each meeting, knowledgeable on all details presented by the departments, and direct in his questions and comments.

As Co-Chair, he organized a process that was inclusive and productive. He listened to the issues presented by all the departments, understood the challenges they faced in making the transition, and respected their positions. Throughout the effort, he was mindful of what was in the best interests of students, focused on solutions, and worked with all the departments to find areas of agreement. He was clear that the long term goal was always to improve student achievement.

I am confident that Mr. Horner will continue to bring these same leadership skills and passion for student success to the Board. I strongly urge you to support his appointment.

Thank you for opportunity to testify.

April 1, 2011

Jill Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Education
Senate
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Honorable Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education:

Re: Support for Don Horner – GM651 Board of Education

I am in support of Mr. Don Horner to be a member for the Board of Education.

Mr. Horner with his vast fiscal experience as head of First Hawaiian Bank will assist in providing leadership during the tough economic times. His ability to review and logically provide guidance to a system that is big and diverse in its need. I personally look forward to seeing the educational system change due to the knowledge and foresight Mr. Horner brings.

I support Mr. Horner for the Board of Education. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Arnold Wong /s/

Erin Conner

From: Candace Furubayashi [ckfhawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 6:51 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: GM 651 In support of Don Horner to the Board of Education by Mike McCartney

LATE Testimony ---

Aloha Chair Tokuda and members of the Senate Education Committee:

Please accept my testimony in support of Don Horner to the Board of Education. I could not think of a better community leader to serve as chair of this important board. He will put the needs of the student first and focus on learning outcomes. He is the right person at the right time. He is good listener and good with people. Most of all he has earned the respect of many segments of the community. It will take that kind of strong leadership to bring everyone together to focus on a single purpose --- the improvement on student learning. He will do what is best for the greater good. His heart is all in and that is what we need now more than ever. Please support his appointment to this important board. Our future will be brighter for it. Mahalo for you consideration.

With my respect and sincere aloha,

Mike McCartney

Sent from my wife's iPad