

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION****THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE****REGULAR SESSION 2011****Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 225****GM 651: Nomination of Donald G. Horner for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Education as Chair.**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Donald G. Horner as Chair of the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

My name is Gary K. Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable and it gives me great pleasure to submit this letter of support for Donald G. Horner's nomination to the State Board of Education.

Mr. Horner has been a long time member of the Hawaii Business Roundtable and one of the strongest supporters of the Roundtable's work to help improve public education. Mr. Horner's personal efforts have led to not only his organization's support of the Department of Education but also the efforts of his employees. His leadership capabilities are well known throughout the community and the business sector.

I have known Mr. Horner for over 30 years, having worked with him for many of those years. During that time I have come to know Don as a man of not only strategic vision and intelligence but a man of great personal integrity and honesty.

Don Horner truly believes that education is essential for the health of a community and for the future of our children. Don has devoted a great deal of his time supporting various non-profit community organizations both financially and by volunteering to assist them on his own time. His great vision would make him a great leader on the Board of Education and would help create a better future for our children.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of this appointment to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director  
Hawaii Business Roundtable  
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2630  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



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April 6, 2011

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 218  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Nomination of Donald G. Horner

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I have had the honor of working with Donald G. Horner since 2002 towards the goal of improving student achievement for all children attending Hawaii public schools. This work has been in various capacities, including as officers of the Hawaii Business Roundtable, as leaders of philanthropies investing in public education, and as members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable's Education Task Force. Don is a tireless worker for the benefit of our public education system and Hawaii's children. He is a creative and imaginative community and business leader who is held in the highest regard within the community at large and by the business community. He is an exceptional father, a caring boss and a sensitive leader. I cannot think of anyone more qualified to serve on our State's Board of Education as its Chair.

I recommend your confirmation of Donald G. Horner as Chair of the Hawaii State Board of Education without reservation or hesitation.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

H. Mitchell D'Olier  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer