

NOMINATION TO BOARD OF EDUCATION – KEITH AMEMIYA  
WRITTEN STATEMENT

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

After serving as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association (the governing body of high school sports in Hawai'i) for 12 years (1998-2010), I worked quite closely with the Department of Education, from the Superintendent on down to many public school principals, teachers, coaches, students, and parents.

I was thus fortunate enough to gain a deep appreciation as to the hard work and dedication of those involved in our public school system, as well as the many challenges and obstacles facing them.

Accordingly, my past working experience and knowledge of many of the key people involved in our public school system will hopefully be of significant value if I'm confirmed to serve on the BOE.

In light of the 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?

The BOE needs to lessen its involvement in day-to-day decision-making and instead focus on setting policy and letting the Superintendent and her team handle day-to-day matters. Also, the BOE needs to focus on helping the Superintendent obtain the resources she needs to succeed in steering the DOE towards an upward and positive direction.

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.

As mentioned above, my 12 years of working closely with the public high schools while serving as HHSAA Executive Director helped me gain a good grasp of the inner workings of the DOE (and BOE). As for three qualities that make me a qualified candidate: (1) Many years of working with the DOE and BOE; (2) My attorney background, including several years in private practice as a litigation attorney; and (3) Born and raised in Hawai'i, with a deep concern for our youth.

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.

Short-term goal: Examine the DOE's policies and procedures and make any necessary changes so that the BOE is more policy-oriented and the Superintendent is fully in charge of day-to-day operations and given the necessary tools to succeed in accomplishing the DOE's goals.

Long-term goal: Hawai'i's public school students are at the top of the nation in terms of achievement, including test scores, graduation rate, and college readiness.

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

Initially, I was concerned that serving on the BOE would conflict with my current position as Executive Administrator and Secretary of the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents. However, Governor Abercrombie's staff has researched this issue and has found that I would be able to serve in both capacities if confirmed for the BOE position.

However, if any conflict of interest should arise, I would certainly recuse myself from being involved in the conflict of interest issue.

GM652

Testimony

TESTIMONY OF  
KEITH Y. AMEMIYA

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION 2011

Friday, April 8, 2011  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY ON GM 0652 RELATING TO KEITH Y. AMEMIYA FOR  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee, thank you for giving me this opportunity to provide testimony to you on my nomination to the State of Hawai'i's Board of Education.

After serving as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association (the governing body of high school sports in Hawai'i) for 12 years (1998-2010), I worked quite closely with the Department of Education (and the Board of Education), from the Superintendent on down to many public school principals, teachers, coaches, students, and parents.

I was thus fortunate enough to gain a deep appreciation as to the hard work and dedication of those involved in our public school system, as well as the many challenges and obstacles facing them.

Accordingly, my past working experience and knowledge of many of the key people involved in our public school system will hopefully be of significant value if I'm confirmed to serve on the BOE.

Among other things, three qualities that make me a qualified candidate are as follows: (1) As mentioned above, my many years of working with the DOE and BOE; (2) My attorney background, including several years in private practice as a litigation attorney; and (3) I was born and raised in Hawai'i, and have a deep concern for our youth.

In sum, I humbly ask that you consider and approve my nomination to the Board of Education. If confirmed, it would be a tremendous honor and privilege to serve on the Board and to assist and support the DOE in their efforts to educate our youth and prepare them as best as we can to become productive adults in this ever-changing and dynamic global environment.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Friday, April 8, 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

GM652 Confirmation of **Keith Amemiya** to the  
State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

I am pleased to support the confirmation of Keith Amemiya to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have appointed Amemiya as an at-large member for a one-year term ending June 30, 2012.

Amemiya has been serving as the Executive Administrator and Secretary of the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents since March of last year. Amemiya is responsible for planning, coordinating and directing the administrative support services for the Board of Regents.

Amemiya is well-regarded for his leadership as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association, a position he held for more than a decade. Amemiya worked closely with the Department of Education at all levels and high schools statewide. He gained a firm grasp on the processes of the Department of Education, as interacted with the Board of Education. He is credited with initiating a high school football championship for the entire state that includes neighbor islands, developing a classification system for state tournaments that provides smaller schools an opportunity to compete for state titles, and spearheading the "SOS" (Save Our Sports) campaign which raised over \$1.3 million in Fall 2009 to support schools' athletic programs in light of state budget cuts.

In addition to his work experience, Amemiya brings with him extensive experience working with various boards. Since 2000, he has been a member of the Advisory Commission on Gender Equality in Athletics. In 2007 he joined the Board of Directors for the NFL Youth Education Town Center Hawai'i, which provides afterschool activities, including sports programs, computer training, career development, and tutoring. Amemiya also serves on the Board of Directors for The Learning Coalition, a group of concerned citizens committed to working with others throughout the community to improve public education in our state.

I believe that unique experience has given Amemiya a deep appreciation for our public school system and the challenges and obstacles it faces. Amemiya will bring knowledge of the breadth of opportunities and challenges facing schools across the state as well as his leadership experience.

I am excited that Amemiya is willing to serve on the BOE. I am confident of the contributions that he will make to the board and to improving public education in Hawai'i. I know that you will find Amemiya well qualified for the BOE and encourage you to confirm him.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

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BOARD OF REGENTS

April 5, 2011

Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 218  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of Mr. Keith Y. Amemiya as a member of the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. Keith is a proven leader and his continued commitment to the citizens of this state will help set a course of enrichment for the children of Hawai'i that will place Hawai'i on the path of educational success for many generations to come.

Although he is most noted as Executive Director of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Associations, which culminated with the very successful "Save Our Sports Fund" campaign, we only got a glimpse of what was to come of this man of vision. The campaign resulted in Keith becoming known statewide for his support and passion for the youth of this state and his dedication and commitment to bring communities together to support the continued growth of Hawai'i's student athletes.

Keith, in his current position as Executive Administrator and Secretary of the University of Hawai'i Board Of Regents, has proven once again his innate ability to attack a new challenge head on resulting in a dynamic and efficient operation. He is an integral part of the University's administrative team, with an emphasis on lifelong learning. With his knowledge and experience from the Board of Regents Office, there should be a smooth transition for Keith as a member of the Board of Education.

I highly recommend Keith Amemiya as a member of the Board of Education.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Howard H. Karr'.

Howard H. Karr  
Chair, University of Hawai'i  
Board of Regents



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII°  
SYSTEM

M.R.C. Greenwood, Ph.D.  
President

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
April 8, 2011 at 1:15 PM  
by  
M.R.C. Greenwood  
President, University of Hawai'i

GM 652 –Confirmation of KEITH AMEMIYA to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this personal testimony in support of the Governor's nomination of Keith Amemiya to serve on the Board of Education.

I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Amemiya since he joined the University of Hawai'i as Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents in January, 2010. In his service to the University, as in his prior work as Executive Director of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association and his service to the community on numerous nonprofit boards, he has demonstrated a deep commitment to public education and opportunities for Hawai'i's young people. On a personal level, I greatly value the common sense, can-do attitude, and even disposition that Mr. Amemiya brings to even the most difficult and contentious issues. Those qualities will serve him and the Department of Education well as he undertakes the challenging work of serving on the Board.

I am confident that Mr. Amemiya's service will fully justify the high trust and confidence the Governor has placed in him.

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Email: [mrsgreenwood@hawaii.edu](mailto:mrsgreenwood@hawaii.edu)

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution





KANEOHE  
RANCH

April 6, 2011

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

RE: Hearings re GM651 through GM659

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

As a member of the business community engaged in the improvement of our State's public school system since at least 2002, I am writing to urge the Committee to confirm Governor Abercrombie's appointment to the State Board of Education of all nine individuals noted in GM651 through GM659.

Because of pressing matters that require policy leadership by the Board of Education in the next few weeks, it is crucial that the new Board be put in place as quickly as possible. Among these matters are the negotiation of new contracts with the teachers' and principals' unions, and the advancement of bold reform initiatives outlined in the State's winning Race to the Top plan.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

H. Mitchell D'Olier  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer



The Senate Committee on Education  
Friday, April 8, 2011  
1:15 p.m.

**GM 652, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH AMEMIYA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.**

Dear Chairperson Tokuda and Committee Members:

I stand to speak in support of Governor Abercrombie's appointment of Keith Amemiya to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education and in support of his confirmation by the Senate. Although I have not known Mr. Amemiya for a long period, my professional association with him in his role as Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents has led me to a deep appreciation of his insights into public policy, and especially the unique role of public education, P through 20. Mr. Amemiya's work with the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association is well known. He organized community support to save the athletic programs for our students in a manner that was both efficient and effective. Moreover, in that effort he and his wife led by example. But Mr. Amemiya's interests in public education are not limited to athletics. He is deeply committed to seeing that the real principle of "no child left behind" is carried out, not just the rhetoric that led to simplistic testing measures. With his legal background and experience with the University of Hawaii System, he understands the demands on the Department of Education beginning with addressing students with special needs to preparing high school graduates for post-secondary education and qualification for jobs in the workplace. Mr. Amemiya is an extraordinary individual. He is one of the young new leaders in our state, and I can think of no one who will bring more commitment to his role as a member of the Board of Education.

I strongly recommend the confirmation of his appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

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

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
PROFESSIONAL ASSEMBLY

1017 Palm Drive • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928  
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 • Facsimile: (808) 593-2160  
Web Page: <http://www.uhpa.org>

**Erin Conner**

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**From:** CNakamura@thelearningcoalition.org  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 07, 2011 2:59 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 652: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH AMEMIYA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012  
**Attachments:** HEE Voting Members and Participants 20110301.pdf

HE'E Coalition

4224 Waialae Ave., Ste 322

Honolulu, HI 96816

Tel: 808-926-1530

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[www.HEECoalition.org](http://www.HEECoalition.org)

April 8, 2011

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Friday, April 8, 2011 at 1:15 pm

Conference Room 225

GM 652: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH AMEMIYA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012

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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111 Hekili Street, Suite A1606  
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April 8, 2011

Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Friday, April 8, 2011 at 1:15 pm  
Conference Room 225

GM 652: Comments on Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH AMEMIYA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

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. Amemiya by the Governor was limited. Please consider asking Mr. Amemiya the following questions, taken directly from the new law (Act 5 Of 2011). 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

DONNA TANOUE  
VICE CHAIRMAN

April 7, 2011

Honorable Jill N. Tokuda  
Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol, Room 218  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Keith Amemiya – Board of Education Nomination  
4/8/11 Confirmation Hearing at 1:15 pm

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

I write to respectfully urge your confirmation of Keith Amemiya to the Board of Education.

Simply put, Keith is one of our most outstanding community leaders. He has demonstrated in so many ways his commitment to public education, always putting the interests of students first. Keith would bring expertise, talent and a sense of optimism and "Hiki No" to the Board of Education. I know he would help the Board of Education to work more collaboratively with the Superintendent of Education and the Department of Education, much in the same fashion that he has worked so effectively with the Hawaii High School Athletic Association and, more recently, the University of Hawaii.

I have attended many public schools (Aliioli Elementary, Jarrett Intermediate, Kaimuki Intermediate, Kalani High School and the University of Hawaii), and have a tremendous belief in the potential of students attending public schools. But, leadership is now needed on the Board of Education, and it is what our students deserve.

Let's put great leaders like Keith Amemiya on the Board of Education. Let these leaders govern, and let our public school students do the rest.

Sincerely yours,



Donna Tanoue  
President, Bank of Hawaii Foundation

and

Vice Chairman, Bank of Hawaii

cc: Erin Conner ([e.conner@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:e.conner@capitol.hawaii.gov))  
Committee on Education ([EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov))





The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 652: Testimony in Support of Keith Amemiya

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

It is my great pleasure to know Keith Amemiya, and I unreservedly recommend his confirmation to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

I have known Mr. Amemiya for more than 20 years, since we first worked together as associates at the law firm of Bays, Deaver.

I have closely watched Mr. Amemiya's career and the great work that he accomplished as the Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association.

I also know that he continues to perform exceptionally well in his current position of Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

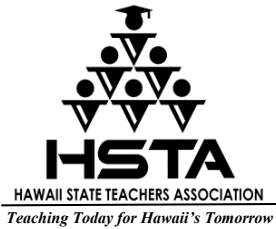
As a Board of Education member, Mr. Amemiya will bring great value to the State of Hawaii as he has done throughout his career. I therefore support his confirmation to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason T. Higa'.

Jason T. Higa  
CEO  
Zippy's Restaurants



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: GM 658, GM 655, GM 656, GM 652 – Gubernatorial Nominees for State of Hawaii Board of Education, **NANCY JO-YAMAKAWA BUDD, CHARLENE CUARESMA, CHERYL KA'UHANE LUPENUI, KEITH AMEMIYA**

Friday, April 8, 2011

**WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT**  
**HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association supports the appointment of **Nancy Jo-Yamanaka Budd, Charlene Cuaresma, Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui, Keith Amemiya**, 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, – these are all traits reflected in each of these individual nominees. These talents and abilities will join together to improve public education in Hawaii.

We urge your support in confirming Ms. Budd, Ms. Cuaresma, Ms. Lupenui, and Mr. Amemiya to the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**KOBAYASHI  
SUGITA &  
GODA**  
ATTORNEYS • AT • LAW

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Bert T. Kobayashi, Jr.\*  
Kenneth Y. Sugita\*  
Alan M. Goda\*  
Lex R. Smith\*  
Wendell H. Fujii\*  
Robert K. Ichikawa\*  
Clifford K. Higa\*  
John F. Lezak\*  
Larry L. Myers\*  
Craig K. Shikuma\*  
Christopher T. Kobayashi\*  
Burt T. Lau\*  
David B. Tongg\*  
Bruce A. Nakamura\*  
Kenneth M. Nakasone\*  
Gregory M. Sato\*

Joseph A. Stewart  
Charles W. Gall\*  
Jesse W. Schiel\*  
-----  
Doris Dvonch  
Neal T. Gota  
Nicholas R. Monlux  
Jonathan S. Moore  
Lisa K.Y. Nakahara  
Shohei Nishimoto  
Christopher A. Santos  
Anthony Suetsugu  
Thao T. Tran  
Maria Y.Y. Wang  
Sarah S.P. Wong

\*A Law Corporation

April 7, 2011

Via e-mail: e.conner@captiol.hawaii.gov

The Honorable Senator Jill Tokuda  
Senate Education Committee  
Atten: Erin Conner

Re: Testimony in support of Keith Amemiya's nomination to  
the Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda:

I hereby respectfully submit my support for the Governor's nomination of Keith Amemiya to the Board of Education.

As a husband of public school teacher and parent of three public school students, I can think of no better selection to serve in this most important capacity.

Keith's accomplishments while Executive Director at the HHSAA are well known and legendary. His ability to unify, formulate, and execute an agenda for a constituency that was comprised of over 90 public and private schools spread out over 6 islands, and over 30,000 student athletes is proof positive that he is a man of action with the ability to lead. Keith has proven himself to be a man of community with a broad personal perspective that reaches throughout the state.

His current role of running the University of Hawaii Board of Regents has given him insight and perspective into the best practices and approaches for academia at the highest level. Moreover, his work – in his previous life - as a Bishop Street lawyer gives him deep understanding of the private sector, taken in balance with his work in the public sector.

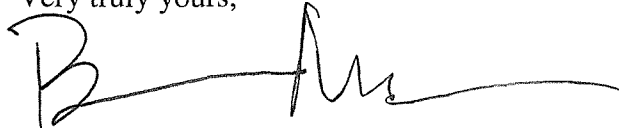
In his nomination announcement, the Governor advised that he sought to select people who have made a "commitment to the young people of this state". With regard to Keith Amemiya, this is true in spades.

Indeed, I am excited for the prospects of this board, and Keith is the type of innovator and consensus builder that will be needed in order to forge the kind of change the Department of Education will need in the future.

April 7, 2011  
Page 2

I congratulate the Governor on such a wise and timely nomination, and urge this Committee to confirm Keith's nomination.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Nakamura', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BRUCE NAKAMURA

April 7, 2011

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairwoman Tokuda and Education Committee Members:

Keith Amemiya – Board of Education

I have known Keith Amemiya for a very long time and believe his appointment to the first appointed Board of Education is an excellent one that will be of immediate value.

Keith's training as an attorney combined with the business experience acquired as the executive director of a nonprofit organization means he also brings to the table a high and diverse level of skill which can be instrumental in moving public education in Hawaii toward a 21<sup>st</sup> century transformation. As the former head of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association for 11 years, Keith has had the unique experience of working closely with many of Hawaii's public schools from outside of the DOE structure. This experience can be valuable in ensuring that at least one BOE member will be able to hit the ground running rather than waiting to "come up to speed."

Finally, about character, if action speaks louder than words, then Keith's choice in putting the public first is quite evident in the career choices he has made. Lucrative law practice or nonprofit organization, it's obvious that Keith made a choice that would reap a greater community benefit rather than one which would benefit himself. In his final performance at HHSAA, Keith spearheaded "Save our Sports" which generated over \$1 million in private support for Hawaii's sports programs. He could have taken the easy way out (or at least left this to the next executive director to deal with), but instead, he chose to deal with it. When he first floated the idea for SOS, many of us told him "No way Jose." Yet, he was crazy enough to persevere and lo and behold, he succeeded! This is the same kind of creativity and stamina I'm sure he will lend to the BOE.

Many of us are rooting for the appointed BOE to succeed not just because many of the appointees like Keith are friends, but because public education in Hawaii and the students and families served by our state Dept. of Education deserve nothing less.

Very truly yours,

Kalowena Komeiji  
(808) 371-6679

April 7, 2011

Via Email: [EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda  
Chair, Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM 652 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawaii Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH AMEMIYA, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education:

I am Christine Karamatsu, submitting testimony on behalf of the nomination of Keith Amemiya to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

Most people obviously know Keith for his many public successes as the former Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association for over 10 years. He initiated many successful projects such as: Hawaii's first football state tournament, Division II tournaments in every high school sport, as well as the very successful "Save Our Sports" (SOS) campaign which raised over \$1.3 million dollars for public school athletic programs.

However, in addition to his very successful public persona, I am lucky enough to also have known Keith in a personal capacity for over 15 years. Keith's private persona is no different from his public one. He is a person of very high character who possesses a wonderful sense of humor. He is hard-working, intelligent and very generous with both his time and his money towards his friends and family.

As the mother of a young son who will soon be attending public school, I can think of no better person to help steer Hawaii's public education system for the next generation.

For the foregoing reasons, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Keith Amemiya to the Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Karamatsu

April 7, 2011

GM 0652 – Support for the Appointment of Keith Y. Amemiya to the Board of Education

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

We are the staff members of the office of the University of Hawai'i's Board of Regents, and we are writing in support of our boss, Keith Y. Amemiya, the Executive Administrator and Secretary of the Board. Keith has been outstanding in the time that he has been in this role. He acts as both a facilitator and mediator, and he is an effective communicator, which makes for a smoothly-run operation.

Keith will be an asset to the Board of Education because of his already proven passion for the youth of Hawai'i, and his innovative and out-of-the-box thinking that will be necessary on this newly appointed Board of Education. With his background as the former Executive Director of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association, Keith has shown the ability to weigh both sides in a way that was beneficial to all, which wasn't easy to do in many situations. His walls are lined with thank-you posters from those who he has helped throughout the years.

He is known publicly for his aptitude for bringing people together to accomplish great feats, but behind the scenes, Keith has shown again and again his ability to work with others to bring about the best-case scenario. Keith is thorough and conscientious in his work, and carefully weighs the outcomes of his decisions. We have seen firsthand how effective Keith can be as someone who has both the vision and skills to accomplish difficult tasks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

*Leila Wai*  
*Christine Neves*  
*Karen Shimizu*

Leila Wai  
Christine Neves  
Karen Shimizu

936 Kaluanui Rd.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825  
April 7, 2011

The Honorable Jill Tokuda  
The State Senate, Hawai'i  
Honolulu 96813

Dear Senator:

I am writing in support of my colleague and good friend Keith Amemiya who has been nominated to sit on the Hawaii State Board of Education. I had the opportunity to work with our Board of Education when I was a teacher, coach, athletic director and vice-principal for over 40 years at Farrington High School and Dole Middle School. I appreciate the work, responsibility and commitment of our board members.

As a Hawaii High School Athletic Association sports coordinator, I was fortunate to work with Keith when he was Executive Director of HHSAA. Keith was able to bring our schools and leagues together to the benefit of our student athletes when, for example, his vision of the State Football Tournament was created, enabling us to enjoy our Division II tournament format. Our smaller schools are now able to compete in our state tournaments. In addition, due to budget constraints when athletic funding was cut, Keith started our successful "Save our Schools" or "SOS" appeal to help keep athletic programs afloat. SOS is still on going.

Keith Amemiya is an excellent choice for the Board of Education where he can continue to serve Hawai'i's youth. We need to utilize the energy, motivation, and visions of Keith who has always put our students first.

Most sincerely,  
Agenhart Ellis, Jr.



## Erin Conner

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**From:** hughyo@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 12:07 PM  
**To:** Erin Conner  
**Subject:** Keith Amemiya BOE Nominee

Senator Tokuda,

I am writing this email in support of Mr. Keith Amemiya's appointment to the Board of Education. It is not often that we have someone so young who has done so much for the State of Hawaii during his 12 years (1998-2010) as the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) Executive Director and who is willing to serve on the Board of Education.

As a former DOE athletic administrator, teacher-coach and ex-officio member of the HHSAA board during Keith's tenure, I was witness to many of the projects that Keith worked on to take the program to the next level. His proactive attitude, which was well documented in the press media, is another testament to his ability. With this attitude, many achievements have resulted in providing the best in athletics for the youth of Hawaii.

There is much more that I could write about Keith.....many achievements too numerous to list here--I am sure that you are familiar with them. With that I respectfully ask for your support for Keith to be a member of the Board of Education.

With Best Regards,

Hugh Yoshida  
Retired University of Hawaii Athletics Director