

GM653

Testimony

April 3, 2011

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

Re: Board of Education Questions

Senator, thank you very much for considering me as a candidate for Board of Education. If confirmed, I would be proud to serve the students and families of Hawaii at this crucial time for public education. The following are the responses to your questions:

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

I am a graduate of public school and a mother of two young children in public school - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Hokulani Elementary. I have already been actively volunteering my time on committees focused on improving public school education. I applied for Board of Education because I want to do all I can to give my children and 175,000 other public school students in Hawaii the best life possible. I want parents to be able to stop worrying they are failing their kids if they can't afford to spend over \$480,000 to send them to 12 years of private school. I want Hawaii to have a public school system we can all be proud of – and one that will ensure a brighter future for all of us.

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

During my time, serving on the Advisory “Jedi” Council, The Learning Coalition and other committees focused on improving public schools, I have seen the great plans constructed for our future. I believe it will be the role of Board to carefully and thoughtfully make them a reality.

As you know, our “Race To The Top” Application was approved as one of the top in the nation because of the strength of the Superintendent’s ideas to change the system. It is imperative the Board does all it can to assist in moving those plans forward. I feel each candidate for the Board brings their own expertise to allow us to do that in the best way possible.

I also support plans for a Policy Audit to find ways to streamline the efforts of the Board and give more authority back to the leaders who need it to make things work. This new Board will be transparent in all it does, motivated to make change happen as quickly and positively as possible, and hold the Superintendent and Governor directly accountable for the promises they’ve made to our children.

**3. *Why do I feel I am qualified for this position? The three qualities that make me a highly qualified candidate?***

I want to take all I've learned in my decades of work as a News Anchor and Communications Director and use those skills to continue to connect with families for this cause. I would be honored to be the voice of parents on the Board and I want to give them confidence that great things are possible by helping to make those things happen.

This mission is also directly in line with my passion for helping Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. At the hospital we make sure we are there to care for kids from the day they are born and at the B.O.E. we will work to give them a better future.

And finally, I'd like to use my skills in various types of media, social networking and communication to assist this Board in partnering and engaging students in this mission as well.

The three qualities I feel make me a highly qualified candidate include; my ability to gather input from all sides before making deliberate and fair decisions, my reputation as a sincere, credible communicator to thousands of families who faithfully watched KGMB over my 15 years as an anchor, and my passion to make a change for the good of everyone in our State.

**4. *Short and long-term goals, and how they would be accomplished?***

My first goal for the Board would be to give parents' confidence that things really are going to change – to give them hope in a "New Day" for education in Hawaii. The Board can do that by acting swiftly, professionally and positively on matters that come before us. We also need to do a good job of sharing what is accomplished in a positive way that inspires teachers, administrators and others to get on-board.

My longer-term goal is to be sure every parent of a public school student sees noticeable improvements in the quality of their child's education within 5 years. That will come as we rollout the changes outlined in the Race To The Top, beginning with the innovation zones and then spreading across the state. This goal will also be assisted by regular, consistent, positive communication out from the D.O.E. and B.O.E. to families and students statewide.

**5. *Any foreseeable conflicts of interest?***

I don't foresee any conflicts of interest.

TESTIMONY OF  
KIM GENNAULA

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wednesday, April 6, 2011  
1:15 pm  
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY ON GM 653 – RELATING TO APPOINTMENT OF  
KIM GENNAULA HAGI TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee, thank you for giving me this opportunity to appear before you today.

I am honored and humbled to be considered to serve on the newly appointed Board of Education. I'd like to thank Governor Abercrombie for his strong commitment to education reform and his work in putting together a qualified team willing to work tirelessly on behalf of Hawaii's public school students.

I am a graduate of public school and I stand before you now, first and foremost, as a proud mother of two wonderful young children who attend 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Hokulani Elementary. I applied for this position because I want to do all I can to give them and 175,000 other public school students in Hawaii the best life possible. I want to stop worrying that I am failing my kids if we don't spend half a million dollars to send them to 12 years of private school. I want to keep the needs of our "first" in our plans and decision-making.

I want to take all that I've learned in my decades of work as a News Anchor and Communications Director and use those skills to connect with families. I would be honored to be the voice of parents on the Board. I want to give families statewide confidence that great things are possible and then help to make those things happen.

This mission is also directly in line with my passion for helping Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. At the hospital we make sure we are there to care for kids from the day they are born and at the B.O.E. we will work to give them a better future. The care that we give to our children in their early childhood

both medically and educationally will play a big role in the future of everyone in our State.

For over a year now I have been voluntarily serving on the Advisory Council, The Learning Coalition and other committees focused on improving public schools. I have seen the great plans constructed for our future and want to do all I can to make them reality. As you know, our "Race To The Top" Application was approved as one of the top in the nation because of the strength of the Superintendent's ideas to change the system. It is imperative the Board does all it can to assist in moving those plans forward. I feel each candidate for the Board brings their own expertise to allow us to do that in the best way possible.

I also support plans for a Policy Audit to find ways to streamline the efforts of the Board and give more authority back to the leaders who need it to make things work. This new Board will be transparent in all it does, motivated to make change happen as quickly and positively as possible, and hold the Superintendent and Governor directly accountable for the promises they've made to our children.

I would love to see a greater effort placed on creating Private/Public Partnerships with our schools. I truly believe there are business leaders, parents and others in our community who would step forward to help if we gave them an easy, impactful way to give with greater accountability.

And finally, I'd like to use my skills in various types of media, social networking and communication to assist this Board in partnering and engaging students in this mission as well.

The three qualities I feel make me a highly qualified candidate include; my ability to gather input from all sides before making deliberate and fair decisions, my reputation as a sincere, credible communicator to thousands of families who watched KGMB over my 15 years as an anchor, and my passion to make a change for the good of everyone in our State.

My first goal for the Board would be to begin acting swiftly and positively on matters that come before us to give the community confidence that we have begun a New Day in education reform. My longer-term goal is to be sure that every parent of

a public school student will see noticeable improvements in the quality of their child's education within 5 years.

I love my kids' school – Hokulani Elementary. I see teachers, administrators and others at schools across the state working very hard on behalf of our kids and yet we are not getting the results we need and should be getting in the quality of our education. The system is broken and it's going to take lots of thinking outside the box to fix it. I greatly admire people who devote their lives to education and I want to figure out a way to give them the resources they need to be able to have success – for the benefit of ALL of us.

I have complete confidence we have all the right things and people in place to make some dramatic improvements to our public school system. We have a Governor who has pledged his total support, a qualified Superintendent in Kathryn Matayoshi, parents who are motivated to help, students who see that adults are fighting for their future and a brilliant candidate for Board Chair in Don Horner.

I don't foresee any conflicts of interest for me in serving on the Board of Education and if confirmed it would truly be an honor to serve and be a part of this first step in positive change for our future.



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

GM653 Confirmation of **Kimberly Gennaula Hagi** 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 Kimberly Gennaula Hagi to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have appointed Gennaula as an at-large member for a two-year term ending June 30, 2013.

Gennaula is best known to all of us as a KGMB-TV news anchor and reporter from 1994-2008. The community voted her "favorite news anchor" in Honolulu Advertiser and Honolulu Magazine polls. Less visible, but important for this role as a BOE member, has been Gennaula's leadership roles as KGMB's Senior Newsroom Director and Communications Director for large retail corporations. Since 2008, Gennaula has been a Philanthropy Director at the Kapiolani Health Foundation where she is responsible for developing resources for the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. As Philanthropy Director, Gennaula recruits and supports Boards and Committees of the medical center. She is developing new strategies to engage the community through social media and to promote the mission of the medical center.

Gennaula's communication skills and experience are important to the success of the BOE in restoring public confidence to public education. In her professional career and personal interactions, Gennaula demonstrates her ability to understand and communicate complex organizations and issues. I have already asked Gennaula to

consider ways that the BOE and Hawai'i Department of Education can improve communication including using social media to engage our families, teachers and students.

Gennaula brings a genuine passion to improving education. She was on an advisory group to the Superintendent that supported the state's successful Race to the Top plan that garnered a \$75 million award from the U.S. Department of Education. Gennaula's two children attend Hukulani Elementary School, and she is involved in her children's school.

I am excited that Gennaula is willing to serve on the BOE. I am confident of the contributions that she will make to the board and to improving public education in Hawai'i. I look forward to working with her. I know that you will find Gennaula well qualified for the BOE and encourage you to confirm her.





# KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 4, 2011

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject:** GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula Hagi for Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda, Senator Kidani and members of the Education Committee,

With anticipation of great things, I express my strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education. Kamehameha Schools is highly invested in public school reform, providing private resources towards a much needed public purpose – excellent education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for 6 years, and know her to be a woman determined to achieve her goals, one of which is the elevation of public education for all children. She made a decision early in her childrens' lives to seek a quality education for them with our public school system. Since then, she has been a consistent champion for such reform, including her most recent involvement with Race to the Top. I asked her to be involved in the Race and she has been at the forefront since its start. She is passionate about public education, tenacious in seeking the highest of standards, and always an advocate for strong parental involvement.

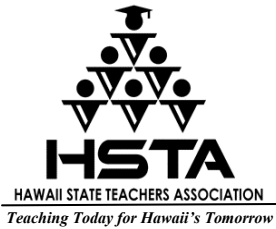
She has strong communication skills and is able to synthesize critical goals quickly in order to build the momentum of public will.

Her well respected experience in the media industry - and lately in healthcare philanthropy - demonstrates her capacity to share credible stories that she truly believes in. She is a professional who drives towards excellence in whatever she chooses to do.

We will be led well by Kim and her colleagues. As a significant partner in public school reform, I wholeheartedly endorse her nomination.

Sincerely,

Dee Jay Mailer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Kamehameha Schools



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 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.



55 Merchant Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-4333

## HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

April 5, 2011

via email: [http://sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:http://sentokuda@capitol.hawaii.gov)

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda  
State of Hawai'i  
Education Committee Chair  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani  
State of Hawai'i  
Education Committee Vice Chair  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senators Tokuda & Kidani:

This letter is to express my full and strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I am writing to recommend confirmation of Kim Gennaula Hagi to the Board of Education. Kim's wisdom combined with her passion for public education will serve the people of Hawaii well. Kim can see the issues from a 35,000 foot level to the level of a parent of two children in public school and everything in between. Kim is a person of unquestioned character. Her credibility with the community will reflect well on the Board as a whole and on the Department of Education.

Sincerley,

Chuck Sted  
President & CEO



HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH

## Erin Conner

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**From:** cnakamura@thelearningcoalition.org [cheri.nakamura@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:46 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Subject:** GM 653: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, KIMBERLY GENNAULA HAGI, for a term to expire 6-30-2013  
**Attachments:** HEE Voting Members and Participants 20110301.pdf

HE'E Coalition

4224 Waialae Ave., Ste 322

Honolulu, HI 96816

Tel: 808-926-1530

Fax: 808-926-1533

[www.HEECoalition.org](http://www.HEECoalition.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 653: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, KIMBERLY GENNAULA HAGI, for a term to expire 6-30-2013

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



Hawaii Education Matters  
111 Hekili Street, Suite A1606  
Kailua, HI 96734  
Tel: 808-888-6922  
[www.hawaiieducationmatters.org](http://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 653: Comments on Gubernatorial Nominee, KIMBERLY GENNAULA HAGI, for a term to expire 6-30-2013

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 Ms. GENNAULA HAGI by the Governor was limited. Please consider asking Ms. GENNAULA HAGI 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 her experience with collective bargaining.
2. Please have the candidate describe her experience with complex organizations.
3. Please have the candidate describe her 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





SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Conference Room 225  
April 6, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

**Testimony in support of GM 653, which nominates Kimberly Gennaula Hagi to the Board of Education.**

My name is George W. Greene, President and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), whose membership includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, two-thirds of the long term care beds, home care agencies and hospices, and other related provider organizations. Our provider members employ more than 40,000 people statewide, delivering quality care to the people of Hawaii. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of the nomination of Kimberly Gennaula Hagi to the Board of Education (BOE).

Hawaii's electorate voted in November to approve a Constitutional amendment that changes the Board of Education from an elected body to one that is appointed by the Governor. The Legislature recently passed a bill detailing the appointment process. The Governor has subsequently made the initial appointments of nine members to the new BOE. As a whole, the appointees represent diverse experiences and interests. The new BOE will face considerable challenges as it addresses the public's demand for improved student performance.

Kimberly Gennaula Hagi would bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the BOE. She is well-known to many people in Hawaii, as she was a news anchor at KGMB TV, where she worked for 15 years. She is currently a philanthropy director at Kapiolani Medical Center.

I have firsthand experience working with her on a project of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, and I was impressed by her professionalism. I am confident that she will make valuable contributions to the BOE that advance our public school system for the children of Hawaii.

For the foregoing reasons, the Healthcare Association supports GM 653.

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 03, 2011 10:14 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** alohabillw@aol.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM653 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM653

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Bill Waring  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [alohabillw@aol.com](mailto:alohabillw@aol.com)  
Submitted on: 4/3/2011

**Comments:**

I fully support and encourage you to confirm Ms. Gennaula/Hagi as a member of the BOE. Her intelligence, graciousness, and passion for our keiki are qualities that will serve her well in this position.

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2011 7:49 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** kennethn@kapiolani.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM653 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM653

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kenneth Nakamura  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [kennethn@kapiolani.org](mailto:kennethn@kapiolani.org)  
Submitted on: 4/4/2011

Comments:

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Representative Jill N. Tokuda Chair  
The Honorable Representative Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in strong support of GM 653 BOE Nominee, Kim Gennaula Hagi

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

I am a parent whose child was educated in Hawaii's public schools and a citizen who has long-supported efforts to improve our public schools. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my unequivocal support for the nomination of Kim Gennaula Hagi to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

I have known Kim as a friend and colleague for 20 years. During that time I have been proud to witness her dedication to the community and especially to improving the lives of Hawaii's keiki. So strong is her commitment to Hawaii's children that she sacrificed her highly successful career as a top television news anchor to apply her considerable talents as Philanthropy Director for Kapiolani Health Foundation.

Kim's nomination is the result of Hawaii voters approving the bold shift from an elected Board of Education to one whose members are chosen by the Governor. I believe this transition will lead to the creation of a Board of high quality individuals whose unique backgrounds, talents and personalities will bring beneficial change to the face of public education in our islands.

As parents of two fantastic children who attend public school Kim and her husband Guy Hagi are completely vested in the future of public education in Hawaii. As a long-time former journalist Kim has acquired a unique perspective of our islands that will be an invaluable asset to the Board. As a successful community activist and volunteer she is committed to the kind of positive change in Hawaii that we all hope will spring from the newly appointed Board. And as an intelligent and engaging individual Kim possesses rare communication skills that will make her an outstanding contributor to the work of the Board over the next two years.

I am supremely confident that Kim Gennaula Hagi will become a strong addition to the new Hawaii Board of Education and I strongly urge you to confirm her nomination.

Respectfully,

Bob Loy  
Waimanalo, Hawaii

900 Fort Street Mall, 19th Floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3721  
(808) 524-6737 Direct  
(877) 591-1031 Toll Free  
(866) 250-8530 Fax

**Date:** April 4, 2011

**To:**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject:** GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

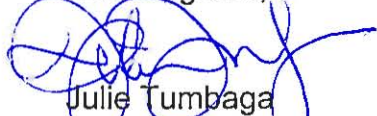
Dear Senator Jill Tokuda,

This letter is to express my full and strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for 20 years and she is the most dedicated person I know. She gives 200% in everything she does at any given time. She is a leader with vision and dedicated professional. Kim is a wonderful person inside and out. She is full of love and light when it comes to her family and friends. I couldn't think of one person other than Kim for this position as she strives tirelessly to do the best for not only her family, but all others she touches.

Kim will be an asset to your cause. Without a doubt, Kim is perfect for the Board of Education.

Best Regards,



Julie Tumbaga  
OREXCO 1031 Exchange  
Vice President

**Date:** April 3, 2011

**To:**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject:** GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda and Senator Kidani,

This letter is to express my complete support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for a few years and can attest that Kim possesses all the necessary skills, knowledge, and experience to elevate the education of the children of Hawaii.

Of most importance is Ms. Gennaula's high moral and ethical principles. These will act as a shining beacon for all. She is trustworthy, honest, discreet, and responsible.

Combine all of this with her tremendous passion in education, and you have an exceptional ambassador of education for Hawaii's youth.

Sincerely yours,

Leila Diamond

**Aloha Education Chair Senator Jill Tokuda & Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani**

RE: GM 653 - Kim Gennaula Hagi

This e-mail is a testimony that I personally and professional have known Kim Gennaula Hagi for over 10+ years and can attest that she is very honorable, credible and reliable. She has the passion and dedication to help Hawaii families.

Please confirm Kim Gennaula Hagi as a Board member for the State Board of Education.

Mahalo,

Anna

Anna Lau-Parish  
Family Expositions  
1164 Bishop St., Ste. 126-17  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Tel: 808-239-7777

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda,

This letter is to express my full and strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for nearly 20 years and have found her to be professional and passionate about her work. She is highly respected by those who worked alongside her in the news business, as I did, as well as by those who have known her through personal connections.

Kim is devoted to her children and has a personal stake in seeing improvement in Hawaii's educational system. She would be an outstanding BOE member and, I believe, an invaluable asset to the Board thanks to her remarkable communication skills.

I've watched Kim handle every new roll that's come her way with grace and boundless energy. I am excited to watch her in this new chapter as well.

Aloha,

Malia Mattoch  
[maliamattoch@hotmail.com](mailto:maliamattoch@hotmail.com)



Dear Education Chair Senator Jill Tokuda & Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani,

I am writing on behalf of Ms. Kim Gennaula and fully support her confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for over 20 years. I believe her effervescent personality and her ability to touch people would be a tremendous asset to the Board of Education. As a volunteer on the Advisory Council on Public School reform, she has her finger on the pulse of the Superintendent's vision for our keiki. As the mother of two children in a public school, she possesses the desire to serve as an agent of change, not only for her kids, but the 175,000 children enrolled in our public schools.

Her enthusiasm and drive is contagious, she is a real go-getter! Ms. Gennaula is someone you can count on to get the job done. She has amazing communication skills and experience with the media ~ vital skills to foster confidence in our community that change is positive and possible!

Warmest Aloha,

[Suzi Kiss, Psy.D.](#)

[Licensed Clinical Psychologist](#)

[2875 S. King Street, Suite 203](#)

[Honolulu, Hawaii 96826](#)

[P \(808\) 944-6900 x3](#)

[F \(808\) 944-6922](#)

[drkiss@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:drkiss@hawaii.rr.com)

Date: April 2, 2011

To:

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

Subject: GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda,

This letter is to express our full and strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

We have known Kim Gennaula for 4 years and have grown to know her genuinely since the very beginning of both her son, Luke and our very own son through their walk from kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. As a parent of public education, we have seen the downfalls as well as improvements throughout the years at Hokulani Elementary. We can personally state that as parents of the Aikane O' Hokulani Board Members, without the voice and the help from Kim, we wouldn't have the equipment that the school now has.

Kim Gennaula shows her passion when it involves the children and as a parent to see that, we know for sure she would definitely fit the position as a BOE member. We believe that all the qualities and experiences she has will be an advantage in helping our children, which is really our future.

Kim Gennaula also believes that family values are very important. We are ever so grateful to experience the same family values as well. She genuinely cares, very humble, and she has the knowledge and expertise when we need guidance. We hope you take the time to review this letter and take it to heart that she will definitely be a great candidate.

Sincerely,

JR & Junelyn Supnet

April 3, 2011

**To:**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject:** GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda,

This letter is to express my full and strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for 2 years and feel her experience and passion for education will make her an ideal choice for the Board of Education. Her professionalism, ability to see "the big picture" and effectively network with people in the community will position her as someone who will make a profound impact on public education in the State of Hawaii. She has a knack for "connecting the dots" in terms of ideas and people that will forward the highest aspirations of the Board.

I would give her my highest recommendation without any reservations.

Sincerely,

Todd Mirzai, M.D.

[toddmirzai@hotmail.com](mailto:toddmirzai@hotmail.com)

April 3, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great honor and privilege to write this reference letter on behalf of Kim Gennaula Hagi. Honored because there are few people that I hold in as high regard as her and privileged because she is deserving of being recognized for everything she has done for the children of Hawaii.

I met Kim 5 years ago. At the time, we are both parents of pre-schoolers at an East Oahu school. From there, we got to know each other better as our children attended the same Martial Arts school.

Kim has readily notable characteristics. First, as a TV news personality, her face is easily recognizable. She is perhaps the most modest celebrity I have ever met. She treats everybody with equal courtesy, respect and regard from the parent of a classmate, to a CEO of a big firm.

Secondly, she's a highly self motivated individual. It is clear to anybody that Kim has a sense of purpose and intent. As shocking to so many, her departure from 15 years of TV news career to spend quality time with her fast growing children and to pursue a career in philanthropy supporting the healthcare of Hawaii children, shows the true character of her being. Family and children are her highest priority.

Therefore, I am submitting this letter in an effort to assist you in your decision to nominate Kim Gennaula Hagi for the position of Board of Education. With her skills in communications and media, her skills in organization, her integrity and honesty, and where her heart truly is, good things can happen for the education of our children in Hawaii.

Sincerely yours,

Carmelita Andia

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda,

Kim Gennaula would be a great addition to the Board of Education. Having two children in public school herself, she is very passionate about where the public education system stands currently and where it is going. Kim will assist in making POSITIVE changes for Hawaii's public schools. Despite her hectic schedule, I always see her with a smile on her face. Kim is not afraid to speak her mind, if it is something she truly believes in. I know she believes in our public schools! Being a public school teacher myself, I would feel confident that Kim will help to make decisions that benefit our public school system. I fully support Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Mahalo,

Liane Ono

[liane\\_ono@yahoo.com](mailto:liane_ono@yahoo.com)

Carol Ai May  
1901 Nuna Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

April 4, 2011

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair

RE: GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula, Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda,

I am writing this letter in support of Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

My name is Carol Ai May and I am Vice President and co-owner of the 112-year old Kama'aina Company, City Mill Company, Ltd. As a businesswoman, I am required to recruit, retain and develop employees that are the life-blood of any business. Thus, I have worked to develop critical leadership skills that are essential for selecting and retaining employees. The most critical success factor, in my experience, in selecting employees, is a person's character. There is nothing in a person's make-up or work experience that will compensate for a lack of this quality.

I have known Kim for about 8 years, initially through business matters. As a result of working with her on various projects, I have gotten to know her as a businesswoman, a communicator, a television personality, a mother and wife, and as a friend. Most importantly, I believe she is of sound personal moral character and ethics.

I believe she is uniquely qualified to be a member of the Board of Education because of her role as a public school mother to two young children combined with her great communication skills, work ethic and sound business judgment. Many people only know her as a television anchor woman who reports the news. However, Kim is so much more than that. She is intelligent, hard working, makes sound business decisions and has a good knowledge of the pulse of the community, all which are critical for a strong BOE team. Most importantly, I believe, she is a great mom and keeps her children as the priority in her life. It is for this reason that she stopped her successful career in television and took a different job. I must say that she is a terrific mom with children that any parent would be proud of! Her children, in public schools, would directly benefit from any changes that were made to the public school system as a result of her decisions.

I do believe that Kim always tries to do the right thing, no matter how difficult or unpopular a decision, which is testimony to her sound moral character and ethics. I think the children of Hawaii and the community at large would be well served with the addition of Kim to the BOE.

I hope this serves to be useful in your important deliberations. I am open for any further discussion if I can be of any assistance. Please call me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at [cai@citymill.com](mailto:cai@citymill.com) or at 808-529-5806.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Ai May

I am corresponding in support of the candidacy of Kim Hagi as an appointee to the state Board of Education.

I have known her professionally in her capacity with helping to build the healthcare infrastructure of Hawaii, and have found her to be extremely knowledgeable, balanced yet passionate and a consummate professional. I have had a discussion with her with respect to this position and am convinced that her experience as a parent of two public school children as well as being a public school product herself ideally positions her for this responsibility.

I strongly encourage her confirmation.

Respectfully,

Richard Gushman,

CEO, DGM Group



To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Chairman  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Vice Chairman

My name is Carol Chun. I am presently a Deans' Secretary in the Academy at Punahou School. I am a product of the public school system here in Hawaii, graduating from Roosevelt High School and UH Manoa. I made a conscious decision long before I had my first child that I would work hard to send my children to private school. Both of my children graduated from Punahou School. I am a single parent who was fortunate enough to get a job here at Punahou which made it possible for my children to attend Punahou "for free" but my heart has always been a supporter of the public school system. My heart, yes, but not my intellect. I knew when the teachers unionized in the 70's that this would be the end of the public school system as we knew it. I knew then that it would get worse before it got better. Well, I'm still hopeful for the "better" which is yet to come.

I am writing in support of the appointment of Kimberly Gennaula Hagi to the Board of Education.

I have known Kim Gennaula Hagi since she first started dating my nephew, Guy Hagi. Yes, Kim is my niece-in-law but also a trusted friend. When their son, Luke, was in preschool, we had many discussions about his elementary school education. They had recently moved into their present home which is in the Hokulani School district. I told them, "Why would you pay money for a private school education when you are in one of the best elementary school districts with Hokulani El just down the hill. Check out their test scores and save your money. Send your kids to Hokulani El."

Then, I told Kim that the public school system needs fixing but that all begins with the parents. Get involved with the school. Find out what makes it work and find out what needs fixing. Kim, being Kim, that's exactly what she did. Volunteering on the Public School Reform Advisory Council was a no-brainer. Her investigative nature will serve her well on the appointed school board.

Kim may be regarded as a "celebrity" but she's a wife and mother first. She never makes a decision without first considering Guy, Luke and Alia. She moved to Kapiolani Medical Center for two reasons: 1) the care she received there both as a patient and as a mother 2) she fully embraces the idea of insuring the future of KMC.

Kim is thorough in her approach to any project but never intrusive. She is honest and her integrity is beyond reproach. Her demeanor is genuine and her heart and soul embody the Aloha of this her adopted home state. I look forward to her tenure on the Board of Education.

--

**Carol T. Chun**  
Dean's Secretary  
Punahou School



April 2, 2011

**To:** Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject:** GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senators Jill Tokuda and Michelle Kidani,

This letter is to express my full and strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Kim for over 15 years. We met on television while Kim was reporting the evening news. This is the way that many people met Kim. I was also her neighbor in Hawaii Kai and was in Kim and Guys front yard when the stork arrived announcing the births of Luke and Alia. This was a very special time for the Hagis.

I cannot imagine a better candidate for the Board of Education. Kim is the perfect package. She has strong communication and interpersonal skills and a "no nonsense" approach to getting the job done. She represents a typical Hawaii family with two children in public school and the concern that she is affording them the best education possible in a public school system.

Thank you for considering the appointment of Kim Gennaula to the Board of Education.

Regards,

Debbie Weil-Manuma  
President  
Weil & Associates, Inc.

**Date:** April 4, 2011

**To:**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject:** GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda and Senator Kidani:

I am writing this letter in full support of Kim Gennaula's nomination to the Board of Education. In my capacity as the Executive Pastor of New Hope Christian Fellowship, I have had the privilege of serving alongside Ms. Gennaula in various capacities and have come to highly respect her honesty and integrity and for being a person with the highest moral character. I have watched her volunteer on numerous occasions to help and assist in projects for the needy and has placed the concern and care for others above her own. It is in her willingness to serve others before herself that I find it so easy to respect a person like Ms. Gennaula.

Through the process of volunteering on several committees with her, I can personally attest to Ms. Gennaula's keen insight and her ability to apply critical thinking to solve difficult problems, especially with regard to issues that affect people's lives and their welfare. In every situation that we've experienced together, it was clear to me that Ms. Gennaula has such a deep compassion for people and that this nomination is an opportunity for her to serve in an even greater capacity helping a wider community.

Ms. Gennaula has a proven track record of leadership and I have also witnessed her willingness and excitement of being a team player, quickly winning the respect and confidence of her teammates. I am confident that Ms. Gennaula will far exceed everyone's expectations and will move Education in Hawaii forward into the 21st century.

It is for the above reasons that I would highly recommend Ms. Gennaula's nomination and respectfully request her confirmation to the Board of Education. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 842-4242.

Respectfully submitted,

Elwin P. Ahu,  
Executive Pastor,  
New Hope Christian Fellowship

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Senator Jill N. Tokuda Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in strong support of GM 653 BOE Nominee, Kim Gennaula Hagi

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

I am a parent whose child was educated in Hawaii's public schools and a citizen who has long-supported efforts to improve our public schools. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my unequivocal support for the nomination of Kim Gennaula Hagi to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

I have known Kim as a friend and colleague for 20 years. During that time I have been proud to witness her dedication to the community and especially to improving the lives of Hawaii's keiki. So strong is her commitment to Hawaii's children that she sacrificed her highly successful career as a top television news anchor to apply her considerable talents as Philanthropy Director for Kapiolani Health Foundation.

Kim's nomination is the result of Hawaii voters approving the bold shift from an elected Board of Education to one whose members are chosen by the Governor. I believe this transition will lead to the creation of a Board of high quality individuals whose unique backgrounds, talents and personalities will bring beneficial change to the face of public education in our islands.

As parents of two fantastic children who attend public school Kim and her husband Guy Hagi are completely vested in the future of public education in Hawaii. As a long-time former journalist Kim has acquired a unique perspective of our islands that will be an invaluable asset to the Board. As a successful community activist and volunteer she is committed to the kind of positive change in Hawaii that we all hope will spring from the newly appointed Board. And as an intelligent and engaging individual Kim possesses rare communication skills that will make her an outstanding contributor to the work of the Board over the next two years.

I am supremely confident that Kim Gennaula Hagi will become a strong addition to the new Hawaii Board of Education and I strongly urge you to confirm her nomination.

Respectfully,

Bob Loy  
Waimanalo, Hawaii

## Letter of Support for Kim Gennaula

**Date:** April 4, 2011

**To:**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject:** GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda,

I am sending you this letter of support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for eight years, but have worked her closely here at the college for the past three years. She has functioned both as a faculty member and an advisor for our developing communication and media arts program here at Pacific Rim Christian College. Her expertise in media, communication and passion for children have been tremendous in the advance of the college's mission here in Hawai'i, and for the 44 nations in the Pacific.

Kim began by volunteering her time in the classroom. Eventually Kim became a part of our faculty, teaching classes in the evening, and personally taking our students to the KGMB for tours as part of their learning experience. She has inspired many to enter the field of journalism and to further their educational endeavors.

I personally believe Ms. Gennaula would contribute greatly for the cause of education in Hawai'i.

Blessings,

Guy S. Higashi  
President  
Pacific Rim Christian College



290 Sand Island Access Road  
Honolulu, HI 96829  
(808) 853-1040

April 5, 2011

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Vice-Chair

Re: GM 653 – Kim Gennaula Hagi

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani,

On behalf of Pacific Rim Christian College, I support the nomination of Kim Gennaula Hagi to the Board of Education of our State.

Kim has generously shared her skills in media communication with our college as part of our teaching faculty. She has clearly grasped both the challenge and opportunity that a strong education requires in equipping young women and men for service and influence in our world.

Her expertise, experience, and skills in communicating to the public are well established in our community. When coupled with her devotion to increasing the quality of education in our schools, I can only look forward to positive change and improvement in our educational landscape.

As a product of Hawai'i's public schools in my own life, I personally and firmly believe that Kim will be an addition to the Board of Education that will continue Hawai'i's tradition of seeking quality education for all.

Sincerely,

Randall Y. Furushima, Ed.D.  
Academic Vice-President

*Fred and Ann Mata*

852 Maniniholo Street, Honolulu, HI 96825  
Phone: (808) 305-8715 Fax: (808) 394-9455  
Email: [famatzhi@aol.com](mailto:famatzhi@aol.com)

April 4, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject: GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula Hagi for Board of Education**

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

This letter is to express our full and strong support for Kim Gennaula Hagi's confirmation to the Board of Education.

We have know Kim and her family for more than twelve (12) years and Kim even longer. At all times, she has been a business professional always striving to do the best job she can do under all circumstances. She has made decisions regarding her professional life based on her family needs and adjusted her position and employment accordingly. Doing this, her main purpose was to be with her children when they came home from school assisting them with their homework and spending quality time with each one. On top of all these, she is a fantastic wife and friend to her many friends.

Who wouldn't talk to this lady and express their feelings as she is always ready to listen and make necessary decisions after getting all her facts lined up? No one. And that is what is needed for her to do an effective job. She would be best qualified with her education, caring and professional experience.

Kim is a great choice for Hawaii's Board of Education. It is time for a positive change and she would push for the right direction for our keiki!

Sincerely,

Fred and Ann Mata

FMA/tba

GM 653 – Nomination of Kim Gennaula Hagi for BOE

Aloha Senator Jill Tokuda & Senator Michelle Kidani!

I am writing to you to voice my unwavering support of Kim Gennaula Hagi as a member of the newly created Board of Education.

Hawaii's education system is in critical need of getting back on track. We need individuals on the board that will not only fulfill this challenge but will "raise the bar" quickly and sustainably.

As a mother of 2 in the public school system, Kim has a first hand perspective of what is truly going on and what is needed. That in combination with her comfort in speaking openly and honestly only begin to touch on the benefits we as a State will gain with Kim on the Board.

Again, please receive my formal request to have Kim Gennaula Hagi serve on the Board of Education. We will all benefit greatly because of the contribution I am certain she will make.

Regards,  
Pamela Maeda  
Mother of 4





To:

*Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Chair.*

*Subject: GM653- Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education*

*Dear Senator Jill Tokuda,  
I would like to express my strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.*

*I have known Ms. Gennaula and her family for ten years. She has two wonderful children has shown to be a great mother and leader. Because of her extensive background in the news media and community service, I am confident that she will be a great asset to the Board of Education and the State of Hawaii.*

***Thank you for your positive and affirming consideration for her seat on the Board of Education.***

*Sincerely,  
Randall R. Naruo*



SHARI SAIKI  
DESIGN STUDIO, INC.  
ATMOSPHERE & INSPIRATION

April 4, 2011

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair  
Re: GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senators Jill Tokuda and Michelle Kidani,

I am proud to extend my full support of Kim Gennaula for her confirmation to the Board of Education.

I am the President of a Honolulu-based interior design firm and retail furniture store. I met Kim nine years ago when she became my client. I was immediately impressed by her intelligence, direct yet diplomatic demeanor and her thorough research of a topic. For these reasons and more our business relationship developed into a close personal relationship that continues to this day.

Through the years, I have admired her enthusiasm for the various volunteer projects she has participated in. Her intention is ALWAYS to improve the environment she is in and the well-being of people surrounding her. This intention compounded with her ability to masterfully communicate an idea has made her a highly sought after participant.

On a personal note, I am a product of public school education and graduated from Pearl City High School in 1980. I also come from a family employed by the Department of Education. Both of my parents, my grandfather, grandmother, uncle and aunt were in the public school system. Sadly, to the detriment of our finances, my husband and I will not send our son through the public school system. It is unfortunate that we, as well as so many other Hawaii families, must face this decision in order to ensure a good foundation for college. Through many conversations with Kim I have learned that we share the same frustration and now she is a position to create change. I know that she is highly committed to

contributing to the betterment of the public school system for her own children as well as so many others.

Kim is compassionate, well-educated, street smart, logical, goal-oriented, positive and target-oriented. I believe she will bring a necessary perspective and will be a significant voice for the Board of Education.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shari Saiki Kitashima', written over the printed name.

Shari Saiki Kitashima  
President  
SHARI SAIKI DESIGN STUDIO, INC.  
Mesh by Shari Saiki

April 3, 2011

To: Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

From: Roy Ho, Executive Director  
Na Lei Aloha Foundation  
1953 S. Beretania St. #4C  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Subject: GM653 – Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani,

This letter is to express my full support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula personally for 3 years. However, more important is her constructive contribution to the community for over 20 years.

Ms. Gennaula's resume precedes her and so I will not elaborate on her knowledge and abilities. Her stated goal is to represent parents statewide who are desperate for things to change and to use her skills in communication and media to help spread confidence to our community that good things are possible and happening.

Suffice to say that as a well-rounded leader, I have confidence that given the opportunity, Ms. Gennaula will do her best to serve on the Board of Education, in order to make this a better community. Thank you very much.

Should there be need for any follow up or confirmation as to the source of this letter, please contact me at 942-1848

Sincerely,  
Roy Ho



Michael Jokovich  
General Manager

Hyatt Regency Maui Resort and Spa  
on Kaanapali Beach  
200 Nohea Kai Drive  
Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii USA 96761

Phone: 808.667.4400  
FAX: 808.661.0062  
Email: michael.jokovich@hyatt.com  
www.hyatt.maui.com

5 April 2011

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Education Committee Chair  
[sentokuda@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sentokuda@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Dear Senator Tokuda,

Re: GM 653 – Kim Gennaula Hagi

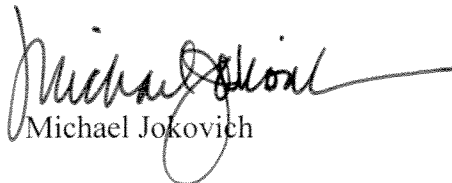
I was pleased to learn that Governor Abercrombie recently nominated Kim Gennaula to our State Board of Education. This letter will express my full and unconditional support for Ms. Gennaula's confirmation to this Board.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for over five years and I believe she will make an excellent Board member whose experience in the field of communication will bring invaluable open dialogue and transparency to the actions of the Board. She is dedicated to and in touch with our community, as exhibited through her philanthropic and volunteer services in recent years, along with her 15 years as a local TV news anchor.

Aside from her professional abilities, her personality and interpersonal skills are such that she will be a great asset to the Board of Education.

Please do not hesitate to call on me for any further documentation or opinion.

Most sincerely,

  
Michael Jokovich

4 April 2011

**To**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject**

GM653 Kimberly Gennaula Hagi

Dear Senator Tokuda and Senator Kidani,

I have known Kim for the past 10 years through a children's health project. She is intelligent, hard working, and energetic. Most importantly, Kim is a dedicated and concerned parent who will make decisions based on what is best for our children and youths.

I wholeheartedly support Kim Gennaula Hagi's confirmation to the Board of Education. She will be an exceptional board member dedicated to the public education of Hawai'i's keikis.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Luksch".

Barbara Luksch  
1617 Ke'eaumoku Street #1305  
Honolulu, HI 96822-4322

Honolulu, HI  
April 4, 2011

To: Education Chair Senator Jill Tokuda and Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani

Subject: GM653 Nomination of Kim Gennaula Hagi for the State Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda and Senator Michelle Kidani,

My name is Jutka T. Eموke Barabas. I am a writer, artist, filmmaker and entrepreneur. I am co-owner of 9Isles International, Inc., a multinational company that produces violence-free and environmentally conscious computer games. The company is member of the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii. I am also member of International PEN and Chair of the Writers in Prison Committee of International PEN's Writers in Exile American Branch. I published numerous successful books and theater plays in Europe. One of my plays, Monologue of the Old Lady, was performed in the Diamond Head Theater in Honolulu, as well. During the last two years, I participated in the making of a film about global warming in the high Arctic and North Pole area.

I have the great honor of knowing Kim Gennaula personally and I am writing to you today to highly recommend her confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education.

I personally could not propose a more capable person than Kim for this admirable volunteer position. Kim Gennaula is in many aspects the perfect candidate to be elected to the Board of Education. She is a wonderful working mom of two young children. She does not just possess a brilliant mind and a great education, but she is also a true grassroots worker who brings success to every venture she has ever worked on.

She has not only the most outstanding communication skills and many years of valuable media experience, but she would bring her extraordinary leadership ability to enhance the Board of Education, as well. Furthermore her team spirit and enthusiasm for any project she is involved in is absolute exceptional. I strongly believe that her friendly and sunny personality, combined with her multifaceted knowledge and experience she had gained in her professional and volunteer roles would truly make a difference for the future of Hawaii's children.

Kim Gennaula is perhaps one of the most remarkable persons I have ever met. She has the great ability to bring any project to its highest level. She answers any of life's challenges not just with great responsibility and drive but also with a visionary leadership. Visionary leaders like Kim are the builders of a better future, working with imagination and insight not just to fulfill their job responsibilities, but also going far beyond the call of duty. Kim Gennaula is that kind of person who goes beyond the boundaries of her work to reach higher until her mission is finished with great success.

She is a fantastic mom who deeply cares not just about the welfare of her own children but about the welfare of the children of this Great State of Hawai'i. Ms. Gennaula would contribute many valuable ideas to improve the public school system, as well. She brings not only her incredible qualifications into a project, but also her warm personality. Besides her gifted mind, she also

uses her heart to achieve every goal and respond to every call from the community. I have never met anybody with such great enthusiasm for even the smallest or the most demanding jobs. She handles everything—whether it is getting her children ready for the next school day or doing her job as a Philanthropy Director supporting the healthcare of Hawaii’s kids—with the same careful and heartfelt planning.

As a mother, she understands the needs of our future generation. She also worked with parents on many occasion as a volunteer. As a parent herself, she would faithfully represent all parents statewide to work out improvements for the welfare of every single child in the state of Hawai’i. Ms. Gennaula does not leave anyone or any job behind without responding fully and finishing it perfectly. She has an incredible drive to make everything better for everybody. In the words of Albert Einstein, the great thinker and student of my old Alma Mater, the University of Zurich: “The important thing is not to stop questioning.” In fact, I think that Kim Gennaula is always looking for a solution and trying to find not just a perfect answer but also the perfect question with all her heart and soul.

Kim Gennaula is not just a mom, a visionary, a team-worker, a leader, a volunteer, a media worker, somebody who deeply cares about the community; she is also a great friend. Kim Gennaula is somebody you can count on, who never lets you down, just as she never would let down the community that is entrusted to her care.

I understand that the futures of the children of Hawai’i have to be placed in the most capable hands. Kim Gennaula, with her far-reaching abilities and outstanding personality, would be the greatest asset for the Board of Education. I thank you very much for confirming her as a member of the Hawai’i State Board of Education.

Sincerely Yours,

Lic.Phil. Jutka T. Eموke Barabas

1778 Ala Moana Blvd. Apt. 3509  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
email: [jutka50@aol.com](mailto:jutka50@aol.com)  
tel: (808) 227 7265



Senator Tokuda:

My apologies for the tardiness of this email. I've been away on a trip.

The purpose of this letter is to give my support to Kim Gennaula Hagi as a prospective member of the Board of Education. I've known Kim for many years now, starting with her time as Communications Director at Liberty House, moving into her tenure at KGMB, and now in her present position as Philanthropy Director at Kapiolani Medical Center.

Every project that I have worked on with Kim has been an experience to remember...she puts 150% into every task she commits to, delivering a product that is driven by passion, heart, and integrity.

I know that this businesswoman, former journalist, and devoted mother and wife will serve the Board of Education well. And in doing so, she will bring her considerable talents to benefit the children of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Roy Kimura

Roy Kimura  
Writer/Director  
Kinetic Productions  
808.258.1897  
<http://kineticproductionsinc.com/>  
<http://www.youtube.com/kineticlatest>  
<http://www.vimeo.com/kineticlongformat>

April 5, 2011

Honorable Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair

Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

Subject: **GM653 – Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education**

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda:

It is an honor for me to submit this letter of strong support for Kim Gennaula as you consider her confirmation for the Board of Education.

I have personally known her for over three years. She has made a significant impact in the Hawaii community as not only an award winning journalist, but also as a wife, mother and successful business woman. Her leadership skills are second to none and she is quite astute at thinking on her feet and getting things done efficiently and effectively. In addition to her superior communication and professional skills, she has a tender and caring heart for people and especially for our youth. She has made a positive contribution to our community through her involvement in numerous community and non-profit organizations over the years and has given generously of her time, skills and resources. She has always been willing to learn, train and adapt to new procedures and keeps abreast of ongoing changes to maintain proficiency in her endeavors. She is a renaissance woman that is at the head of the pack, has always been a self-starter that takes initiative and is an individual that possesses a strong work ethic as well as excellent character and strong integrity.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts with you and should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at [Kathy@thurstonpacific.com](mailto:Kathy@thurstonpacific.com) or phone me at (808) 841-8585.

Sincerely,

Kathleen K.S.L. Thurston, President

Date: April 5, 2011

To:

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

Subject: GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

This letter is to express my full and strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for many years and she is very family-oriented, community-minded, and knowing her background I believe she is well-qualified for the job and an excellent choice for the Board of Education.

Sincerely,  
Tom Moffatt

**A Tom Moffatt Production, Inc.**

The Penthouse 1232 Waimanu Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Phone: (808) 593-8333 Fax: (808) 591-8444

To: Education Chair Senator Jill & Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani

From: Louis F. D'Avanzo

Re:GM 653 Kim Gennaula Hagi

I am writing to recommend Kim Gennaula Hagi for a position with the Board of Education. I have known Kim for more than 20 years and she is a highly qualified candidate for a position on the board. She has lived in Hawaii for most of her life, she is involved in our local community, and is a strong advocate for her children's schools.

During the time I have known her, Kim has been active in our community, starting as Communication Director for the Shaper Image Corporation before working as Communication Director for Liberty house. As most of us know, she then spent the next 15 years as a news anchor and reporter for KGMB TV. More recently, she has been working as the Philanthropy Director for Kapiolani Medical Center while also serving as a member of the Public School Reform Advisory Council.

Kim would be a tremendous asset to the Board of Education and I recommend her to you without reservation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Louis D'Avanzo  
Vice President/Portfolio Manager  
Lee Financial Group  
808.988.8088

Education Chair Senator Jill Tokuda and Vice Chair, Senator Michelle Kidani  
GM 653 – Kim Gennaula Hagi

Aloha, I am Lynn Cook, local arts and cultural tourism journalist. I appreciate the opportunity to present my enthusiastic support for Kim Gennaula Hagi for the Board of Education.

Kim is a friend, a fellow journalist, and most importantly – a parent raising children in Hawaii. She has vast experience, looking into an reporting on our community. She volunteers only after learning all she can about an organization. I believe she will represent the parents and the students, work to change what needs to be changed and to support Hawaii's education system with her knowledge and talent.

She has volunteered on an Advisory Council on Public School reform. She has studied the superintendent's plan for the next five years. She is excited about the support of Governor Abercrombie and Board Chair Don Horner. I know she believes that this is the beginning of a new era for Hawaii's children.

Please confirm Kim Gennaula Hagi to the Board of Education. She will help us all.

Mahalo nui loa, Lynn Cook

Lynn Cook  
4300 Waialae Ave. A804  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
782-3535

**Date:** April 2, 2011

**To:**

Senator Jill Tokuda, Education Committee Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Education Committee Vice Chair

**Subject:** GM653 - Nomination of Kim Gennaula for Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda,

This letter is to express my full and strong support for Kim Gennaula's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Ms. Gennaula for 17 years and I know her to be an intelligent and caring parent and community leader. Her relationships and resources in business, government and media are unsurpassed and will be incredibly valuable in this position.

I know that she will work tirelessly and diligently to better the education system and look for fresh solutions to tough challenges facing students, parents, faculty and staff in today's fast-changing educational environment. As you know, she is respected by heads of business, government leaders and media agenda-setters and will bring credibility and visibility to the team.

I sincerely hope that you will vote to confirm her appointment.

Very sincerely yours,

Tim Savage  
Director of Multimedia  
New Hope Christian Fellowship