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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