

GM654

Testimony

Brian J. De Lima
delima@bigislandlawyers.com
101 Aupuni Street, Ste. 133
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 969-7707

March 30, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218

Re: Nomination to the Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda:

I submit the following for your consideration of my nomination as a member of the Board of Education.

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

Having served as the first student representative to the Board of Education, I have always taken a strong interest in government and particularly the governance of our schools. The year of service on the Board was somewhat tumultuous being that it was the year of the HSTA strike. The experience had a tremendous impact on my career path and fueled my drive to further my education and serve my community. My youngest daughter was born with down syndrome. It has been a challenge for our family. Our involvement with the Department of Education has been a valuable learning experience. We have devoted many hours away from work towards our daughter to improve her life and give her the promise of a positive future after we as her parents are no longer able to provide care. It is a sobering thought but through the Individualized Education Program it has given us hope as we witness progress. I would never have sought election to the Board of Education because I did not desire to become reinvolved in elective politics as a candidate. However, when the Board became an appointed board, I strongly believe that it was a calling to apply and serve my community in this capacity. Based on my lifelong experience, having worked at the legislature as the clerk for the House Committee on Education for former Superintendent Charles Toguchi, who was then the Chair, my higher education in political science, public administration, and law, and my many years of experience working with families as a family law attorney, I know that I will be able to contribute in a positive and constructive way.

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

Although the Board is comprised of individual members, the BOE may only take action as a Board. The Board is not responsible for day to day operations but rather sets policy directives that are enacted by the Superintendent of Education and State Librarian. Individual board members should be fully prepared to participate and we should as individual members ensure that each member may effectively participate. The Board should ensure that the public has access and input in the decisions that affect the quality of our schools and libraries and the public should be encouraged to participate. Each Board member should ensure that the Board complies with all laws applicable to the Board, Department of Education and State Public Library System. Board members should also avoid being placed in a conflict of interest position.

- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the BOE, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, experience, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the BOE.

I believe that I have been trained my whole life to undertake this awesome responsibility in these challenging and difficult time. Resources are limited, priorities are being questioned, our citizens find it very difficult to meet their obligations. Our public schools provide hope for a positive future not only for the students that attend but for the families that dream of a better life for their children. I was blessed with **always** having supportive teachers and administrators that provided positive life lessons that I reflect on to this day and which I try to pass down to those who ask for my advice. The following will aid in my decision-making ability as a member of the BOE: 1. My training and work experience as staff person at the legislature. 2. My experience as a council member in evaluating programs and budgets for various departments. 3. My recent experience with the merit appeals board, and with my former role as a member and Chairman of the Hawaii County Council for six years provide some insight on the workings of our collective bargaining law. 4. Being involved in our community, and working with people from a myriad of backgrounds, provide me with the skills to engage in public discussion about the policies that the Board must review and enact. 5. My background in public administration provides insight that policies need to be clear, capable of implementation and evaluation, and the need to consider and understand the fiscal implications of the policy. 6. Finally, my training as a trial lawyer hopefully will assist to articulate, persuade, and explain the intricacies of policy so that it is logical, understandable, and acceptable to the community as a whole.

Highlight the three qualities you feel make you a highly qualified candidate.

Three Qualities:

Problem solver: I tend to focus on identifying problems and finding solutions rather than laying blame.

Positive thinking: Strive to accentuate the positive and not dwell on the negative.

Flexibility: Willing to change my plans or ideas without getting upset.

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

Short term goal is to immediately focus energy and efforts from servicing the BOE to providing assistance and resources to the schools to improve student performance. School administrators and teachers know what students require to improve their performance. They know the names of the students and usually are aware of each students individual problems that may be contributing to their failure to perform as expected. I would also want to visit the schools of the Island I represent as well as all of the public libraries to demonstrate a commitment to be open and accessible.

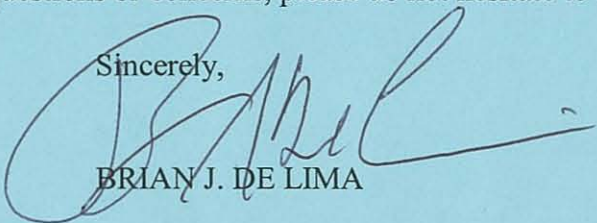
Long term goal is to communicate to each community the positive accomplishments of our schools and specifically of our students and to commend the efforts of administrators, teachers, parents, and students in accomplishing the goals that were set by the Race to the Top grant.

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

I have undertaken representation of students and parents in the past in disputes with the Department of Education. I shall **not** undertake such representation in the future. I am a parent of a special needs student. The Board of Education is not involved in day to day operations and I would never seek any accommodation for my child that was not available for any student similarly situated.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



BRIAN J. DE LIMA

TESTIMONY OF BRIAN J. DE LIMA

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

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

TESTIMONY ON GM 654 RELATING TO BRIAN J. DE LIMA
FOR THE POSITION OF HAWAII ISLAND MEMBER
HAWAII 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.

It is a privilege and honor to be considered to serve on the Hawaii Board of Education and I want to publicly thank Governor Abercrombie for nominating me and giving me the opportunity to be considered by the Senate.

I am a product of our public schools. I am proud of the education I received and thankful to the many teachers, staff, principals, and administrators that participated in my education. There are many people who have also supported me in my childhood from the neighbors growing up on Kinoole and Mamo street in Hilo, the kids, coaches and staff at the Boys Club of Hilo, the youth advisors at the YMCA and its Youth Legislature program and of course, my parents, uncles/aunts, cousins, and friends. I truly experienced a community raising a child.

I have always had a strong interest on matters that affect my life and the community in which I live, work, and play. While a student at Hilo High School, I was the senior class president and was elected to be the President of the Big Island Association of Student Councils. I also served as the representative to the State Student Council, and I was then elected

to be the first student representative to the Board of Education in 1972. The experience had a tremendous impact on my career path and fueled my drive to further my education and serve my community.

I first attended the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where I served as Student Body President in 1974-75, and the highlight was a week long symposium on the “Use and Misuse of Our Land, Energy, and Natural Resources”, in which scholars, nationally renowned speakers, local leaders, and students discussed problems and solutions. I transferred the following year to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. I was a student leader at the University of Massachusetts and was involved in numerous activities.

In 1979, I returned home to Hawaii and worked as a staff person at the legislature during the 1980 through 1983 legislative sessions. In 1982, I served as the House Education Committee Clerk. I enjoyed the experience of working with Representative Charles Toguchi on early childhood education programs and legislation to provide school priority funds. I had a sense that we were making a difference.

I graduated from the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1983 and returned home to Hilo, I opened my own law office and have been in partnership of Crudele & De Lima since 1996. I have been a trial attorney working on a myriad of cases over the years. However, a majority of my practice has always been family law. Working with the complex issues that families experience every day.

In my own life, I have experienced many challenges, however, my most noteworthy accomplishment is that I believe I have a happy family. My wife Paige attended public school in Kona until she started attending Hawaii Preparatory Academy (HPA) where she graduated. In our home, my eldest daughter Blaise also attended public school in Hilo until she also attended her Mother’s alma mater and graduated from HPA. There were many benefits in Blaise’s schooling at HPA. She was required to participate in varsity athletics required to attend school on Saturdays,

attend mandatory study hall, and perform mandatory school service. She enjoyed her experience. This experience provides me an additional frame of reference.

I recognize that my experience with my younger daughter who is a special needs student who is still attending public school in an inclusion setting is a different experience from what most parents experience. Parents of special needs students have different challenges with the Department of Education. Parents have to deal with their own struggles of every day life, it is not easy, many times it is overwhelming and many times we need assistance. The Department of Education and the individuals with whom we need to interface with sometimes are creatures of regulation and procedure. Parents who are struggling to deal with the needs of their child try to be strong advocates for their children and many times are incapable of expressing what is needed. Many parents tend to accept and trust what is proposed and given. I know that the system is full of caring and loving people who are dealing with limited resources. Through such difficulties, I have seen the love and sincerity that these professional educators possess as they do their jobs. Many times doing small miracles with very little but a desire to do good. The struggle comes when people have problems and that is when patience and understanding is paramount. Many of these parents are dealing with doctors, speech therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, behaviorist, educational assistants, administrators and teachers. It is overwhelming but necessary. I hope that my participation with the BOE will assist in ensuring a degree of empathy as we deal with allocation of resources and enactment of policies.

I applied to be a member of the Board of Education because I know that we are at a crossroads. Many people talk about the challenges of our budgets, unions, laws and regulations. However, I know the educators chose this profession because of the passion to make a difference. I know that students that achieve, work hard not only inside but outside of the classroom. I know that parents, coaches, neighbors, friends, and everyone

that interacts with young people, all make a difference in achieving success and progress. Our public schools produce year in and year out, great citizens, scholars and leaders, many of our legislators are products of our public schools. Our schools are good. We need to help those students that are struggling that need motivation. Success requires a collaborative effort if at all possible. However, sometimes there is no parent to motivate and it takes someone else to help, sometimes it may take students helping students. Whatever it takes!

I know that our students and communities are up to the challenge. The Race to Top grant was a competition. Hawaii residents have always met challenges and we stick together when challenged. Student achievement scores in math and reading require improvement, this is a challenge. I will start in trusting our people and residents. I will trust the teachers to teach and I will trust the Superintendent to provide the leadership and to empower the teachers to motivate and to provide the students the skills to succeed. I will work collaboratively with the other members of the Board to do what we must at this critical time.

In closing, for those that submitted testimony, I want to express my appreciation to everyone who took the time to participate in this process. I thank Senator Tokuda for the questionnaire to allow us to provide information for the committee. I also appreciate the courtesies and assistance the staff have provided. I also want to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to appear before you and for considering my nomination and I will try my best to answer any of your questions.

Respectfully and Sincerely Submitted,

BRIAN J. DE LIMA



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

GM654 Confirmation of **Brian De Lima** 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 Brian De Lima to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have appointed De Lima to represent the County of Hawai'i for a two-year term ending June 30, 2013.

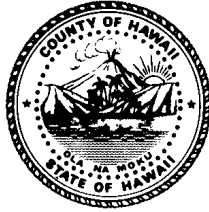
De Lima is an attorney in private practice based in Hilo. He has been practicing law in the State of Hawai'i since 1983, after graduating from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law. His practice includes family law, personal injury, criminal defense, and civil and business litigation.

De Lima has a long-standing interest in improving public education. As a Hilo High School student, De Lima was the first student representative to the Board of Education in 1972. Subsequently, from 1980 to 1983 De Lima worked in the Legislature as House Education Committee Clerk under Chair Charles Toguchi who later became Superintendent of Schools. More recently, De Lima has been actively involved in his daughter's education. De Lima's youngest daughter was born with Down syndrome. De Lima and his wife have worked closely with his daughter's teachers in reviewing his daughter's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). De Lima feels that his daughter is well-situated and a student at Hilo Intermediate School so he is able to reengage in public service as a BOE member.

De Lima also brings to the BOE experience in local governance. He served on the Hawai'i County Council from 1990 to 1996.

I remember De Lima from his days at University of Hawai'i at Manoa back in the 1980s. I was pleased to learn that he had applied for the BOE, and I was impressed with his eagerness to serve on the BOE; he was very well prepared for the interview and is ready to take on the responsibilities with enthusiastic optimism. I am confident that the life and professional experiences that he brings to the BOE will serve our children and the state well. I look forward to working with him. I know that you will find De Lima well qualified for the BOE and encourage you to confirm him.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



William T. Takaba
Managing Director

Walter K.M. Lau
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 6, 2011

Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 225
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to strongly support the nomination of Brian J. De Lima as a member of the state Board of Education.

Brian is a product of the public education system, and has devoted many years of his life to public service. He is an accomplished attorney with a private law practice, and has earned a reputation for professional excellence.

Brian's long-standing interest in public education includes his work to help establish the State Student Council, and his contributions as the first student representative to the state Board of Education in 1972. He was instrumental in drafting the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities adopted by the Board of Education in 1974, and served as student body president at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in 1974 and 1975.

Today Brian is a parent of two children, and shares the aspirations of all of Hawai'i's parents. He understands that we demand excellence in public education so that our children can achieve success in Hawai'i and in the competitive environment of the global economy. He also has experience and expertise in the workings Hawai'i public school systems for serving children with special needs. He will help lead our public education system to a future that answers the community demands for innovation and excellence, and provides a foundation to ensure all of our children have an opportunity to fulfill their academic potential.

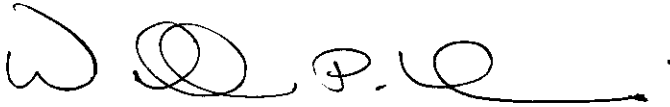
Honorable Jill Tokuda
April 6, 2011
Page 2

Brian also served three terms on the Hawai'i County Council, where he was selected to lead the council as chairman. He currently serves on the Hawai'i County Merit Appeals Board. Brian has extensive experience in government and the legislative process, which will make him a valuable addition to the newly appointed state Board of Education.

Brian will be an expert advocate for our children, our parents, our teachers and our principals.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. P. Kenoi', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

J YOSHIMOTO
COUNCIL MEMBER
Council District 3



Phone: (808) 961-8272
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: jyoshimoto@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 4, 2011

Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Governor's Message 654
Nomination of Brian J. De Lima as Hawai'i Island Member of the Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

I am J Yoshimoto, a member of the Hawai'i County Council. I fully support Mr. Brian J. De Lima's confirmation to be the Hawai'i Island Member of the Board of Education.

I have known and worked with Mr. De Lima as a lawyer, council member, and friend for over 20 years. Mr. De Lima provides wise counsel, is extremely knowledgeable about matters of public policy, and has a tremendous passion for Hawai'i and its people.

Mr. De Lima also has a reputation for getting results which is due to his hard work and willingness to identify practical solutions to difficult problems.

I attended public school and my children attend public school, and in my opinion the governor made an excellent choice in this nomination as I believe that Brian De Lima has the knowledge, experience, and courage to make the right decisions.

I strongly urge his confirmation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Yoshimoto".

William P. Kenoi
Mayor

William T. Takaba
Managing Director



Gerald A. Takase
Director

County of Hawaii

Department of Liquor Control

Hilo Lagoon Centre, 101 Aupuni Street, Suite 230 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4261
(808) 961-8218 • Fax (808) 961-8684

April 5, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Education
Hawai'i State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

Re: Nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education
GM 654 – Hearing Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to urge your confirmation of Brian J. De Lima as a Board of Education member for the Island of Hawai'i.

I have known Brian for approximately 45 years, having grown up together, attending Hilo High School, and eventually the University of Hawai'i School of Law, now known as the Richardson School of Law.

Brian is the right person for the job in which it now seems he has come full circle. During high school, Brian served as the President of the Big Island Association of Student Council (BIASC). As such, he also represented the County of Hawai'i on the Hawai'i State Student Council, serving as its Chairman, and was successful in securing a seat as the first student representative to sit on the Board of Education, a position that continues until today. Thus, if given the opportunity to sit on the Board of Education, he will have come full circle.

Since those early days, Brian has shown a keen interest in our public school system, from those early days fighting for students' rights and trying to improve the quality of education to his continued interest today to take on the tasks of this newly appointed Board of Education along with the hope that the community has that this will change and improve the Department of Education.

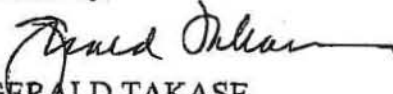
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Page -2-
April 5, 2011

Brian's service as a County Councilman will also serve him well as he is aware of the sentiment in the community and maintains contact with the public. As a lawyer, Brian knows how to advocate his position or that of his client.

As the Director of Liquor Control for the County of Hawai'i, I know that I can count on Brian to help us control or curtail underage drinking and the use of illegal drugs and tobacco which plagues the youth of our island and State. In a joint effort, we can hopefully begin and continue this initiative to prevent these problems with our students.

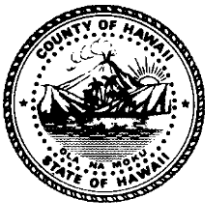
Thus, in closing, I am proud to support Brian J. De Lima's nomination to the Board of Education. He is a product of the public school system, a veteran of the Board of Education, and a voice for our community.

Sincerely,


GERALD TAKASE
Director

GT:de

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Lincoln S.T. Ashida
Corporation Counsel

Katherine A. Garson
Assistant Corporation
Counsel

COUNTY OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

101 Aupuni Street, Suite 325 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4262 • (808) 961-8251 • Fax (808) 961-8622
E-mail: corpcounsel@co.hawaii.hi.us

April 4, 2011

Sent via email to EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov; no hard copy will follow

Honorable Jill Tokuda
Chair, Committee on Education
Hawaii State Legislature
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairwoman Tokuda and Committee Members:

RE: GM 654 – Confirmation of BOE Nominee Brian J. De Lima

I am honored to address your Committee and submit this letter in support of the nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education.

I have known Brian since 1985, and over the years have interacted with him in various capacities. As an attorney, Brian has the reputation of being perhaps the most able and well-respected lawyer in our community. I have personally tried cases against him during my service as a prosecutor, and can attest to his diligence, preparation, and the respect afforded him by the Court, counsel, and our citizens.

As a leader, Brian has served our community as a Council member, and has taken an active role in improving the image and quality of legal service by serving as a mentor for newer lawyers. Brian is someone young lawyers look up to and know will always have “the time of day” to discuss cases or issues that are important to them.

Brian’s wife Paige volunteers her time chairing our County’s Committee for People with Disabilities, and is a tireless advocate for those with extraordinary challenges in their lives. Brian is a product of our public school system, and many in our community are proud of the successes and accomplishments in this career and life.

Based on the foregoing, I would unqualifiedly urge the confirmation of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education. Brian possesses all of the professional and human qualities that will make him an effective and contributing member of the Board.

Very truly yours,

LINCOLN S. T. ASHIDA
Corporation Counsel



**International Union of Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 50**

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

TIME/DATE: 2:45 p.m., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2011

TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 654 "SUBMITTING FOR
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STATE OF HAWAII BOARD
OF EDUCATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BRIAN J. DE LIMA, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2011."

TO SENATOR JILL TOKUDA, CHAIR AND
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION:

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 50,
appreciates the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of Governor's Message No. 654
– Gubernatorial Nominee, Brian J. De Lima, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Board of
Education. My name is Lynn Kinney, International Union of Painters and Allied Trades,
District Council 50, an organization comprised of four (4) unions, the Painters, Local
Union 1791; the Glaziers Architectural and Glass Metal Workers, Local Union 1889; the
Carpet Linoleum and Soft Tile, Local Union 1926; and the Drywall, Tapers Finishers,
Local Union 1944, representing approximately 2000 members throughout the State of
Hawaii.

I am writing in strong support of Mr. Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education.
I have known Mr. De Lima for over twenty-five years, since he was first elected to the
City Council for Hawaii County. In all my dealings with Mr. De Lima, I have found him
to be an extremely pragmatic problem solver, one who has a keen ability to comprehend

2240 Young Street
Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone
808.941.0991

Fax
808.955.9091

Email
info@dc50.org

Website
www.dc50.org

PAINTERS
808.941.0991

GLAZIERS
ARCHITECTURAL
AND GLASS METAL
WORKERS
808.946.3329

CARPET LINOLEUM
AND SOFT TILE
808.942.3988

DRYWALL TAPERS
FINISHERS
808.848.7766

difficult and complicated issues. He has taken the analytical training that he received from the Richardson School of Law, and transferred it into an extremely effective and successful law career.

As the proud parent of children currently in our State's public schools, as well he himself being a product of public schools from the Big Island of Hawaii, I have no doubt that Mr. De Lima will bring these essential qualities with him to his service on the Hawaii State Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and it is with the utmost confidence that we ask for the confirmation of Mr. De Lima to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2011

THE SENATE
Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Wednesday, April 6, 2011; 1:15 p.m.

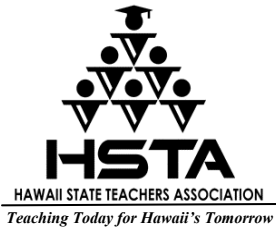
**STATEMENT OF ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 654
BRIAN J. DE LIMA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The ILWU Local 142 supports the confirmation of Brian J. DeLima for the Board of Education.

Mr. DeLima is a native of the Big Island, served as a County Council member from Hilo, and is a practicing attorney. Through his various roles in government and the community, Mr. DeLima has become familiar with issues and individuals on the Big Island. He knows the community and works well with many organizations, including the ILWU.

Mr. DeLima will be thoughtful and open-minded in addressing the very important responsibility of determining the direction and future of public education in Hawaii.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Brian J. DeLima for the Board of Education. Thank you for considering our testimony.



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.

Erin Conner

From: cnakamura@thelearningcoalition.org [cheri.nakamura@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:47 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: GM 654: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN J. DE LIMA, 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

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 654: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN J. DE LIMA, 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

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 654: Comments on Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN J. DE LIMA, 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 Mr. De Lima by the Governor was limited. Please consider asking Mr. De Lima the following questions, taken directly from the new law Act 5. We hope these questions will help the Committee better evaluate the candidate. In addition we have included a question related to community and family engagement and would ask that you also consider this question in your evaluation of the candidate.

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Davis, MPH
Executive Director

DANTE K. CARPENTER
3054 Ala Poha Place, No. 401
Honolulu, HI 96818

HAWAII STATE SENATE – REGULAR SESSION 2011
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

April 6, 2011
1:15 PM, Conference Room 225

GM No. 654 –Relating to the nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the State of Hawaii Board of Education as submitted by Governor Neil Abercrombie for a term to expire on June 30, 2013.

Chair Senator Jill N. Tokuda, V.C. Senator Michelle N. Kidani and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Dante Carpenter, a concerned citizen of Hawaii whose residence is in the Salt Lake area of Honolulu. I am in strong support of the nomination forwarded to you by Governor Neil Abercrombie of **Brian J. De Lima** for confirmation by the State Senate as a member of the State of Hawaii Board of Education in accordance with requirements of the Hawaii State Constitution.

Mr. De Lima is a well respected family man and member of the Big Island Community where he practices law in Hilo with the firm of Crudelle & De Lima, Attorneys. He is a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and also received his J.D. from the Richardson School of Law, UH, Manoa.

Mr. De Lima was formerly the Chairman of the Hawaii County Council and served also in Council committee chairs, as well. While attending the UH at Manoa, he served as support staff in both the House and Senate of the Hawaii State Legislature.

I strongly recommend approval of GM 654 nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



April 3, 2011
Letter No. 59932
Reference No. 211-900

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms Office via facsimile 586-6659

Subject: The Committee on Education
GM 654 Confirmation of BOE Nominee BRIAN J. DE LIMA
4/6/2011 at 1:15 p.m.

Chair Senator Jill Tokuda / Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani and Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to support the confirmation of Brian J. De Lima from the Big Island to the Board of Education.

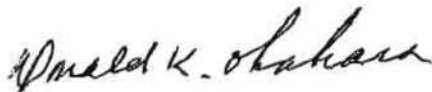
I have known Mr. De Lima for over 25 years. He is intelligent, down-to-earth, honest and always interested in community service and education. He is a solid family man in his community and cares about people of Hawaii. He will make good contributions to the Board of Education.

Mr. De Lima himself is a graduate of Hilo High School, and his two children went to public schools. He believes that maximizing the student achievement relies on principals and teachers so the Board should turn over the budget and decision making policies over to them. This is the same reason I voted for a Board of Education appointed by the Governor. As in business, the responsibility of success of an organization rests on the person on top.

I am sure his positive thinking, looking for solutions and not blaming will help put the education system on the right track.

Please confirm Mr. De Lima to the Board of Education. He is an excellent choice.

Sincerely,
OKAHARA AND ASSOCIATES, INC.



DONALD K. OKAHARA
President

DKO:njw

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 8:33 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: jmahuna48@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM654 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM654

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janice Mahuna
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: jmahuna48@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2011

Comments:

I am in full support of the nomination of Brian DeLima to the Board of education and asked that you confirm him for this position.

Brian is hard working and very intelligent and will be a welcomed representative of the Big Island.

He and his wife Paige have a beautiful daughter Blair who is a special needs child and they both have worked tirelessly for the last 10 years to bring about improvement to our education system.

Please confirm Brian Delima as the representative of the Big Island. He will work to ensure that our education system will fulfill the needs of all children and ensure that they receive an education that will allow them to be productive and be able to compete in our world.

I ask for your support for Brian DeLima.

Sincerely,

Janice M. Mahuna

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 9:52 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: laguirej@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for GM654 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM654

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeri M.S. LaGuire
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: laguirej@aol.com
Submitted on: 4/1/2011

Comments:

I believe that Brian would be an excellent Board of Education member. I have known Brian for over 20 years and he has always been the voice of reason and common sense, and a great legal mind. A combination that would be a huge asset for the Board of Education. I support his nomination and believe that it should be confirmed.

Erin Conner

From: K. T. Cannon-Eger [kteger@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 10:00 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: GM 654 Brian J. De Lima

Dear Senator Tokuda, chair, Senator Kidani, vice chair, and members of the Committee on Education,

Regarding a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, on confirmation of Brian De Lima to the Board of Education representing Hawaii County

I have known Brian De Lima for nearly 35 years and I write in support of his nomination to serve on the Board of Education with a term to expire June 30, 2013.

I was living on the island of Maui when I first met Brian at a Democratic Party state convention. He was (and remains) an enthusiastic, intelligent leader. A few years later, I served as a gubernatorial appointee on the Maui County Library Advisory Commission and would see Brian at Board of Education meetings in Honolulu. Again, his attention to detail, knowledge and leadership impressed me.

Since moving to the Big Island in 1989, I have come to know Brian and his family in many contexts: social, political, volunteer and professional.

I believe he would be an excellent addition to the Board of Education and urge you to confirm him.

Thank you for your consideration,
K.T. (Katharine T.) Cannon-Eger

Erin Conner

From: hks29@aol.com
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 1:33 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: "<elima">@bigislandlawyers.com
Subject: Brian J.DeLima, testimony in favor of.

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair; and members of Senate Education Committee

Aloha!! My name is Herbert A. Segawa, a former member of the State House of Representatives and now a retired resident of Hilo.

Today, I wish to add my support of Brian J. DeLima, a Gubernatorial Nominee, for consideration and confirmation to the State Of Hawaii Board of Education.

I have known Mr. DeLima for over 25 years as a friend. He was born and raised in Hilo and graduated from Hilo High School in 1973, and besides being

active in various community organizations, he served as an effective councilman on the Hawaii County Council for six years, and has been in private law

practice for 28 years in Hilo. He is known to be one of a few local boys who have succeeded in being recognized as a big case attorney that people would

seek when they are charged with a serious crime. This recognition not only speaks well for his intelligence and proficiency as an attorney, but he is a local

boy who has kept that local style and people like that. People are comfortable with him.

In reviewing the nominees, It appears that Mr. DeLima was selected as a nominee as an attorney, but I want to share a side of Mr. DeLima's life that not

everyone is aware of. You see, Mr. and Mrs. DeLima are the parents of a 15 year old handicapped daughter who attends a special education class in Hilo.

As you may know, a child in such a situation requires a lot of attention and energy from both parents. This past week, I was in Mr. DeLima's office for

business, and I was privileged to personally see the patience and love of a father in action, as he allowed his daughter to come in and interrupt our

conversation several times. At first, I expected Mr. Delima to scold his daughter and shoo her out. However, without a harsh word or actions of annoyed

rejection, he allowed her to offer him pieces of chocolate candy and to give him a hug and a kiss, before she happily scampered away at each

interruption.. Here was a busy man, with important business to discuss, but he stopped to give full attention to his daughter. "she's just showing off", he

explained. I was impressed. Mr. DeLima surely has his priorities in the right order and as a father of a special child, I earnestly believe that his heart will be

in the right order to bring about the best education possible for the children of our State of Hawaii. We need his personality and character on the Board!!

Madam Chair and members of the Education Committee, as you consider the confirmation of the nominees to the BOE, I urge you to give full support toward

the confirmation of Brian J. DeLima as one of our BOE members. Thank you. Herbert Segawa.

Erin Conner

From: Thomas L.H. Yeh [tly@lava.net]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 2:18 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: April 6 Committee on Education Hearing at 1:15 pm- Support For Nomination of Brian DeLima to Board of Education
Attachments: tly.vcf

To Senate Education Committee Chair Jill Tokuda:

Please accept this e-mail testimony in support of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Brian DeLima to the Board of Education. I have known Brian since the 1970s, when we both attended UH Hilo, and served as student representatives on the Chancellor selection committee. After Brian graduated from law school, he came back to his home town in Hilo, and has maintained a good reputation as a successful lawyer. Brian has always been committed to helping the community, and ably served in important leadership positions, including Student President at the University of Massachusetts and as an elected member of the Hawaii County Council.

Perhaps more importantly than all of this, Brian has been a responsible and supportive parent of his two children, one with disabilities, and understands how important our public school system is to the success of our youth. He brings to the position a bright and analytical mind, and will be a very important resource to the Board of Education. He will serve that position and the people of Hawaii well.

Thanks for this opportunity to comment.

Aloha,

Thomas Yeh
Law Offices of Yeh & Moore
85 W. Lanikaula St.
Hilo, HI 96720

(808) 961-0055

April 1, 2011

Ms. Jill Tokuda, Chair
Committee Members
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Legislature

RE: Confirmation of BOE Nominee Brian J. De Lima, April 6, 2011 at 1:15p.m.

Dear Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Brian De Lima for the Board of Education. I have known Brian for nearly thirty years, although I didn't realize it was that long until I actually sat down to write this letter. Brian was an avid softball player and that is how I initially became acquainted with him as my husband also plays softball. Brian had leadership qualities even then, he is enthusiastic, never afraid to tackle a problem, he looks for positive solutions and at the same time keeps in mind the reality of a situation.

During the time that Brian was on the Hawaii County Council I had many opportunities to interact with him. He was open minded and looked at issues from both sides. He is a good listener and great communicator.

I believe it is important to have an individual with the knowledge, skills, ability and experience to deal with the issues facing our educational systems. He has the energy and commitment to work towards improving the educational system.

Your favorable consideration in confirming Brian De Lima to a position on the Board of Education is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
June Rabago

Law Offices of Yeh & Moore

A Limited Liability Law Company

85 W. Lanikaula Street Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4199
Telephone (808) 961-0055 FAX (808) 969-1531

THOMAS L. H. YEH
tly@lava.net

MICHAEL W. MOORE
mmoore@lava.net

April 1, 2011

Via Email <EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov>

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chairperson
Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: *Confirmation of Brian DeLima
Board of Education*

Dear Senator Tokuda:

I submit this letter in strong support of the confirmation of Brian DeLima as the Hawaii Island member of the Board of Education. I have known Brian since attending the William S. Richardson Law School with him back in the early 1980's, and he has been a colleague in the legal community and good friend here in Hilo since then. I know him well both professionally and personally. Brian is an intelligent, wise, compassionate and reasonable person, and will be a true asset to the Board. I sincerely endorse him for this position. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

LAW OFFICES OF YEH & MOORE



MICHAEL MOORE

Erin Conner

From: castberg [castberg@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:03 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony re Brian De Lima's Appointment to the Board of Education

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Committee on Education
The Legislature
State of Hawaii

Re: GM 654
Wednesday, April 6, 2011
Conference Room 225
1:15 PM

Dear Senator Tokuda:

I strongly support the appointment of Brian J. De Lima to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education.

I have known Mr. De Lima since he was an undergraduate at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, where I taught courses in political science. Brian was an outstanding student, and the faculty knew even then that he would go far in his chosen endeavor, law. His legal and political career since his graduation from law school has proven us right.

He is very well-respected in the community both as an attorney and as dedicated citizen who works for the betterment of the county and the state. We need people like Brian on the Board. In the past we rarely knew who represented us, as they did not communicate well with those they served. That will not be the case with Mr. De Lima. He is an excellent attorney, but his interests and knowledge go far beyond the law. There is nothing more important than the education of our youth. I graduated from Kailua High School in 1959, the last graduating class under the Territory of Hawaii, and continued my education at the University of Hawaii and ultimately at Northwestern University. The education I received here helped me a great deal in college, and I like to think that the education Brian received here helped him as well. He, will work very hard to make sure our students get the best education available and that the taxpayers money is used wisely

Now it is time for Brian to help our system of public education, not just as the father of a student but as a representative of the community who will be intimately involved in setting policy and overseeing a very large system of public education. The challenges we face are great - decreasing tax revenues and increasing demands on our teachers and administrators - but nobody is better up the challenge than Mr. De Lima. I support him very strongly and without reservation.

Sincerely,

Anthony D. Castberg, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
University of Hawaii at Hilo

A LAW CORPORATION
PHILIP H. LOWENTHAL
BENJAMIN LOWENTHAL

PHILIP H. LOWENTHAL
ATTORNEY AT LAW
33 N. MARKET STREET, SUITE 101
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

MAUI: (808) 242-5000
HNL: (808) 545-5688
FAX: (808) 242-1500

April 1, 2011

Committee on Education
Hawaii State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Re: GM 654 Confirmation of BOE Nominee BRIAN J. DE LIMA

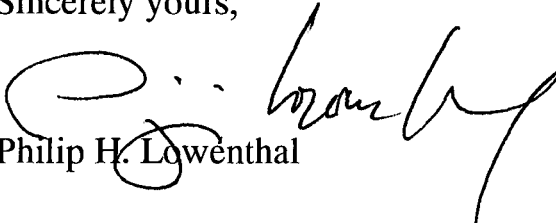
Aloha Chairperson Tokuda and Committee Members:

I am pleased to write to you in support of the nomination of Brian J. DeLima. I have known and worked with Mr. DeLima as a professional colleague for more than 20 years. We have tried cases as co-counsel and consulted with each other on a wide range of legal issues. Through our work as lawyers I have become well acquainted with Mr. DeLima's qualities and character.

In my opinion Mr. DeLima is extremely bright, candid, and honest.

I am a lifelong product and proponent of public education. I believe Mr. DeLima to be a brilliant nominee for the Hawaii Board of Education. I congratulate the governor for the nomination and I strongly urge your Committee to confirm his appointment.

Sincerely yours,


Philip H. Lowenthal

Erin Conner

From: Keith K. Hiraoka [khiraoka@rlhlaw.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 10:03 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: delima@bigislandlawyers.com
Subject: GM654 BOE Nominee Brian J. De Lima (4/6/2011 at 1:15 p.m.)

To The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda

Chair, Senate Education Committee

I enthusiastically support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the state Board of Education.

For more than six years Mr. De Lima and I jointly represented a client in a complex legal malpractice lawsuit. I was impressed with Mr. De Lima's capacity to learn and remember the many complex facts of the case while always keeping the big picture clearly in mind. He is pragmatic, honest and trustworthy, and his common sense approach to the uncommon situations presented by the litigation guided our client's legal team through the lawsuit, an appeal and a remand. He is a public school graduate who will be able to work collaboratively with his fellow board members and the state Department of Education to guide our public schools through these trying economic times.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Brian J. De Lima.

Keith K. Hiraoka
Managing Partner

Roeca Luria Hiraoka LLP
A Limited Liability Law Partnership

900 Davies Pacific Center
841 Bishop Street
Honolulu, HI 96813-3917

Main: 808.538.7500

Direct: 808.203.6303

Mobile: 808.224.4246
Fax: 808.521.9648
Email: khiraoka@rlhlaw.com
Web: www.rlhlaw.com

Roeca Luria Hiraoka LLP is a Member of the International Society of Primerus Law Firms

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April 2, 2011

T0: THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

FROM: KIYOSHI HAMAKAWA
136 MAUNA LOA ST.
HILO, HI 02720

SUBJECT: CONFIRMATION OF BOE NOMINEE
BRIAN J. DE LIMA

It is with utmost privilege and honor that I endorse and recommend the confirmation of Mr. Brian J. De Lima as one of Governor Neil Abercrombie's appointees to the state Board of Education.

My personal estimate of Mr. De Lima is that he is highly intelligent, well-adjusted, and has the ability to cope with and unravel educationally oriented problems and concerns. His legal training, work experience in the law courts and his commitment as a former elected Hawaii County Councilman would serve as a benefit in right and/or wrong decision concerns in educational summarizations.

My beginning relationship with Mr. De Lima was when he was a Hilo High School student and I was his Vice Principal. Within those years, September of 1970 to June 1973, he was observed to interact well with fellow students and involvees in extra-curricular activities.

He displayed a high level of leadership as Senior Class President in his final year at Hilo High School. His spirited and productive leadership successes were, I believe, outgrowths of his positive relationships with administrators, teachers, fellow students, alumni members, and other school supporters.

A characteristic noted in his high school years is that he possessed an untiring capacity for inquiry and discovery, which has carried over into his adult life.

Undeniably, this is a vital asset in being a part of an on-going, advanced state BOE.

In my years of acquaintance with Mr. De Lima, from high school days to the present, I would like to note the following about him:

1. Motivation & Accentuating the positive

He is aware that the purpose of the BOE is to collectively advance the quality of education in Hawaii. His motivation is to do this by accentuating the positive. He attributes his “positive approach” to the late Principal Richard Matsunaga’s thought to him: “Accentuate the positive & don’t dwell on the negative.” He has lived by that thought thereafter ... and hopefully, his confirmed seat with the BOE.

2. Flexibility

As a BOE member, Mr. De Lima knows that he should be able to accept the unexpected. Opinions often vary sharply from one community school district’s representation to another. For example, our heavily multi-ethnic citizenship contributes, unquestionably, to differences in educational thoughts, pursuits, and conclusions.

For the betterment and advancement in our educational system, Mr. De Lima is flexible: he is willing and able to listen to new issues and to be exposed to different attitudes in a calm and collective manner.

3. Curiosity

As a Hilo High School student to the present, Mr. De Lima is inspired by curiosity and generally appreciated for it. His curiosity is fulfilled by asking questions, wishing to learn all that he can, and therefrom, communicating a sense of real interest.

Conclusively, curiosity attributes are vital in a BOE member's role.

4. Self Confidence

A BOE member should generally like himself or herself most of the time.

Without going into the depths of socio-psychological study and explanation, if the BOE member does like himself, he or she will be able to like other people, be understanding of difference, be willing to make mistakes, and will look for positives in people and situations.

The foregoing characterizes Mr. Brian De Lima: He is self-confident! With self-confidence, Mr. De Lima can accept his own weaknesses and limitations and contribute more readily towards the BOE's mission.

5. A Warm Personality

In working together for a common goal, BOE members should generate warmth in matters of speech and/or behavior. It may be an open, exuberant warmth or quiet gentle warmth. Mr. De Lima characterized both-mentioned positive personalities.

6. Humor

In order to consummate vital educational pursuits within deadline aplenty, a BOE member, at times, needs to be relaxed and able to laugh with the others. At times, he needs to laugh at himself, which Mr. De Lima is very able to do.

7. Maturity

BOE members should be mature in their commitment to education and be able to cope with wins losses, disappointments, and isolation as well as the excitement of being a respected board member who is looked up to by the citizenry-at-large. Mr. De Lima is noted to be possessed of these qualities.

8. Teachers & Their Role

As a former student in the public education programs of Hawaii, Mr. De Lima, who has two daughters in like schools, appreciates and understands the pedagogical techniques of teachers within the changing modes and mores of our state's society. He understands, also, that teachers have the responsibility to students in presenting materials that are challenging.

In summary, Mr. Brian De Lima's philosophy of education is to contribute and provide the ultimate learning experiences for the students in the public education system through the concerted and combined efforts of the members that constitute the Board of Education of Hawaii.

Thank you for your support and consideration on behalf of Mr. Brian J. De Lima's nomination for a seat on the state BOE. Your positive decision will be much appreciated by those of us who believe in Mr. De Lima's future contributions to education.

Erin Conner

From: Beverlysmith@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 9:12 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Consideration and Confirmation for Brian J. DeLima

GM 654
Wednesday, April 06, 2011
1:15PM

We are sending this e-mail in support for consideration and confirmation to the State of Hawaii Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Brian J. De Lima, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Mr. De Lima has first hand knowledge of the needs and the importance of our educational system. Mr. De Lima is dependable and can be expected to make responsible decisions. He is a graduate of Hawaii's public school system. He is also the parent of a child with special needs that has been accommodated into an inclusion program within our educational system. Both he and his wife have been advocates and supporters of programs in each school that their child has attended. They have pushed for special educational programs not only for their child, but also for other children. They constantly meet with principals, teachers, aides and special services providers to help coordinate an atmosphere in which learning becomes more easily attainable for the students.

As a lawyer, Mr. De Lima is knowledgeable about the laws and policies within our educational system. He was instrumental in decisions made for the safety of our children attending Kaumana Baptist Keikiland here in Hilo. He was supportive of the programs and methods utilized to prepare the preschoolers for future schooling.

Mr. De lima is open and approachable to ideas and suggestions that will help to better serve the whole educational community and is supportive of the teachers, and administrators that are in charge of the schools.

We thank you for this opportunity to express our thoughts and opinions on this matter.

Sincerely,
Deacon Howard and Beverly Smith
38 E.Uluwai St.
Hilo, Hi. 96720
howards704@aol.com

Erin Conner

From: Rick Damerville [rrd96720@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 9:54 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony Supporting Nomination of Brian J. De Lima to BOE

RE: GM654 , Hearing Wednesday, April 06, 2011 at 1:15 P.M.

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair; Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair; and members of the Committee on Education:

When I read that Brian De Lima was submitted by Governor Abercrombie as a Nominee to the BOE my first reaction was: Neil has started his own Draft? I mean, who could possibly volunteer for this? The public expectations are so high and the available funds are so low to meet those expectations that the combination is an invitation to a disaster waiting for a place to happen.

When my colleagues in the prosecutor's office learned that I intended to submit testimony supporting Brian, a few responded, "Oh Rick, sneaky, if he is at BOE meetings, Brian won't have time to beat us up in court," and, "When did you become a Democrat?" I plead not guilty on both counts.

I have known Brian De Lima for more than 23 years. He is an excellent attorney with extraordinary diagnostic skills when it comes to knowing what works and does not work in Hawaii County. He has repeatedly demonstrated his belief in and dedication to the Big Island with both his time and his money. He has a documented history of concern for and devotion to the kids on the Big Island.

I, as a deputy prosecutor, and Brian, as a criminal defense attorney, have seen too many, mostly young, men and women stand before a judge for sentencing who are where they are in large part because although they completed 12 years of schooling, they could not read the pre-sentence diagnostic report that the Judge was considering when determining their immediate future - a sad circumstance and a vicious cycle.

Brian understands the political process and has been a tireless advocate for public education. I wish I shared his enthusiasm. Personally, I fear that public education may be beyond fixing. Certainly, learning that last year the elected BOE met 100 times did not engender any confidence in the prospects for public education. Policy makers who needed to meet 100 times in a year, despite good intentions, could only be repairing poor policy decisions with baling wire and duct tape.

Appointing Brian J. De Lima to the BOE will not guarantee that the leaky boat that is public education will stay afloat. It should, however, inspire those with buckets to keep bailing..Please approve the nomination of Brian J. De Lima without delay.

Sincerely yours,

Ricky R. Damerville
(808) 937-9311

Erin Conner

From: JIM WILSON [xjwilson@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 7:58 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: testimony for brian delima

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218

April 4, 2011

Re: Nomination to Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda,

We have known Brian DeLima for many years, both socially and professionally, and think the Big Island will be well represented with Brian on the Board of Education.

His ability to look at issues objectively, through his experience as an attorney, his calmness, sensibility and ability to listen, make him a great asset to the Board.

When Brian was a Councilman, he quickly became the chair, when his leadership skills were recognized.

Often, special needs children fall through the cracks in the system. Brian has a personal interest because of daughter Blare, who has Down's Syndrome.

Your consideration to confirm Brian DeLima to the Board of Education is greatly appreciated.

Jim Wilson
Retired Publisher, Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Audrey Wilson
Food Columnist, Hawaii Tribune-Herald
Cookbook Author

Gary Y. Murai
299 S. Alu Road
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
Ph: 808.344.7611
garymurai@yahoo.com

April 4, 2011

sent via email to EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov
original will not be mailed

The Hon. Jill N. Tokuda
Chair, Senate Committee on Education
The Hon. Michelle Kidani
Vice-Chair, Senate Committee on Education
Conference Rm. 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, Hawaii

Aloha Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

RE: Testimony in Support of the Nomination of Brian J. DeLima to the Board of
Education; GM 654
Hearing Date: April 6, 2011, 1:15 p.m.

I am writing to urge the Senate Committee on Education to confirm the nomination of Brian J. DeLima to the Board of Education.

These are hard times for Hawaii public schools, charter schools and public libraries. Our Board of Education will need to set the policies, goals and standards for students to learn and achieve to their highest potential. This charge would be difficult enough in ordinary times, but our Board is being asked to right the ship of public education during unprecedented fiscal and global challenges.

Mr. DeLima is up to the task. Mr. DeLima is a proud product of Hilo public schools. He has been an advocate for public education since his days as a student leader at Hilo High School and the University of Hawaii-Hilo. He continued his advocacy throughout his career as an attorney, county council member and parent.

I have known Mr. DeLima for nearly 50 years. We are colleagues and family friends. As such, I have observed Mr. DeLima in a variety of professional and social settings over many years. As an attorney and county councilman, Mr. DeLima has always worked hard, prepared thoroughly and provided wise counsel and sound judgment. Mr. DeLima and his wife are also devoted parents with a daughter in college and a daughter at Hilo Intermediate School.

Senate Committee on Education

April 4, 2011

Page 2

I have no doubt that Mr. DeLima has the foresight and wisdom to lead our schools and public libraries. If Mr. Delima's past work is any indication, I have no doubt that he will do his best to assure that the Board provides our schools with a vision of where we need to be in the future and that our students, teachers and families are given the tools they need to achieve their goals.

We cannot expect to have good schools until we have a good board. As a parent of children in public schools, I ask you to please confirm Mr. DeLima to the Board of Education. I assure you that Mr. DeLima will do nothing to make you regret your confirmation.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gary Murai

Gary Y. Murai

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 12:41 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: randolph@prodigy.net
Subject: Testimony for GM654 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM654

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stanley Randolph
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: randolph@prodigy.net
Submitted on: 4/4/2011

Comments:

I support Brian DeLima for the state school board. Brian knows the value of a quality education and will work hard to improve our system. Brian has many years experience working within the government, and will not need to learn his way around. Brian is very dedicated to whatever he does. He is approachable, and will listen to peoples concerns. He is realistic in his thinking, and will support workable solutions.

I will be proud to have Brian represent Island of Hawaii on the school board.

April 4, 2011

Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Governor's Message 654
Nomination of Brian J. De Lima as Hawaii Island Member of the Board of Education

sent via email to EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Please allow this letter to express our full and strong support for Mr. Brian J. De Lima's confirmation to be the Hawaii Island Member of the Board of Education.

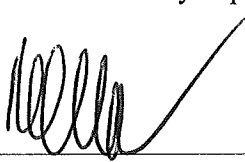
We all work with Brian J. De Lima in the law firm of Crudele and De Lima. Nearly all of our staff attended public schools. Gwen Borges has been Brian's legal assistant since 1990 and the majority of our staff have worked with the firm since 1996. Brian has an outstanding reputation and is a dedicated and hardworking lawyer. People trust his advice! Brian is a trial attorney, however, a majority of his work these past years have primarily been in the area of family law.

Brian often mentors new lawyers and enjoys working with associates who have in the past gone on to work as government lawyers and have excelled due in part to their work experience at Crudele and De Lima.

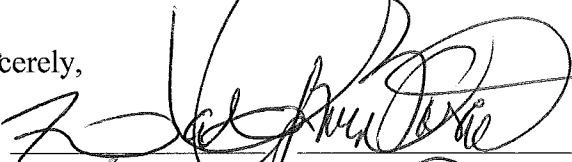
Throughout the years that we have known Brian, we are well aware of his public service, legal expertise and commitment to our Island and State. We have always known Brian to be a person of integrity, competence, and empathy.

We fully support his nomination and urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,


ROBERT CRUDELE


WILLIAM HEPLIN


FRANCIS ALCAN

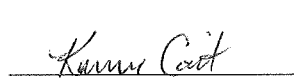

GWEN BORGES

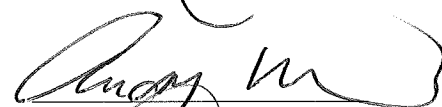

SHEILA KANESHIRO


CHERYLYN FREITAS


ADRIENNE STEWART


AMY BAUTISTA


KAREN COIT


AUDREY VILLANUEVA

DOUGLAS L. HALSTED
Attorney at Law
899 Ululani Street, Suite 4
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Tel. No. 808-961-5566
Fax. No.808-961-5972
email: halstedlaw@hawaiiantel.net

April 3, 2011

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Senate
sent via email to EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: GM654 Confirmation of BOE Nominee BRIAN J. DELIMA
Hearing Date April 6, 2011 at 1:15 p.m.

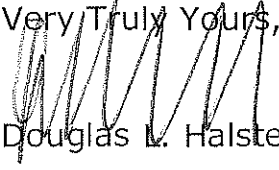
Dear Chair Tokuda and Honorable Committee members:

I support the nomination of Brian J. DeLima to the State Board of Education and ask you to confirm his nomination.

I have known Brian DeLima for almost 20 years and see him quite often in the courtroom setting. From my experience, he is a hard worker and a problem solver. He is independent and will be a strong voice for education. Having been raised on the Big Island, he knows what is needed in our local schools to strengthen the education system and will serve the community well.

I recommend him without reservation. Should you need any more information, contact me via phone or email.

Very Truly Yours,


Douglas L. Halsted

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 2:47 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: amiwa@co.hawaii.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for GM654 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM654

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Amy Miwa
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: amiwa@co.hawaii.hi.us
Submitted on: 4/4/2011

Comments:

I support the appointment of BRIAN DE LIMA to the Board of Education, representing the island of Hawaii. Brian has a well-rounded background, and a deep understanding of the educational system, its strengths and what needs strengthening, as a former student and as a parent. He works well with others. He is committed and dedicated. He has spent most of his life, in one capacity or another, working for the betterment of the community. In my opinion, Brian will be an asset to the Board, and will serve our community well.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify IN SUPPORT of BRIAN J. DELIMA.

Erin Conner

From: Miwa, Amy [amiwa@co.hawaii.hi.us] on behalf of Ikeda, Donald [DIKEDA@co.hawaii.hi.us]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 2:38 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT - GM 654 - BRIAN J. DE LIMA - Wednesday, April 6 1:15 Conf Room 225

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Committee members:

I am pleased to submit this testimony IN SUPPORT of the appointment of BRIAN J. DE LIMA to the Board of Education.

Brian J. DeLima will represent our island with integrity and honesty. Brian brings to the table a wealth of knowledge and will be able to provide keen insight into the complex issues that the Board must address. He is lifelong resident of the Island and State of Hawaii, and is a product of our public school system. That notwithstanding, Brian has a well-rounded background, including personal knowledge of private schools and also education and programs for special needs individuals. He is one of the foremost attorneys on our island, and can share his knowledge and understanding of the role education plays in the day-to-day life of our citizens.

Brian J. De Lima he has his own mind (and a keen one at that) however he is a team player, and is comfortable either as a leader or as a team member. He will be an asset to the Board of Education.

Thank you for allowing me to testify IN SUPPORT of the appointment of BRIAN J. DE LIMA to the Board of Education.

Donald Ikeda
Council Member, District 2
Hawaii County Council
25 Aupuni Street, Room 202
Tel: (808) 961-8015

LAW OFFICES OF
STANLEY H. ROEHRIG
ATTORNEY AT LAW
A Law Corporation
101 AUPUNI STREET, SUITE 124
HILO, HAWAII 96720
TELEPHONE: (808) 969-1441
shroehrig@hawaii.rr.com

April 4, 2011

via email to edutestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chairman, Education Committee
Hawaii State Senate
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Brian J. De Lima for Board of Education - Support

Dear Chairman Tokuda and
Education Committee Members:

I have had a very close personal and professional relationship with Brian J. DeLima for many years. He was my wife's student in the 8th grade. He was also an associate in my law firm for a number of years before he opened his own office. Thereafter, I served as his family attorney on various matters. In turn, he has served as my family attorney on various matter. As you may be aware, he has a special-needs daughter, Blair, who has Downs Syndrome. Brian is eminently qualified to be a member of the Governor's Board of Education. He has a passion for improving public education in Hawaii. He is a product of that very education. His experience as a trial attorney for many years makes him uniquely qualified to comment on not only the special needs of Hawaii's public school students, but also the hopes and desires of all their parents. He is a very successful attorney; a number of his litigation attorney adversaries have written letters of support for him to be a member of the Board of Education. My wife and I feel very lucky that we have been friends with Brian and his family all these years. He will be a credit to Hawaii's education. Please confirm him.

Sincerely,


Stanley H. Roehrig

SHR/ghk

Erin Conner

From: Taylor Ann Stewart [h11tastew@ksbe.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:28 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Support of Brian J. De Lima

April 5, 2011

Senate Committee on Education

Nomination of Mr. Brian 1. De Lima as Hawaii Island Member of the Board of Education

Dear Education Committee Members,

Aloha, my name is Taylor-Ann Stewart and I am currently a senior at Kamehameha Schools

Hawaii. I have known Mr. De Lima for about six years, and have had the privilege of spending time with his family, especially with his youngest daughter Blaire. I really have come to admire

his hard working ethics, his open mind, and his big heart. I know Mr. De Lima as a successful lawyer, a loving father, and just an all around down to earth person who is easy to talk to and is

willing to listen.

Mr. De Lima has really inspired me to dream big and push myself to exceeding my own limits. I look at him and I see the payoff of years of hard work, commitment, and passion for what he does.

Very Truly Yours,

Taylor-Ann Stewart
Senior Student in the Health&Wellness Academy Kamehameha School Hawai'i Campus
(808) 938-5364

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Erin Conner

From: Billie Baclig [andybillie@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 10:35 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: GM 654 Confirmation of BOE Nominee Brian J. De Lima

The following testimony is submitted to The Committee on Education, attention to Chair Jill Tokuda on the confirmation of BOE Nominee Brian J. D Lima. The hearing is scheduled on April 6, 2011, at 1:15 p.m.

I submit testimony on behalf of Hilo attorney Brian J. De Lima, one of nine designees appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to represent Hawaii Island on the state Board of Education.

I've known Mr. De Lima for nearly 25 years and believe the Governor made an "outstanding" choice in appointing Brian to this two-year term. During my 16 years employed as a council aide and legislative assistant for Hawaii County, I worked directly under Mr. De Lima for six years while he served as a council member, vice chairman and chairman, respectively. Brian always based his decisions on how we would benefit as a community both in the present and future. He is a man of integrity.

As a longtime resident and product of Hawaii public schools, De Lima and his wife, Paige, are parents of two children who have gone through the school system. When he says he is going to try to accentuate the things that are positive about our school system, and not dwell on the negative, I believe his confirmation will definitely benefit our school system. For this and many other reasons, I am recommending his confirmation with complete confidence.

Aloha ke akua,
Rose Marie Baclig

April 4, 2011

Committee on Education and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature
State Capitol, Suite 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Board of Education Confirmation Hearing, Wednesday April 6, 2011

Dear Committee on Education and Members of the Senate:

My name is Reina Ojiri and I am currently a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am writing on behalf of Mr. Brian J. Delima who has been nominated to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have had the opportunity to work as a student helper at Mr. Delima's law firm, Crudele and Delima since 2008. I also work closely with his family as a personal assistant for his youngest daughter who has special needs.

Mr. Delima is a lifelong resident of Hilo, parent of two children, and a proud graduate of Hilo High School. For as long as I have known Mr. Delima he has only shown pride in his public school background and has recounted his educational experiences as positive and encouraging. As a fellow graduate of Hilo High School it is encouraging and inspiring to know that there are strong advocates like Mr. Delima willing to serve Hawai'i's public school system.

As much as I have grown to know Mr. Delima and his strength to stand up and speak out for his convictions as an attorney, I feel that I have learned more about Mr. Delima through his daughter Blaire Delima. In working closely with his youngest daughter who has Down's syndrome, I know that Mr. Delima truly has the best interests of his daughters' at heart. He is someone I respect and look up to as a role model as he not only runs his own law firm but he also makes time to spend with his family.

Having gone through the public education system himself and raising a daughter with a disability, Mr. Delima knows and understands firsthand how effective our public school system can be. He is very hard working and I feel that his experience will help him to make appropriate changes to create a board that is more focused on getting work done than on politics, and on a system that will maximize student achievement by supporting teachers, schools, and administrators.

As a prospective public school teacher myself, I feel that Mr. Delima will serve the Board of Education well and help to create realistic solutions for Hawai'i's public education system.

Sincerely,
Reina Ojiri

Erin Conner

From: stewartj040@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 9:50 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: Letter of support for Brian De Lima's Appointment to Represent the Island of Hawaii on the state Board of Education

Subject: Letter of Support for Brian J. DeLima appointment to the state Board of Education

To Whom It May Concern:

Please allow me to introduce myself.

I've been a Police Officer with the Hawaii Police Department for the past 21 years, a father who has seen my son and daughter go through the public school system here in Hilo and my wife is the Principle for Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary School for the past 12 years. I now have two grandchildren attending public school in Hilo and would like the best education they public school system can provide for them.

Living with a public school Administer, I have heard all the problems with the DOE and I'm aware of the important role that our BOE Members provide as they hold the future of our children in their hands.

It is because of my wife and grandchildren that I have kept myself informed of the problems and issues that our public school system faces and am concerned what direction our newly appointed BOE Members will take us.

I must admit that I was not in favor of our state BOE Members be appointed for fear of who the Governor would appoint for our island but must admit that I am now pleased with his selections and especially with the selection of Brian J. DeLima.

I have known Brian for over ten years, professionally and as a friend. Professionally, Brian has been our Police Union (State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officer) attorney for our Hawaii Chapter which I am the Chapter Chairman and have seen Brian represent our members with true dedication and a deep concern for their welfare. Through our professional relationship over the years, I have also gained a personal relationship with Brian and have found him to be very honest and a man that cares for others.

I truly believe that Brian will put forth his best effort as a state BOE Member and that the decisions he makes will be in the best interest of our public school system and our children.

I fully support Brian J. DeLima's appointment and encourage everyone to support Brian.

Sincerely,

John P. Stewart
John P. Stewart
1879 Kilauea Avenue
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Coates & Frey

P. Gregory Frey
Managing Attorney

ATTORNEYS AT LAW • LLLC

Jessi L. K. Hall
John D. Hughes
Ann S. Isobe 磯部 末 アン
R. Barrie Michelsen
Karl E. Phillips

Of Counsel
Bradley A. Coates*
A Law Corporation
Senior Counsel
Paul W. Soenksen

April 4, 2011

Senator Jill Tokuda
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Brian J. De Lima, Esq.

Dear Senator Tokuda,

This letter is written in strong support and endorsement of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of **Brian J. De Lima**, Esq. to the (now appointed, not elected) Board of Education.

In my humble opinion and view, Governor Abercrombie won both the primary and general elections "by a landslide", and was ultimately elected by Hawaii's people to Hawaii's most important political post because he told his supporters and all people of our island state that he fully intends to "roll-up his sleeves" and "do what it (will) take(s)" to "fix Hawaii". By his nomination and appointment of Mr. De Lima to the Board of Education, our new Governor is trying to keep a promise. Like the Governor, Mr. De Lima is not afraid to "roll up his sleeves" to "get the job done!".

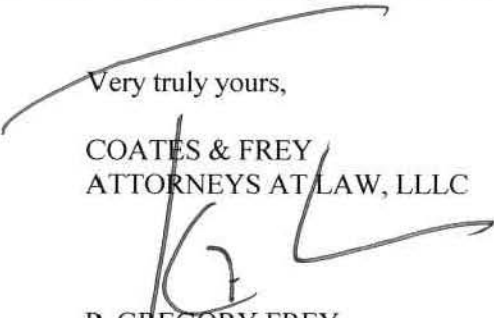
Brian De Lima is an amazingly talented professional who is both exceptionally tough while at the same time, very passionate and logical re: his beliefs and ideals. He'll put his "nose to the grindstone" and like Mr. Abercrombie, will "do what it takes" to help our island keiki and our school system(s).

I urge you to confirm Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Brian J. De Lima. He is the right person for the job, and he'll do a fantastic job.

Thank you for your support and consideration and please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

COATES & FREY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LLLC


P. GREGORY FREY
Managing Attorney
(Personal use only)

PGF:mah
Encls.
FA\HOME\PGF\FREY\SENATOR TOKUDA.LTR (040411)

Domestic & Family Relations • Divorce • All Family Law

*Mr. Coates, the firm's founder, remains an active and vital part of the office in an "Of Counsel" capacity, but no longer maintains an ownership interest in the firm.

April 4, 2011

Smith H. Kaleohano, IV
236 Krauss Ave.
Hilo, HI. 96720
808-345-3387
smkaleoh@ksbe.edu

Dear Honorable Chairwoman Jill Tokuda:

I have known Mr. De Lima for more than six years. Within that time, I have had the opportunity to work with him both on a professional level as well as in recreation. As my attorney, Mr. De Lima has assisted me in acquiring parental custody of my six year old son. As an advocate for young children, a young, male preschool teacher in the Hilo community, and a single father of a Hawaiian Language Charter School student, I am very aware of the support that education, particularly the Early Education sector needs.

Mr. De Lima is an admirable choice to attain a position on the Board of Education. His years of community service, including the Hawaii County Council, local organizations, and, most importantly, his service to the Hawaii justice system makes him a prime example of a positive contributor to our community and society in general.

The experiences that Mr. De Lima has had afford him vast knowledge about the people of our community. Through these opportunities, he will be able to listen to, generate, and execute new strategies that will benefit the future of Hawaii's education.

As a loving father, I, too, know that Mr. De Lima will do all in his power for the education of children and children with special needs. Mr. De Lima will see that our keiki and the future of Hawaii are educated and provided appropriate support that they deserve and need.

I highly recommend and support Mr. De Lima in the quest for the Hawaii Island Board of Education member candidacy.

In closing, Mr. De Lima is an excellent choice to serve on the Hawaii Board of Education. His years of experience can only benefit the future of Hawaii's education.

Me ka Oi`a I`o,

Smith H. Kaleohano, IV

Bruce T. Hara, Jr.

P.O. Box 1531, Hilo, HI 96721

Phone 808-982-5011 / Fax (808) 982-5144

April 5, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Re: Brian J. Delima,
Gubernatorial Nominee to the State of Hawaii Board of Education
Term to expire 6-30-2013

Aloha Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

I am writing today to lend testimony in favor of the confirmation of gubernatorial nominee Brian J. Delima to the State of Hawaii's Board of Education.

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.

We have been family friends with the Delima family for over ten years. We have always been inspired by their love for their daughter Blaire who is a special needs child.

He and his wife have worked lovingly and tirelessly to advocate for her needs in the public school system. Brian is personally aware of the sensitive issues and problems that parents with special needs students experience.

For this reason, we believe that he will make an excellent representative on the Board of Education lending a voice for families who are advocating for a life full of potential for their special needs children.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

Bruce Hara



LeeAnn M.I. Hara

P.O. Box 1531, Hilo, HI 96721

Phone 808-982-5011 / Fax (808) 982-5144

April 5, 2011

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Re: Brian J. Delima,
Gubernatorial Nominee to the State of Hawaii Board of Education
Term to expire 6-30-2013

Aloha Senators Tokuda and Kidani:

I am writing today to lend testimony in favor of the confirmation of gubernatorial nominee Brian J. Delima to the State of Hawaii's Board of Education.

DATE: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.

We have been family friends with the Delima family for over ten years. We have always been inspired by their love for their daughter Blaire who is a special needs child.

He and his wife have worked lovingly and tirelessly to advocate for her needs in the public school system. Brian is personally aware of the sensitive issues and problems that parents with special needs students experience.

For this reason, we believe that he will make an excellent representative on the Board of Education lending a voice for families who are advocating for a life full of potential for their special needs children.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,



LeeAnn Hara

April 5, 2011

Senate Sargent at Arms
via fax 1-800-586-6659

Committee on Education
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Re: Hearing on 4/6/11 at 1:15pm.

Dear Honorable Senator Tokuda and Honorable Senator Kidani:

I would like to express my support in favor of confirming Brian DeLima (GM 654) to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I have known Brian for approximately ten years. Brian is a man of integrity, who will freely speak his mind and go against the flow if need be in order to push forward and vote for what he believes is the right thing to do. I also believe that his experience as an attorney coupled with being the father of a child with special needs will bring another level of expertise and sensitivity to the board. I know that Brian would be an excellent addition to the board and that he will be effective in getting the job done. It is really my privilege and pleasure in submitting my support without absolutely any hesitation.

Aloha!



Lance B. Duyao
118 Malia Street
Hilo, Hawaii
(808) 430-1509

Kenneth G. Goodenow
157 Kualua Place
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Senate Committee on Education
Testimony in Support of Board of Education Nominee Brian J. De Lima
Wednesday , April 6, 2011

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

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the State Board of Education.

In my humble opinion, I honestly cannot think of a better choice than Mr. De Lima to serve on the Board of Education. His excellence as an attorney is well known in the Third Judicial Circuit and he would make a fine advocate for the children of Hawaii. Furthermore, his background as a staff member for the Hawaii State Senate and as a member of the Hawaii County Council give him an important understanding of government processes and budgeting.

Mr. De Lima is also a very caring individual who has donated countless hours of his time in support of various community organizations, including Volunteer Legal Services Hawaii which provides legal help to individuals in financial need. His work as an attorney also includes representing disadvantaged youth and the poor, giving him a valuable perspective on many of the families who will be served by the public education system.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written testimony.