

GM657

Testimony

Senate Education Committee
GM 657
Nomination to the Board of Education
James D. Williams
Responses to Questions

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

The following from my application letter to Governor Abercrombie, dated February 24, 2011, answers this question:

“The Department of Education is now at an important crossroad. With a new system for selecting a Board of Education, we have the opportunity for a new beginning. I believe it is critically important for our students and for the future of our state that we seize this opportunity to dramatically improve the performance of our public schools.

“Since my days teaching on Molokai, first at Kaunakakai School, then at Molokai High and Intermediate, and more recently as developer and co-founder of Voyager Charter School, I have had a strong commitment to our public school system and a passion for finding ways to improve our schools....

“If you accept my application, I will give my full energies to work with you, the other Board members, and the Superintendent of Education to give our community the public school system it deserves.”

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?

In my view, the roles and responsibilities of individual members start with the overall role of the BOE, which begins with the Constitution. The Constitution (Article X, Section 3.) provides that “The board of education shall have the power, as provided by law, to formulate statewide educational policy and appoint the superintendent of education as the chief executive officer of the public school system.” In addition, Act 5 (2011) provides that each nominee (of our new appointed board) “shall have a clear understanding of the board's role in developing and protecting a clear, long-term strategic vision for Hawaii's public schools, and shall understand the need to hold the superintendent of education accountable for making consistent progress toward that vision.” To me, this means that the BOE should focus on policy, including first and foremost a long-term strategic vision, and on appointing the Superintendent and holding the Superintendent (and his/her direct reports who are approved by the Board) accountable for the performance of the DOE.

As an individual member of the Board, I would fully support the focus on policy (including strategic planning) and appointment and oversight of the superintendent as

provided by the Constitution and Act 5. My first job will be to work with my fellow board members to ensure that our organizational structure supports the aforementioned focus on policy and strategic planning. In addition, as the Governor's appointee and given the prevailing sentiment to hold the Governor accountable for improving the performance of our system of education, I believe I have an obligation to listen to and support input from the Governor regarding priorities and strategic direction. Each board member brings different experience and knowledge to the position, and I believe it is my responsibility to apply my unique background and knowledge to help inform the other board members, so that the whole (Board) becomes greater than the sum of the parts in our efforts to guide and support improvements in students' performance.

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, experiences, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the BOE. Highlight the three qualities you feel make you a highly qualified candidate.

As my career has evolved, I have had the good fortune to hold leadership positions in a number of organizations and gain experience and perspective that will guide me in my service on the Board of Education.

First, as a teacher at Kaunakakai School and Molokai High and Intermediate School, I have been on the front lines of education. As a BOE member, my teaching experience will both inform my decisions on educational policy, and also give me insights into how policy decisions will impact practitioners. Then as a teacher I got involved in the teachers union during its formative years and eventually served as HSTA president for two (2) years. As a union leader, I participated in the collective bargaining process and learned about how the DOE operates at the management level. On the BOE, that knowledge and experience will be invaluable, since by statute the Board is represented in contract negotiations. In addition, as the leader of a 10,000+ (at that time) member organization, I worked with the staff and Board at the top level of one of our State's largest organizations. As directed in Act 5, knowledge of large organizations is one of the qualifications for BOE members. More recently, in a brief stint (last year) as HSTA's Executive Director, I got a "refresher course" on the current state of affairs, including resolution of "furlough Fridays."

After leaving teaching, my career path moved in the direction of the field of health benefits. Executive positions at Hawaii Dental Service and Royal State Group gave me vital and invaluable experience in managing organizations that serve hundreds of thousands of people. Along the way, I learned about computer systems, finance, human resources, and continual quality improvement approaches. That career direction culminated in my service (for 5 years) as Administrator of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF). As Administrator, I worked with a Board evenly divided between employer and union representatives, to serve nearly 200,000 employees, retirees and their families.

As a co-founder and developer of Voyager Public Charter School I have had the opportunity to lead the design and implementation of a school that, with limited resources and while serving a broad spectrum of public school students, has produced excellent results. In addition to addressing the educational program of the school, that effort has meant working on all aspects of school administration, including facilities, finance, safety and collective bargaining. As a BOE member, the experience and knowledge gained with Voyager will enable me to understand the needs of individual schools and the Superintendent's challenges in leading a system with more than 225 schools.

Overall, the three qualities that I believe most impact positively on my ability to serve as a BOE member are my commitment to, experience in, and knowledge of education from several perspectives, my background in collective bargaining from both sides of the table, and my record and reputation of integrity in the various positions I have held.

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.

A short-term goal of mine is to establish a policy that the focus of the Department's resources at every level will be on student learning and the teacher-student interaction. Such a policy would guide staff assignments at every level, and ensure that support activities support the primary mission of the DOE (student learning). To accomplish enactment of such a policy would require the support of the Superintendent (who already has spoken to this point) and agreement of my fellow board members, and I believe they would support making such a policy explicit.

A long-term goal of mine would be to revamp the high school program to focus on preparing students for post-secondary activities, including college, apprenticeship programs, and other vocational choices. This would expand and extend current efforts such as the proposed "college and career ready diploma requirements" now under consideration. The basic steps in accomplishing this goal, would be to obtain agreement from my fellow board members and the Superintendent on the importance of this goal, to initiate study of the options available and the approaches used by other jurisdictions both in the U.S. and abroad, and then to develop specific proposals for implementation. Throughout the process, it will be important to involve a broad representation of stakeholders to build support for change and for the final proposals that emerge.

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?

The only possible conflict of interest that I can foresee at this time would be with my position as a member of the Local School Board of Voyager Charter School. Since Voyager is subject to oversight by the Charter School Review Panel, rather than the

Board of Education (although the BOE does appoint the CSR), I do not believe there is an inherent conflict between service on the BOE and service on the local school board. However, once the confirmation process is complete, I am committed to seeking advice on this issue from the Ethics Commission, and I will abide by that advice. Also, if the Governor requested that I resign from the Voyager Board, I would do so.

In addition to the Voyager Local School Board, I am a member of the board of the Voyager School Foundation, a private non-profit 501(c)(3) foundation. I do not believe that service on a non-profit board presents a conflict; however, I will abide by any ruling on this position also.

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

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

GM 657 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the State of
Hawai'i Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee,
James D. Williams, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Testimony by Nominee Jim Williams

Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani and members of the Committee on Education; thank you for giving me this opportunity to appear before you today. I also want to thank those members of the committee who were able to find time to meet with me earlier this week.

It is an honor to have been nominated by Governor Abercrombie to serve on the Board of Education in this first group of appointees since the recent enactment of the Constitutional amendment.

The Department of Education is now at an important crossroad. With a new system for selecting a Board of Education, we have the opportunity for a new beginning. I believe it is critically important for our students and for the future of our state that we seize this opportunity to dramatically improve the performance of our public schools.

Since my days teaching on Molokai, first at Kaunakakai School, then at Molokai High and Intermediate, and more recently as developer and co-founder of Voyager Charter School, I have had a strong commitment to our public school system and a passion for finding ways to improve our schools.

As my career has evolved, I have had the good fortune to hold leadership positions in a number of organizations and gain experience and perspective that will guide me in my service on the Board of Education.

As a teacher, I have been on the front lines of education. As a BOE member, my teaching experience will both inform my decisions on educational policy, and also give me insights into how policy decisions will impact practitioners. While teaching, I got involved in the teachers union and eventually served as HSTA president. As a union leader, I participated in the collective bargaining process and learned about how the DOE operates at the management level. On the BOE, that knowledge and experience will be invaluable, since by statute the Board is represented in contract negotiations. In addition, as the president of a 10,000+ member organization and more recently in a brief stint as its Executive Director, I worked with the staff and Board at the top level of one of our State's largest organizations. As directed in Act 5, knowledge of large organizations is one of the qualifications for BOE members.

After leaving teaching, my career moved in the direction of the field of health benefits. Executive positions at Hawaii Dental Service and Royal State Group gave me vital and invaluable experience in managing organizations that serve hundreds of thousands of people. Along the way, I learned about computer systems, finance, human resources, and continual quality improvement approaches. That career path culminated in my service for 5 years as Administrator of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF). As Administrator, I worked with a Board evenly divided between employer and union representatives, to serve nearly 200,000 employees, retirees and their families.

As a co-founder and developer of Voyager Public Charter School I have had the opportunity to lead the design and implementation of a school that, with limited resources and while serving a broad spectrum of public school students, has produced excellent results. In addition to addressing the

educational program of the school, that effort has meant working on all aspects of school administration, including facilities, finance, safety and collective bargaining. As a BOE member, the experience and knowledge gained with Voyager will enable me to understand the needs of individual schools and the Superintendent's challenges in leading a system with more than 225 schools.

The Constitution (Article X, Section 3.) provides that "The board of education shall have the power, as provided by law, to formulate statewide educational policy and appoint the superintendent of education as the chief executive officer of the public school system." In addition, Act 5 (2011) provides that each nominee "shall have a clear understanding of the board's role in developing and protecting a clear, long-term strategic vision for Hawaii's public schools, and shall understand the need to hold the superintendent of education accountable for making consistent progress toward that vision." To me, this means that the BOE should focus on policy, including first and foremost a long-term strategic vision, and on appointing the Superintendent and holding the Superintendent and his/her direct reports accountable for the performance of the DOE.

If my appointment is confirmed, my first job will be to work with my fellow board members to ensure that our organizational structure supports the aforementioned focus on policy and strategic planning. As the Governor's appointee and given the prevailing sentiment to hold the Governor accountable for improving the performance of our system of education, I believe we have an obligation to seek input from the Governor regarding priorities and strategic direction. It will be my responsibility to apply my unique background and knowledge to help inform the other board

members, so that the whole Board becomes greater than the sum of its parts, in our efforts to guide and support improvements in students' performance.

A major goal of mine is to establish a policy that the focus of the Department's resources at every level will be on student learning and the teacher-student interaction. Such a policy would guide staff assignments at every level, and ensure that ancillary services support the primary mission of the DOE: student learning.

Overall, the qualities that I believe most impact on my ability to serve as a BOE member are my commitment to, experience in, and knowledge of education from several perspectives, my background in collective bargaining from both sides of the table, and my record and reputation of integrity in the various positions I have held.

If the Senate confirms my appointment, I will give my full energies to work with Governor Abercrombie, the other Board members, and the Superintendent of Education to give our community the public school system it deserves.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to all those who submitted testimony on my behalf or who came to testify today. I thank the committee for considering my nomination, and I look forward to answering your questions.

Jim Williams

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House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1101

**COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES**
SUBCOMMITTEES:
READINESS
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

**COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES**
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE, OCEANS & INSULAR
AFFAIRS

April 4, 2011

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

Re: GM 657 (James D. Williams)
Date of Hearing: Wednesday, April 6, 2011
Time: 1:15 pm
Place: Capitol Conference Room 225

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

The purpose of this testimony is to offer support in confirmation of James D. Williams to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I urge your committee to recommend his confirmation to the full Senate.

In reviewing the qualifications for Board of Education members established by the Legislature, I believe that you will find that Mr. Williams meets all stated criteria. I have known Mr. Williams for about ten years, during my tenure in the State Senate and continuing now in Congress. Throughout this time, I have seen him perform in a variety of roles, including charter school advocate, union leader, and interim HSTA Executive Director.

In my experience, he has always been enthusiastic in pursuing the goals of the organization or cause that he represents, so he will certainly serve the Board of Education well in this regard. As a charter school reformer and former teacher, Mr. Williams has the necessary background experience with best practices in the field of education. In addition, his record demonstrates a background in collective bargaining, the ability to work with a variety of persons and interests in a collaborative manner, as well as a deep commitment to public education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge you to support confirmation of James D. Williams to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen Hanabusa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress
Hawaii, District 1



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

GM657 Confirmation of **James D. Williams** to the
State of Hawai'i Board of Education

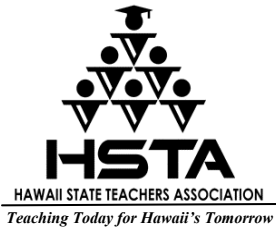
Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to support the confirmation of James D. Williams to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have appointed Williams as an at-large member for a three-year term ending June 30, 2014.

Williams has an impressive record of public service, and I was pleased to learn that he applied to serve on the Board of Education. Williams has 29 years of senior management experience in a variety of education and health benefits organizations. Williams began his career as a Social Studies teacher at Kaunakakai School and Molokai High School where he served for 11 years. Williams then served as President, Chairman of the Board and Chief Governance Office at the Hawai'i State Teachers Association (HSTA) during the last three years of his teaching career. Williams then went on to executive positions at organizations including Hawai'i Dental Service, Royal State Corporation and Mutual Benefit Association. In 2009, he retired as the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawai'i Employer-Union Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) where he administered benefits for approximately 180,000 state employees, retirees and dependents and oversaw premium collection and disbursements of more than \$550 million. In 2010, Williams served as Interim Executive Director for HSTA prior to the appointment of the incumbent, Al Nagasako.

Williams brings deep and varied experience to the BOE that will benefit governance of our public school system. Williams has worked with large, complex organizations in his roles at HSTA and EUTF. He has participated in collective bargaining and has experience interacting with the Department of Education at the management level. As a former teacher on Molokai, Williams also understands issues and challenges at the school level. Additionally, Williams brings experience with public charter schools in Hawai'i. During his tenure as President and CEO of the Royal State Learning Foundation, Williams helped to found the Voyager Charter School. Currently, Voyager is in its ninth year, and Williams continues to be involved as Vice-Chair on its local school board and as Chair of the Voyager School Foundation.

I am excited that Williams is willing to serve on the BOE. I have full confidence that his wealth of professional experiences and his leadership abilities will make him a valuable and contributing leader for public education in our state. I look forward to working with him. I know that you will find Williams well qualified for the BOE and encourage you to confirm him.



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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 657: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES D. WILLIAMS, for a term to expire 6-30-2014
Attachments: HEE Voting Members and Participants 20110301.pdf

HE'E Coalition

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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 657: Written testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, JAMES D. WILLIAMS, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

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
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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 657: Comments on Gubernatorial Nominee, James D. Williams, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

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. Williams by the Governor was limited. Please consider asking Mr. Williams 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

Senate
Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

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

Testimony
GM 657

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Will Miyake, former deputy director of the Hawaii Government Employees Association. I am submitting testimony as an individual to urge your committee to recommend confirmation of James Williams as a member of the Board of Education to the full Senate.

I have known Jim for over 25 years during his career as an administrator with Royal State Insurance, the Royal State Learning Foundation that created the Voyager Charter School, and as a member and administrator of the Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF).

As a former public school teacher on Molokai and as past president of the Hawaii State Teachers Association, Jim has always been committed to excellence in public education yet is fully aware of the difficulties teachers, administrators and support staff face everyday to provide quality education and a nurturing environment for Hawaii's children. He understands teacher issues and he is the only candidate that has experience in public sector contract negotiations, contract administration, and public employee rights and benefits. Such first hand knowledge can help the Board of Education as it defines its objectives to improve academic performance in light of the limited human and financial resources available.

As the head of the Royal State Learning Foundation, Jim worked tirelessly with selected public schools on Kauai and Oahu to provide teachers new educational methods and techniques to improve their teaching skills. Over 1,000 public school teachers were trained during his stewardship. Those same teaching methods are used by the Voyager Charter School in Honolulu that he helped create. He knows from experience how student performance and staff morale can be improved when schools are not burdened by the bureaucracy of the Department of Education. Such experience can help foster new approaches to teaching, as well as promote organizational changes that help principals and support personnel achieve their mission.

Appointed by Governor Cayetano, Jim briefly served as an employee trustee on the first Board of the Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund in 2003. In 2004 he was hired as its administrator after the previous administrator relocated to the mainland. For someone with Jim's background in labor to be hired by the EUTF Board was no easy

feat considering it required the majority approval of both the employer and union trustees. Even though he represented union employees, he won the respect of the employer for his fairness and objectivity during his service on the Board. He performed admirably as the administrator until his retirement in 2009. Besides having valuable experience in health benefit administration, he understands the complexity of the State budget and legislative process and is realistic as to what is achievable and what is not. However, Jim is not afraid to fight for what is right, even if it may seem unpopular to many. He is committed to making our public schools the best they can be and he has the kind of experience necessary to help the Board and Department of Education achieve its goals for Hawaii's children.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge your committee to support confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education member.

Will Miyake
227 Namokueha Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senate
Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Wednesday, April 6, 2011; 1:15 p.m.
Capitol Conference Room 225
Testimony
GM 657

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Irene Nakamoto and I am testifying as an individual and as a representative of the Quality School Network in strong support of the confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education Member. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Mr. Williams for about 20 years. Initially, I became acquainted with Jim Williams while I was a principal at Ewa Elementary. Through Royal State's non-profit arm, Mr. Williams initiated an approach called Emergent Education and shared that concept, as well as, speakers with my faculty. Thereafter, we worked at the development of a Quality School Network (QSN) under his leadership and provided numerous conferences for teachers. QSN brought in outstanding and world-renowned speakers from different parts of the United States so teachers would have an opportunity to hear innovative ideas.

Mr. Jim Williams meets and exceeds the qualifications of this position. Despite the many conflicting ideas and suggestions provided during organizational meetings, Mr. Williams always demonstrated sincere integrity by standing up for what he felt was "right" and "just" even when it went against the majority. Inevitably, when we heard his ideas, we always agreed with him because it had integrity and civic virtue. His sense of ethical standards shows responsibility and commitment and we could not argue with him on this. No one is more committed to a goal he set out to do than Mr. Williams. With his experience and knowledge of best educational practices through his work with schools and Total Quality Management/Learning, he is a walking "think tank" of best practices. As we worked with Mr. Williams on Quality School Network it was evident that he had a vision for the best public education. Mr. William's commitment to education is clearly evident in his life-long learning and experiences and his work with organizations and schools. He has the ability to pull together disjointed elements and make them a constructive "whole" that is operational. He can vision the complexities of the structural organization as well as analyze the daily functioning of organizations and schools. Through his work with quality learning, he was able to pull together and initiate a Quality School Network that provided important and meaningful sessions/conferences for teachers and administrators on the Total Quality Learning Process as well as other Best Practices. The Board of Education will be enriched by the expertise, experience, and knowledge of Mr. James Williams.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge you to support the confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education member.

Irene T. Nakamoto
1685 Lima Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Erin Conner

From: Lynne Matusow [lynnehi@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 3:00 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: Matusow Lynne
Subject: GM 657, Appointment of James D. Williams to the Board of Education, hearing Wed., April 6, 2011, 1:15 pm

April 1, 2011,

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Education Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the confirmation of James (Jim) D. Williams to the Board of Education.

Jim is committed to education. Most of his adult life has been in that field. He has been a teacher in the public schools, is active with the charter schools, and held senior management positions. He is experienced in financial matters, employee relations, and planning.

I met Jim several years ago when I was elected to the Honolulu Tower Board of Directors. As both board president and vice president he led our homeowners association with distinction. Often he would anticipate problems and they would be dealt with before they had a chance to develop into serious headaches. He is of high moral character and extremely ethical.

I know Jim would be an asset to the Board of Education and look forward to see him bringing the school and library systems in Hawai'i into an era of unparalleled excellence. I ask you to vote to confirm him.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Lynne Matusow
60 N. Beretania, #1804
Honolulu, HI 96817
531-4260

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 4:12 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: cdaeuffer@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for GM657 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM657

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Carl J. Daeuffer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: cdaeuffer@lava.net
Submitted on: 4/1/2011

Comments:

My name is Dr. Carl J. Daeuffer, retired emeritus Prof. of Education, UH Manoa and I am testifying as an individual on behalf of James Williams' appointment as Board of Education member.

I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate. I have know Mr. Williams in his capacity as the Administrator of the Hawaii Employer-Union Benefits Trust Fund during my term as Trustee - September 2008-January 2010.

During this rewarding and extremely challenging period I found Mr. Williams to be a person of high integrity, extremely dependable and a leader who consistently focused his efforts toward developing solutions that best serve the concerns and needs of the employees, the retirees and the State of Hawaii employer.

Inasmuch as there many parents, school personnel (teachers and principals) and elected officials who are desirous of improving the Hawaii public schools, I believe that Mr. Williams will focus his efforts, with integrity, civic virtue and high ethical standards, toward developing solutions that would best serve the concerns and needs of public school students, teachers and parents.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge you to support confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education member.

Dr. Carl J. Daeuffer
4389 Malia Street Apt 260
Honolulu, HI 96821

Senate

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

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

Testimony
GM 657

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Steve Hirakami and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science Public Charter School and the Hawaii Charter Schools Network in strong support of confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education Member. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Mr. Williams for over ten years as a fellow board member on the Hawaii Charter Schools Network and in collaboration between charter school board members and administrators.

Jim definitely meets the minimum and desired qualifications of a BOE member. He has broad experience in collective bargaining (as an Interim Director of the HSTA), educational leadership and management (being a long time boardmember of voyager Charter School), and even served as the Director of the Employee Union Trust Fund.

Jim has always conveyed a sense of rational thought, collaborative relations, and knows how to get things done.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge you to support confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education member.

Steve Hirakami
12-4265 Kalapana Hwy
Pahoa, HI 96778

Senate

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

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

Testimony
GM 657

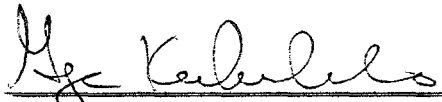
Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is George Kaho'ohanohano and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education Member. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Mr. Williams Since March of 2005 when I was appointed to the EUTF Board of Trustees. Mr. Williams has always shown me to be a professional in his handling of the situations and the day to day operation of the Employers Union Trust fund while he was at the leadership position. He has worked with me as a director and when I was the Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of the EUTF and found him to always be able to get the information needed and ask the questions needed to satisfactorily meet the job that we needed to do.

The qualifications that he has make him more than qualified to sit on this very important board. I will not go into his detailed qualifications as I know that you will have most of the information at your disposal already. With his back ground in the Education system before the EUTF and again after gives him more of an insight as to what needs to be done than most people in the area of the Education of our future leaders.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and give what information that I have on Mr. Williams, I do not want to use valuable time with repeating information that you already have on him. I strongly urge you to support confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education member.



George Kaho'ohanohano
2723 Kamelani Loop
Pukalani, Maui, Hawai'i 96768-8744

Corrected Copy

Senate

Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 1:15 p.m.
Capitol Conference Room 225

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Joan Lee Husted and I am submitting this testimony as an individual in strong support of the confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education member. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Mr. Williams for almost forty years from the time he was a probationary teacher on Molokai. I have worked with him when he was a member of the HSTA Negotiations Team, an Association board member and the Association's president. I have followed his career closely during those forty years

As I reviewed the qualifications listed in Act 005, sec. 302-F, I am convinced the Mr. Williams fully meets the legislative minimum qualifications as well as those listed as ideal. In his various paid and volunteer roles, he gained a reputation as a man who expected the highest ethical standards for himself and those around him. In his entire career there has never been a hint of improper activities.

As both a member of the HSTA Negotiations Team and the President of the Association, he was one of the brightest and diligent members I had the pleasure. He never took on a role half-heartedly. Whatever task he took on, he did so fully and thoroughly. It is what made him so valuable as both a staff member and volunteer.

His experience with the Association and other public and private sector entities has provided him with substantial management and planning experience. A review of his resume reflects strategic and tactical planning work almost unmatched by many in this community. But throughout his career he has remained committed to the improvement of public education as evidenced by his work with the Hawaii State Teachers Association, Royal State Trust and Voyager Charter School. His work with Voyager is particularly instructive because Voyager was the first start-up charter school. To take that first step required an ability to work with various community entities with competing interests and with Mr. Williams as chair, Voyager enjoys a reputation as a well-founded and well run charter school.

Mr. Williams is one of brightest people it has been my good pleasure to know. He is an out of the box thinker with the fine ability to know how far to push the limits. Many of the negotiations resource materials he developed for the Association both as a team member and president are still in use today.

One of my favorite memories about Mr. Williams occurred in 1972, when he was a member of the Negotiations Team. Following the completion of the 1972-1974 collective bargaining agreement, HSTA was notified by IRS that the collective bargaining agreement exceeded the Nixon wage and price guideline and that HSTA could appeal. With Congresswoman Mink's help, the Association sent Mr. Williams to argue our case before the Wage and Price Specialization Board. Thanks to Mr. Williams, the Association prevailed.

It is that kind of intelligence and courage Mr. Williams will bring to the Board of Education.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony and I strongly urge you to support confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education member.

Joan Lee Husted
Honolulu, Hawaii
April 4, 2011

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Wednesday, April 6, 2011; 1:15 p.m.

Capitol Conf. Room 225

Testimony

GM 657

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Laraine Yasui and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education Member. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Mr. Williams for many years while I was a teacher, and worked with him on several political campaigns through the years.

I'd say the best way to describe Jim is "cool head" because he is very thoughtful and patient. He is a good listener and works well with others. I think he would be a tremendous asset to the Board of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge you to support the confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education member.

Laraine Yasui

Pearl City, HI

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Wednesday, April 6, 2011; 1:15 p.m.

Capitol Conference Room 225

Testimony

GM 657

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education,

My name is June Motokawa and I am testifying as an individual in strong support for the confirmation of James (Jim) Williams as a member for the newly appointed Hawaii State Board of Education.

I have known Jim since his days as a young teacher on Molokai and as a member of the Hawaii State Teachers' Association Negotiations Team and Committee. Since that time, Jim's life and work experience undoubtedly qualifies him for the major tasks before the new Board of Education. In my opinion, he more than qualifies for the requirements set in Act 005/state statutes. His accomplishments are a record of his intellect, creativity and integrity, and his knowledge of best practices and his commitment to education (the teaching and learning process), and educational leadership are reflected in his life's work ... and that work, I believe, have contributed much to the well being of citizens in our state. Jim's leadership as founder and Board member of the successful Voyager Charter School speaks well for his passion and commitment for out of the box thinking for our schools.

Previous to his years with Voyager School, he took it upon himself to learn and gain expertise to train teachers in a method to help special needs students and adults called the Feuersteins's Instrumental Enrichment. He also trained as a facilitator of Demings' Total Quality Management /Total Quality Learning and Continual Quality Improvement. I say again, he more than qualifies as a Board of Education member.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I urge your support for James Williams' confirmation as a Board of Education member.

June Motokawa

1401 8th Ave.

Honolulu, HI 96816

Senate

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

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

Testimony
GM 657

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Laura Colbert and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education Member. I urge your committee to **recommend confirmation** to the full Senate.

I have known Mr. Williams almost 10 years as a fellow member of the Board of directors for the Voyager School, a public charter school in Kakaako.

Jim meets the statutory qualifications for Board of Education members because he has:

- A record of integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical standards. He has demonstrated this repeatedly and consistently in our Voyager School Board of Directors meetings as this is one of his core values.
- Engages in constructive interaction with his fellow Board members and demonstrates follow through on commitments and actions
- Knows best practices in education as illustrated by the founding of the the Royal State learning foundation and then Voyager School which has a curriculum based on sound research and proven effectiveness in schools and classrooms
- Demonstrates excellence in educational governance as the past President of the School Board of Directors

There are other qualifications that Jim possesses:

- Understanding of collective bargaining as he led the final negotiations of the HSTA collective bargaining contract negotiations
- Experience with a track record in successfully governing complex organizations as he has 30 years as the leader (President or CEO) or other senior management positions
- He is articulate, understands, and pivotal in helping to shape consensus surrounding board policies
- Above all, Jim is committed to education as demonstrated in his long career in the field and founding of the Royal State Learning Foundation and the Voyager School.

I trust Jim Williams as an educational leader, colleague, and friend.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge you to **support confirmation** of James Williams as a Board of Education member.

Laura Colbert
956 Iopono Loop
Kailua, HI 96734

Senate
Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

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

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Sue Deuber and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education Member. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

As principal of Voyager Public Charter School, I have worked closely with Mr. Williams for the past nine years. He is a man of integrity with a commitment to excellence that is evident in all he does. His uncompromisingly high ethical standards make him an excellent choice for the Board of Education. Not only does he hold himself to high standards, he "runs a tight but fair ship" that supports and expects the highest quality from others as well.

Throughout my time working with Mr. Williams I have been continually inspired by his deep commitment to education and to the service of others. He is guided by an inner purpose that keeps the good of children as the primary focus. Having been a teacher and also having served in an educational leadership capacity, Mr. Williams understands and appreciates the challenges of managing everyday education matters while keeping focused on the long-term strategic vision.

Mr. Williams' twenty-nine years of senior management experience has equipped him with extensive skills in financial management, human resources, and contract negotiations ~ a very rare find for someone whose heart and commitment lies in improving public education. Having served on multiple Boards Mr. Williams has honed a multi-faceted perspective that will be a great asset to the complex task set before the Board of Education. Whatever Mr. Williams does, he does with 100% commitment and effort! I honestly know of no one better suited for the task.

In closing, Mr. Williams is an excellent problem solver, approaching complex situations with deliberation, clarity, and creativity. I consider him one of my life mentors, and am grateful to have worked so closely with him for the last nine years. Although Voyager will miss his guidance and involvement, Mr. Williams' conscientious commitment to and thoughtful participation on the Hawaii State Board of Education will be a tremendous asset to our public education system.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and without reservation, I strongly urge you to support confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education member.

Sincerely,

Susan Deuber, M.Ed.
Principal, Voyager Public Charter School
Kailua, Hawaii

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Testimony – GM657

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

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education:

It is with a high degree of personal pleasure that I offer my individual testimony , strongly supporting James D. Williams to be confirmed to serve as a member of the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

Mr. Williams and I have known each other for 20 years, and have enjoyed a close professional relationship and personal friendship with him over the years. We first met when he joined the Royal State Insurance Group as Senior Vice President of Administration. I reported to him as the Company's Vice President of Human Resources and Corporate Secretary. During his tenure with Royal State, his role evolved to head the Company's efforts to give back to the community via educational programs focusing on total quality learning methods and an eventual creation of the Voyager Charter School. Voyager continues to be a model charter school in this State, highly successful in meeting its long term goals and mission and educating more than 200 students per year.

James Williams is a rare find amongst a select few in the State of Hawaii who can offer a wide array of experiences reflected in his professional background. Alongside his work in executive management and with Voyager School, he has directed an education trust, a State health benefits trust fund, and a major dental claims operations. His roles as past President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association and a teacher for more than 10 years in Kaunakakai , Molokai rounds out the qualifications being sought to serve in this daunting and challenging position.

In my view, a true test of character and perseverance is best assessed by how well an individual performs in extenuating circumstances. I have witnessed Mr. Williams' steadfastness in at least three highly challenging instances :

- Demonstrating an attitude of doing what was best for the company by replacing an executive's abrupt departure and preventing interruption in key insurance operations which included self-study to obtain insurance licensing.
- Persevering through intense start-up challenges and conflicts between school stakeholders; facilitating parents, teachers, school administrators and board to restore working relationships and refocus on building school programs and serving the students.
- Seeing through the dissolution of a Trust with effective communication, professionalism and thoroughness.

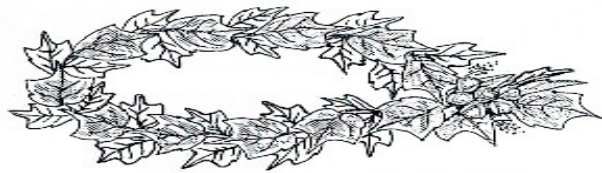
These examples attest to Mr. Williams' record of integrity, knowledge and leadership qualities.

I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony. I urge you to recommend confirmation of James Williams as a member of the Board of Education to the full Senate. Thank you.

FAY M. UYEMA

98-213 Paleo Way

Aiea, Hawaii 96701



'A'ole pau ka 'ike i ka hualau hio'okali'i

Connections Public Charter School

A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana

April 5, 2011

Chairman Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education:

I am the principal of Connections Public Charter School and I strongly support Jim Williams' confirmation as a member of the State Board of Education. I have known Mr. Williams for 17 years. I have always been impressed by his ability to delve into serious issues and speak with an informed voice. Mr. Williams has the strength and ability to truly listen to community concerns and advocate for positive solutions. He honors diversity and does not seek simple solutions to complex issues. As a member of the Board of Education, Mr. Williams brings hope for real reform.

Jim Williams is highly qualified for this position. He has an extensive record of public service reflecting integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical standards. Connections began as a school-within-a-school in 1995. Mr. Williams' work with the Royal State Learning Foundation and his extensive knowledge of educational best practices helped us to form a platform for the establishment of our initial program. His commitment to educational leadership helped our founders develop a clear, long-term strategic vision for our place as part of Hawaii's public school system. As Connections evolved from a school-within-a-school program to become one of the first New Century Public Charter Schools, Mr. Williams helped us in the development of our legally mandated collective bargaining process. Many in the charter school community have struggled to maintain positive relationships with the unions we are required to work with. As a fellow member of the Hawaii Charter Schools Network, Mr. Williams' collaborative leadership style and his commitment to public education inspired many of our first charter school directors and union leaders to develop trust and positive relationships.

Mr. Williams' experiences with the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, the Royal State Learning Foundation, and the Hawaii State Teachers Association demonstrate his extensive background in governing complex organizations. Too often we see government agencies moving from crisis to crisis; putting out the fires. Mr. Williams has a vision for changing how government works. He is committed to working with communities to coordinate efforts and form partnerships to solve serious problems. His extensive background and proven abilities as a community advocate will ensure effective leadership in the reformation of the BOE. The entire state now has an opportunity to gain through the compassionate services of a highly effective leader. I truly believe that our new BOE can find solutions to heal the rifts created by the years of ineffective, dysfunctional leadership under the former BOE. Our state motto cries for righteousness in determining the actions of our new BOE. Jim Williams is the right person for the job. Please support his confirmation.

Sincerely,

John Thatcher
Connections PCS
Hilo, Hawaii

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:33 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: DHigashi46@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for GM657 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM657

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donna Higashi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: DHigashi46@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

It is with great pleasure that I submit my testimony in support of James William to the appointed board position to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I first began working with Mr. Williams when I was an active teacher and leader with HSTA back in 1980. I was the President of HSTA-Central Chapter and he was the president of the HSTA (on leave from his teaching position from Molokai). Mr. Williams greatly assisted our organization which was in its early growing stage and always displayed a positive advocacy for students and teachers.

After he left teaching he was involved in other professions which I feel he will bring to the Board a broader view of our State and educational concerns. Although I retired in 2002, I am still involved with teacher retiree concerns so I again saw and worked with him briefly while he was at the EUTF and at the HSTA. Again he did his job well.

He is articulate and communicates well. I believe he holds high values towards children, teachers and education and will listen and be fair to all.

I am in full support of his nomination to the BOE. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

Sincerely,
/s/ Donna Higashi,
teacher retiree

Senate

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

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

Testimony
GM 657

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Jasmine Foster and I am testifying on behalf of Voyager A Public Charter School in strong support of the confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education Member. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Mr. Williams for 10 years and have worked with him in the capacity of a board member and an administrative assistant.

Mr. Williams is committed to public education and very supportive in finding ways to improve our schools. He has many years of professional experience as a teacher, board member, has held key management positions, and developed and co-founded Voyager A Public Charter School and with these qualifications I feel he is very qualified to be a member of the Board of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge you to support the confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education member.

Jasmine Foster
Waianae, Hawaii

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

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

Testimony
GM 657

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Cenric Ho and I am testifying as a individual in strong support of confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education member. I urge your Committee to recommend his confirmation to the full Senate.

As the former Administrator of the Hawaii Public Employees Health Fund for 27 years until 2001, I have known Mr. Williams since 1977 when he was appointed to our Board of Trustees as the teacher representative by Governor George Ariyoshi. At that time, our Board was comprised of three private sector representatives, three collective bargaining representatives, a teacher, a clergy person, and the state director of finance.

In addition to being a Trustee, Mr. Williams served as the Chairman of the Board for four years and excelled in bringing together his fellow Trustees with different backgrounds and personal agendas to work together as a team by patiently listening to them and treating them with respect and dignity. He studied Hawaii State Laws, pertinent sections of collective bargaining Agreements, and numerous regulations to help each and every Board member make fair and equitable health benefit decisions for 50,000 employees and 31,000 retirees of the State of Hawaii and its county governments. The Board administered a budget of over \$320 million in the fiscal year ended 2000.

By utilizing the advice of the State Attorney General and the Health Fund's Benefits Consultant, Mr. Williams made sure each Trustee was afforded an opportunity to be properly advised at a public meeting on all legal and cost benefits issues before any tentative or formal decision or contract was approved by the Board.

I can attest the Mr. Williams was one of the Health Fund's most outstanding Trustees appointed by various Governors to our Board of Trustees. He attended all meetings, was punctual with assignments on various Committees, knew parliamentary procedures, and how to voice his concerns at public Board meetings, before the Legislature, the State and County Budget Directors, collective bargaining union directors, and numerous health and group life insurance carriers contracting executives.

Mr. Williams will be an attribute to the new State Board of Education with his unique skills of working and communicating with various employees, students, teachers, collective bargaining unions, and special educational interest groups. His varied business background coupled with his many years of teaching experience in Hawaii public schools and working with fellow teachers and the DOE administration, and his prior collective bargaining expertise with the HSTA union makes him well-suited to study today's and future complex educational issues including setting teaching and learning standards, budgeting, funding, policymaking, computer data analysis, and management problems. As a team member on the newly appointed Board of Education, Mr. Williams will be an integral part of spearheading and implementing new visions and directions for Hawaii's schools, students, and teachers.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before your Committee. I urge you to support the confirmation of James Williams as a Board of Education member.

Cenric Ho
Pearl City, Hawaii

Senate

Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

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

Testimony
GM 657

Chairman Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education.

My name is Dale Vermeer and I am testifying as an individual in strong support of confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education Member. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Mr. Williams for 17 years and have served on three non-profit boards with him over the last 15 years. Those boards were Royal State Learning Foundation, Voyager Charter School Local School Board, and Voyager School Foundation.

As a board member, Jim Williams met every test of leadership with his depth of knowledge, expertise, experience, insight and preparedness, without exception. He more than any other individual, was responsible for setting a very high bar for commitment and participation in community service on the Voyager Charter School Local School Board. The result of which is one of the state's top performing public schools.

A particularly noteworthy achievement of Jim's leadership was in meeting the challenge of bringing together factions of parents, school staff and instructors, and community members to assume the responsibility of governing the school as its Board of Directors.

Also, it should be noted that the original Detailed Implementation Plan (2001) that set out Voyager's vision of educational evolution has stood the test of time. Having been formally reviewed twice in the last five years with virtually no amendments, its revolutionary broad scope and depth continue to inspire and engage all that are part of Voyager's school community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify, and I urge you to support confirmation of James Williams as Board of Education member.

Respectfully,

Dale Vermeer
1185 Akipola Street
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

Erin Conner

From: Candace Furubayashi [ckfhawaii@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:01 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: GM 657--In support of Jim Williams for the Board of Education from Mike McCartney.

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

Please accept my written testimony in support of Jim Williams for membership on the Board of Education. I have known Jim for more than 25 years. He is a life long educator who will put the needs of the students first. He understands the issues and challenges our public schools face and is ready to lead by making the tough decisions that will need to be made. One of his guiding principles is the pursuit of quality and commitment to continuous improvement. I believe he will apply these principles in his decisions when serving on the board. Mahalo for your consideration on this important appointment.

With my respect and sincere aloha,
Mike McCartney

Sent from miPad

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 11:59 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: normansakamoto@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM657 on 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/6/2011 1:15:00 PM GM657

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Norman Sakamoto
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: normansakamoto@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:
Testimony in Support of GM 657 Jim Williams