

LATE



The Senate Committee on Education  
Wednesday, April 6, 2011  
1:15 p.m.

**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.**

Dear Chairperson Tokuda and Committee Members:

I wish to speak in support of the confirmation of James D. Williams to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have known Jim for thirty years in his various professional roles and positions. I have served with Jim on the State of Hawai'i Health Fund Board in decades past. I worked with Jim on a wide spectrum of issues beginning with his role as the President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association through his service as the Administrator of the Employer Union Trust Fund, and finally as the Acting Executive Director of HSTA. In all of these capacities Jim has demonstrated a work ethic that exceeds all expectations. His knowledge of public K-12 education is complete and broad. He understands employment issues, and the particularities of public employment in Hawai'i. He holds not only others, but himself to the highest standards of achievement. There is no one better prepared or capable to serve the public interest on the Board of Education.

I strongly recommend his confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.N. Musto'.

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

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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 Amy Vorderbruegge 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 five years through our work at Voyager Public Charter School. In that time, Jim and I have served together on the Local School Board and Voyager Foundation Board. Jim gives of his time and talent as our Foundation chair and LSB vice chair.

Jim's experience at various levels of education make him an excellent candidate for the Board of Education. He has the perspective of both a teacher and a leader and is able to use these perspectives to make decisions that are best for the system as a whole. Jim exemplifies integrity, as a charter school leader he has consistently made difficult decisions based on what was right for the movement, albeit the challenge it may have presented. High expectations are the norm when working with Mr. Williams. His commitment to systemic change in education began years ago with the dream of Voyager Charter School. Innovation, hard work and perseverance have moved that dream to reality. This is evidence that Jim's heart, mind and soul are centered on the efforts of bettering education for all Hawai'i's youth. I have no doubt that Jim's past experience in education, leadership, and decision making have prepared him for the challenging work expected and demanded of a Hawaii State Board of Education member.

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

Amy Vorderbruegge  
Methodology/Training Coordinator  
Voyager Public Charter School  
Honolulu, Hawai'i



KANEOHE  
RANCH

LATE

April 6, 2011

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

RE: Hearings re GM651 through GM659

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

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

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

Thank you for your kind consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

H. Mitchell D'Olier  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer