

# GM525

Justin Mew

Confirmation to the  
Hawaii Teacher Standards Board  
EDU



GOV. MSG. NO. **525**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

January 5, 2012

The Honorable Shan Tsutsui, President  
and Members of the Senate  
Twenty-Sixth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Tsutsui and Members of the Senate,

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board**:

HAWAI'I TEACHER  
STANDARDS BOARD

TERM TO EXPIRE

REMARKS

Justin Mew

6/30/2013

Officer/Secondary/O'ahu

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
**Niu Valley Middle School**  
**An International Baccalaureate MYP World School**  
310 HALEMAUMAU STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96821-2099  
USA  
Ph. (808) 377-2440, Fax (808) 377-2444  
[www.niuvalleymiddle.org](http://www.niuvalleymiddle.org)

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

### **Response to Questions on Nomination to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board**

- 1) Why did you decide to apply to serve on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board?

Seeds were planted when former Board member Caroline Wong approached me and described how my attributes and background could benefit the Board. She was planning to retire from the state, and resign from the Board. Months later, the HGEA asked me to be the HGEA nominee to Governor Abercrombie to fill the vacancy assigned to a school principal. I was informed there was a lot of support from the field.

While on the one hand, serving on the Board is a professional duty to the education profession, and thus answering the call to serve, my personal decision was based on my determination to improve student learning and their growth through teachers. As a sitting principal, I know first-hand that there is a direct correlation between student learning and the abilities of the teacher. All principals should have highly qualified and highly effective teachers available to them. The HTSB has a significant role in providing a pool of teachers through the licensing process. It is professionally rewarding to have an active role in various aspects of teacher licensing.

- 2) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, 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 Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Highlight the three qualities you feel make you a highly qualified candidate.

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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

As a sitting principal, one of my primary activities is to staff my school. The importance can not be underestimated—having of a highly qualified and highly effective teacher in Hawaii's classrooms for maximum student learning and growth to occur. Through the interview process, I select the very best available for my students and community. Once a teacher is hired, I observe, support and evaluate performance. I collaborate on professional development to strengthen teacher effectiveness. In my 31 year career as an educator (teacher, state curriculum specialist, school administrator), I've experienced a range of teachers, developed an image for teachers needed in our schools, and now have an opportunity to support teachers through the HTSB.

In addition to interviews conducted at the school level, I am trained/certified as an intake interviewer for the Department of Education. This gives me a broad, yet standardized view of teacher behaviors expected in Hawaii's schools.

As Hawaii's State Science Education Specialist, I sat on the Teacher Education Committee for Science, and on accreditation teams for State Approved Teacher Education Programs. Specifically: University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education, Chaminade University, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Brigham Young University—Hawaii, and University of Hawaii at West Oahu. Therefore, I have experience in the process of evaluating teacher training programs against national norms.

On the disciplinary side, in my position as a sitting principal, I have applied the range of progressive discipline to teachers, from no action (conducted investigation that cleared a teacher) to recommendation for dismissal (sustained). I've also applied the teacher evaluation process to maintain employment, as well as to recommend non-renewal of contract.

Three Qualities as a Highly Qualified Candidate:

- a. Passion for improving the public perception and value of the teaching profession.
  - b. Personal experience and peer recognition as a public school teacher, curriculum specialist, and school principal.
  - c. Commitment to decision making based on student learning.
- 3) What do you perceive the role and responsibility of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board as it relates to teacher quality and student achievement?

I believe there is a direct correlation between teacher quality and student achievement. Every child must be provided with a qualified teacher. Therefore, the HTSB must support rigorous and progressive teacher preparation, licensure standards and policies. HTSB has full responsibility for establishing standards for teachers, school counselors, and school librarians. In a related matter, the HTSB has a responsibility to participate in efforts relating to teacher quality, including support for the National Board on one hand, and on the other hand, establishing penalties for teacher misconduct including license revocation.

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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The HTSB has a role in building public confidence in the teaching profession, promoting teaching excellence, and providing more accountability to the public.

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

Short Term Goal: Keep current-- licensure fields and tests, renewal process/audit. Review Hawaii Revised Statutes. To accomplish these goals: Participate actively in Committee Work, and engage in discourse at all levels of HSTB work.

Long Term Goal: Build public confidence and community standing of the teaching profession. To accomplish this goal: Participate in discourse in developing greater awareness, wider exposure and understanding of the HTSB. Investigate new ways, including use of social media to forward HTSB. Enforce accountability through relicensing, audits and hearings.

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

Yes. I have siblings and relatives who are public school teachers. Should any of them become subject to audit and/or hearings, there would be a conflict of interest. In order to overcome any possible conflict of interest:

- Inform the Board of the conflict of interest.
- Recuse myself from participation in Board action relating directly to my family that may result in support or sanctions.

Respectfully submitted,



JUSTIN S. N. MEW, HEAD OF SCHOOL/PRINCIPAL  
Nominee for Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

DATED: HONOLULU, HAWAII, 17 TH DAY OF February 2012

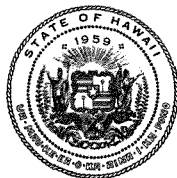
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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

GM525

Testimony



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Re: GM 525 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JUSTIN MEW, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2013**

**Hearing Date: February 22, 2012, 1:15 PM**

**Testifying: Lynn Hammonds, Executive Director, Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board**

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

The Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board strongly supports the consideration of JUSTIN MEW for a new term on the board. Mr. Mew joined the HTSB on July 1, 2011. He currently serves on both the Legislative and By-Laws and Teacher Standards Committees of the board, and brings considerable expertise and perspective as a Department of Education middle school principal. His input has been timely and relevant to the board's policies regarding teacher performance assessments and licensing criteria. The HTSB thanks you for your consideration and asks you to confirm Mr. Mew for a new term on the board through June 30, 2013.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Education

Testimony by  
HGEA/AFSCME Local 152  
February 21, 2012

Governor's Message No. 525

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, HGEA/AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the confirmation of Justin Mew to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Mr. Mew is the proud principal of Niu Valley Middle School. His educational background - Masters Degrees in Education Administration and Secondary Education from the University of Hawaii and his diverse educational employment, professional experience both locally and nationally along with his awards and publications make him an ideal nominee for the board. He is a committed educator and as a principal he understands the expectations for classroom teachers. Without a doubt he will bring relevant experiences, knowledge and leadership to the board.

We respectfully request your favorable consideration of Mr. Mew and thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of his confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Randy Perreira  
Deputy Executive Director



February 15, 2012

Letter of Testimony for Justin Mew, confirmation hearing for Hawaii Teacher Standards Board on Wednesday, February 22 at 1:15 pm in Conference room 225 .

Senator Jill Tokuda,

This letter of testimony is being written for Justin Mew, a member of Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Because of Justin's background and experiences as a state level science Resource Teacher and Principal, he brings much knowledge and strategies to the plate at the board meetings. Because of the wide range of areas that he covers as a present Principal, he is equipped with the wisdom and expertise to share and help the board to address areas of unfamiliar grounds in a rational manner.

As a member of the board, and working with Justin, I highly recommend that he be re-confirmed for another term as he is part of our present positive momentum.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ruth Silberstein  
Principal

**Erin Conner**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 15, 2012 10:49 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** jeffrey\_shitaoka@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM525 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM GM525

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jeffrey Shitaoka  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jeffrey\\_shitaoka@yahoo.com](mailto:jeffrey_shitaoka@yahoo.com)  
Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2012 5:48 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Kelly\_Bart@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM525 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM GM525

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Kelly Bart  
Organization: LIkelike School  
E-mail: [Kelly\\_Bart@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:Kelly_Bart@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

Comments:

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2012 8:05 AM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** lorelei\_karasaki@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM525 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM GM525

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Lorelei Karasaki  
Organization: DOE  
E-mail: [lorelei\\_karasaki@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:lorelei_karasaki@notes.k12.hi.us) Submitted on: 2/16/2012

Comments:  
Mr. Justin Mew is an excellent representative to HTSB.

## Erin Conner

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2012 2:20 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** cindy\_giorgis@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM525 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM GM525

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: cindy giorgis  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [cindy\\_giorgis@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:cindy_giorgis@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/16/2012

### Comments:

I have worked with Justin as a fellow principal for 8.5 years in Kaiser complex schools. He is a great person, a great leader and is very thorough and dedicated to his work as a school administrator and in his other roles within the DOE.

**Erin Conner**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2012 2:50 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** john\_sosa@notes.k12.hi.us  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM525 on 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 2/22/2012 1:15:00 PM GM525

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: John P Sosa  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [john\\_sosa@notes.k12.hi.us](mailto:john_sosa@notes.k12.hi.us)  
Submitted on: 2/20/2012

**Comments:**

Mr. Mew will be an excellent representative for Principals.