

# GM 781

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALFRED CASTLE, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Report Title: Early Learning Council

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s):



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony in SUPPORT of Governor Message 781  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, ALFRED CASTLE, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

March 27, 2012 at 1:15 pm, Conference Room 106

Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor Message 781, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALFRED CASTLE, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Alfred Castle, the Governor's nominee to represent the philanthropic sector on the Early Learning Council (ELC), has been dedicated to building a comprehensive, integrated high quality early learning system in Hawaii for the last 14 years. In 1998, Mr. Castle returned to Hawaii from California, where he was the Vice President and adjunct professor of history in the California State University System, to take the helm at the 120-year old Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation. That same year, he began an active partnership with the Good Beginnings Alliance and most recently has been serving as a member of the ELC's finance committee. Widely respected by pre-school directors across the state, Mr. Castle has sponsored numerous professional development opportunities for directors and teachers. He created an important low-income tuition assistance program for families having trouble paying tuition at high quality accredited centers.

Mr. Castle is a distinguished pioneer philanthropist who is a key contact with mainland funders such as the Pew Charitable Trusts and the WK Kellogg Foundation. In a national election by national foundations funding in early education, he was elected with the CEO of the Heinz Charitable Trust of Pittsburgh to serve on the governing board of the National Early Education Funders Collaborative in Washington, DC. He is also a past trustee of the Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF) in Maryland. He has been a tireless fund raiser and promoter of Hawaii's causes with his local and mainland foundation peers. In 2006, Mr. Castle chaired the Council on Foundations National Foundations Conference.

Mr. Castle is an ideal link between the public and private sectors to build a high quality,

integrated, comprehensive education system. His experience has included, being the key initiator of our Pre-K-grade 3 efforts by lobbying the Kellogg Foundation to commit to educational reform in our state. His \$10,000,000 matching pledge helped to persuade Kellogg to commit to numerous projects in our state. Last August, he partnered with my Administration by providing some of the funding needed to hire a team for the writing of our State's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge application. Most recently, his collaboration with our Department of Human Services, the University of Hawaii's Center on the Family and the Kellogg Foundation to create an important and culturally-sensitive Quality Improvement and Rating System to enhance the quality of early childhood programs, received national recognition and will be featured at their annual conference of foundations of GCYF in El Paso, Texas in October. Finally, Mr. Castle works well across cultural communities locally and nationally.

Therefore the Abercrombie Administration is in strong support of Alfred Castle as the philanthropic representative for our state Early Learning Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 781.

**Date:** 3/27/2012

**Committee:** Senate Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** GM 781, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee: ALFRED CASTLE for a Term to Expire 6/30/2014

**Purpose of Bill:** To consider and confirm Alfred Castle to the Early Learning Council for a term to expire 6/30/2014.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports the confirmation of Alfred Castle (Philanthropic Organization Representative) to the Early Learning Council (ELC). Upon your committee's confirmation, Mr. Castle would serve on the ELC from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.

**Alfred Castle** is currently Executive Director, Treasurer, and Trustee of the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation and Henry & Dorothy Memorial Fund for Children. Mr. Castle has a wide-ranging background of teaching, consultancy, and grant making experiences for 40 years. He has documented his philanthropic experiences in Hawaii in several local and national publications. Mr. Castle's numerous professional experiences in the early learning and development field include raising an estimated \$80,000,000 for non-profits since 1983 and over \$20,000,000 from national foundations to support Hawaii's early education sector. Mr. Castle was named Grant Maker of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 2004.

We respectfully request your support and consideration in confirming Alfred Castle to serve on the ELC. Mr. Castle brings an extensive array of reliable expertise, connected experiences, and wide-range knowledge of Hawaii's early childhood community. Mr. Castle's effective communication and outstanding facilitative skills all lead to strong and positive contributions as he serves on the ELC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Castle. His appointment will add and enhance the ELC's community pursuit of implementing Hawaii's high-quality early learning and development system.



## **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

### **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Tuesday, March 27, 2012

1:15 p.m.

Room 016

By

Dr. Linda K. Johnsrud  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost  
University of Hawai'i

GM 781, 782 and 783 Gubernatorial Nominees ALFRED CASTLE, CHRISTINA COX  
and LORA PERRY for the Early Learning Council

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. My name is Linda Johnsrud, Executive Vice President and Provost for the University of Hawai'i System. I have represented President MRC Greenwood on the Early Learning Council since its inception, and I have had the opportunity to work with many of the early childhood education leaders in the state as together we promote a strong system of early learning for Hawai'i.

I am providing testimony in wholehearted support of the three gubernatorial nominees for the Early Learning Council: Alfred Castle, Christina Cox, and Lora Perry. Each of them brings a solid commitment and history of support for improving the early education system of the state. As Executive Director of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation, Al Castle is a leader in the philanthropic community, locally and nationally, and will provide the strong voice needed for the public private partnerships that must be built if we are to succeed in this endeavor. Likewise, Christina Cox as President of KCAA Preschools represents the center-based child care providers and has been a tireless advocate for quality childcare and education. Christina has also been an invaluable partner with P-20 on our P-3 W.K.Kellogg Foundation grant which focuses on preparing children to read by third grade. And finally, I have had the pleasure of serving with Lora Perry, Project Director for Nā Pono No Nā 'Ohana, as a current member of the Early Learning Council, and know her to be a thoughtful, reliable, and active member of the Council and a knowledgeable leader in early education.

I have had the good fortune of working with each of the nominees, and I look forward to serving with them on the Early Learning Council. I respectfully encourage the Committee to confirm these three excellent choices for the Council.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Hawaii State Senate  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Testimony by  
Early Learning Council Chair  
March 27, 2012  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

GM 781: Early Learning Council Gubernatorial Nominee ALFRED CASTLE

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Ihara, Jr., and Committee Members:

As Chair of the Early Learning Council, I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Alfred Castle as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Mr. Castle, as Executive Director of the Samuel and Mary Castle Foundation of Hawaii, has long been known for his active support of early learning in our state. Not only has he served on a number of advisory boards, but he has also provided leadership for the non-profit funders of early learning in Hawaii. The Samuel and Mary Castle Foundation has supported the development of leaders in early learning through the Castle Colleagues program and is currently helping to fund the pilot program for the state's QiRS (Quality Improvement Rating System) which promises to bring greater quality to the early learning experiences of our keiki. Mr. Castle serves on national boards and has been a regular attendee at Kellogg Learning Labs. He will bring a distinctive view of the philanthropy community to the Early Learning Council's conversation and will be an excellent addition.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of Alfred Castle's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. His background and commitment will definitely be assets for the important work of the Council.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Council



Hearing date:  
**Tuesday, Mar 27,**  
**2012; 1:15 pm,**  
**Senate Human**  
**Services Committee**  
**Room 016**

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 1:15 pm  
Conference Room 016

Subject: **GM781: Early Learning Council Gubernatorial Nominee – Alfred Castle**

We wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Alfred Castle be confirmed as a member of the State Early Learning Council. Mr. Castle has led the charge for a state early learning system in Hawaii as Treasurer and Executive Director of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation. Under his leadership, the Foundation provided nearly \$1 million in grants to early childhood providers and advocates in 2011. Additionally, Mr. Castle is the Co-Chair of the Keiki Funders Network, a coalition of Hawai'i philanthropic foundations supporting early childhood education in our state.

The primary mission of the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation is to provide resources to improve the life of Hawai'i's children and families by improving the quality and quantity of early education. Thus, Mr. Castle is extremely well-qualified to serve as the philanthropic representative on the Early Learning Council.

Mahalo for your consideration and your support. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; [lchun@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:lchun@goodbeginnings.org)

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Senate Human Services Committee  
Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 1:15PM  
GM 781 - TESTIMONY

I am writing in strong support of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Alfred L. Castle to represent the philanthropy sector on the State Early Learning Council.

Simply put, Al would be perfect for the Council. He cares deeply about the education and health of young children, is intimately familiar with the policy questions surrounding the subject, and is extremely well-informed on the substantive areas at play. Al also has a deep understanding of the role philanthropy has played, and can play, in the early learning field. Equally important, Al has the requisite personal qualities for such a position. He has integrity, passion, a strong work ethic, and a healthy sense of humor. Al has my enthusiastic and unequivocal support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 541-5471.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Castle.

Michael Broderick

**Michael Broderick**  
President, CEO

**YMCA of Honolulu**  
METROPOLITAN OFFICE  
1441 Pali Highway, Honolulu HI 96813  
P 808 531 3558 F 808 533 1286  
[www.ymcahonolulu.org](http://www.ymcahonolulu.org)



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2943 Kress Street, Suite B • Lihue, HI • 96766-1324  
808-245-6622 • [preschool@aekamalii.com](mailto:preschool@aekamalii.com)

March 21, 2012

RE: GM 781--Consideration of Alfred Castle to the Hawaii Early Learning Council.

Aloha,

I am in support of appointing Mr. Alfred Castle to the Hawaii Early Learning Council. Mr. Castle has long been a strong supporter of the early childhood community. He recognizes the importance of early education and supports educators and programs through grants, trainings and personal consultations.

I feel he would a great asset to the Hawaii Early Learning Council with his invaluable knowledge & understanding of the importance of early childhood education.

With Aloha,

Penni Taketa  
Teacher/ Executive Director  
'Ae Kamalii Preschool  
Lihue, HI 96766  
808 245-6622  
[preschool@aekamalii.com](mailto:preschool@aekamalii.com)

**Board of Directors:**

Leihina Sullivan –Chairperson • Kymi Sakai-  
Vice Chair • Joy-Muira-Koerte • Shana  
Andres • Rachelle Alayvilla • Tiana Sudaria •  
Stacie Nishimura • Daurice Arruda  
Cherish Gokan



**Ex-Officio:**

Kahu James Fung - Minister LCC  
Penni Taketa and Pam Viveiros –  
Teachers/Co-Directors





**Chaminade University**  
OF HONOLULU

March 22, 2012

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Re: Confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Alfred Castle

Dear Committee Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members

My name is Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM, and I serve as President of Chaminade University of Honolulu. I am pleased to support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Mr. Alfred Castle to the Early Learning Council. For the past decade I and Chaminade have closely collaborated with Mr. Castle in his role as the Executive Director of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation. Mr. Castle is not simply a supporter of early childhood education, he has carefully studied what types of programs are most effective and has led the Foundation in its effort to use its resources to expand the use of best practices in early childcare in Hawaii and increase the number of children served. The professional preparation of early childcare center directors and teachers has been of particular concern to Mr. Castle. Chaminade's early childhood programs have greatly benefitted from his mentoring and partnerships.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. Bernard J. Ploeger, SM, PhD  
President

TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Committee on Human Services

FROM: Maryellen Markley, Ph.D., Read Aloud America, Inc.

Telephone: (808) 531-1985

RE: GM 781

Early Learning Council - Nominee Alfred Castle

HEARING: Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 1:15 PM,

Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the staff and nearly 1,500 volunteers for Read Aloud America, Inc. we respectfully urge you to support GM 781, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Alfred Castle, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

***Read Aloud America, Inc.*** is a strong supporter of early childhood education, and has long been an admirer of Alfred Castle and his work as the Executive Director for the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation which grants at least \$2 million a year to upgrade Hawaii preschools. To be clear, we have never received a grant from this foundation, and have no pending applications. We are submitting this testimony in support of Mr. Castle's nomination solely because he has been one of Hawaii's staunchest advocates for early education for many years, and would be perhaps the best possible choice for this position on the Early Learning Council.

Evidence of this is ample. Mr. Castle has helped increase pre-school accreditation before the importance of this was even recognized. The Castle Colleagues program for preschool directors at Chaminade University is a model program that has raised the standards for pre-school directors across the state. And the scholarships made available by the Foundation to help pre-school teachers complete their degrees is so fundamental, and yet so important, that it is nothing short of brilliant.

Alfred Castle is a man who gets things done, and does them well.

As an advocate on behalf of the importance of early learning for more than 14 years, Read Aloud America urges your support of Mr. Castle's nomination to the Early Learning Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in this matter.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [capacitybuild@cs.com](mailto:capacitybuild@cs.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM781 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:47:49 AM

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Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM781

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Holly Henderson  
Organization: Castle Colleagues Program  
E-mail: [capacitybuild@cs.com](mailto:capacitybuild@cs.com)  
Submitted on: 3/21/2012

**Comments:**

I have worked closely with Al Castle for twenty years, and I can assure you that there is no philanthropist in Hawai`i more devoted to the well-being of young children, more tireless in efforts on their behalf, or more knowledgeable about the terrain of early childhood education. He understands philanthropy in a highly sophisticated and comprehensive way, and by leveraging has brought many millions of dollars into the state from other sources as well. His appointment to this position is long overdue; the benefits to the children of Hawai`i-- and thus to our future--will bear testament to that. I urge his confirmation.

**From:** [Robert Whiting](#)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Al Castle's Nomination to the State Early Education Council  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 21, 2012 10:37:21 AM

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To the Senate Human Services Committee:

I support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Al Castle to the State Early Learning Council . As the head of Holy Nativity School in `Aina Haina, I have worked with Mr. Castle over the past eleven years in matters of elementary and early education, and his contributions of knowledge, support and community-building for our school have significantly benefitted the children and parents we serve. His interest in and his contributions to early education are pervasive: independent, public and charter school programs, faculty, staff, children and parents throughout Hawai'i are all subjects of his considerable accomplishment, and he has applied his ability and resources to positively affect the lives of children at the age they need it most. His confirmation as a member of the Council would help expand the contributions that the State of Hawai'i can – and must—make to ensure that our keiki are adequately prepared to begin their educational journey.

Sincerely,

Robert H. Whiting, Ph.D.  
Head of School  
Holy Nativity School  
Honolulu



TESTIMONY TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH STATE LEGISLATURE, 2012 SESSION

TO: Committee on Human Services  
FROM: Elizabeth "Annie" Hiller of PROJECT VISION HAWAII  
RE: GM 781  
Early Learning Council - Nominee Alfred Castle  
HEARING: Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 1:15 PM,  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

Honorable Members of the Committee:

On behalf of PROJECT VISION HAWAII, we encourage your to support GM 781, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, Alfred Castle, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

**PROJECT VISION HAWAII** is a local, preventive health screening initiative that strives for better vision for Hawai'i through screening, advocacy, and research. We provide our services to all ages with a focus on the underserved.

Alfred Castle is without question, the best man for the position on the Early Learning Council. His passion for early childhood education is infectious and his impact permeating. This is evident in his beliefs and practices. His motivation transcends generations which makes his sincere devotion and commitment to this cause axiomatic. Mr. Castle has helped increase pre-school accreditation before the importance of this was even recognized. The Castle Colleagues program for preschool directors at Chaminade University is a model program that has raised the standards for pre-school directors across the state. The scholarships made available by the Foundation to help pre-school teachers complete their degrees is validating and sustainable for effective early childhood education.

Alfred Castle and his legacy have made an impact that models how we implement early childhood education across the state. We are blessed to have opportunity for him to formally advocate for this invaluable cause. There is no doubt that his priority is the Keiki O Ka Aina and no doubt that he will work to ensure that our children are provided with the tools they need to thrive in our communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [stevengalbert@hotmail.com](mailto:stevengalbert@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM781 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:30:51 PM

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Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM781

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Steven Albert  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [stevengalbert@hotmail.com](mailto:stevengalbert@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

Al Castle is the best choice that you could possibly make. His dedication to childcare issues is legendary among childcare professionals. This is the right choice, make it happen.



**Testimony of Alfred L. Castle to the Senate Committee on Human Services  
on March 27, 2012**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation of the gubernatorial nominee Alfred L. Castle for a two-year term starting July 1, 2012 to the Early Learning Council.**

Chair S. Chun Oakland and members, thank you for the opportunity to be considered for the philanthropy representative on the Early Learning Council.

I am grateful to Governor Abercrombie for nominating me. The opportunity to serve Hawaii's children and families through this hybrid public-private council is important as our state has a chance to create an improved comprehensive system of health and education for children.

Since 1836, the Castle family has invested substantial time and treasure in serving our state. In 1894, my great-great grandmother established one of America's oldest charitable foundations dedicated to the education of young children. In 1998, I returned from the California State University System where I was an executive to become executive director of the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation.

Since my assuming the post, I have worked tirelessly to improve the education of children 0-5. To that end, I have initiated numerous programs in pre-school directors training, curricular design, outcomes evaluation, pre-school infrastructure improvements, and system building and advocacy through Good Beginnings Alliance. I have and continue to serve on national boards which has enabled me to advocate for foundation funding for Hawaii's children. The many Kellogg Foundation initiatives underway in Hawaii started with a \$10,000,000 from the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation to attract a \$10,000,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation (see Foundation web site at [www.fdncenter.org/grantmaker/castle](http://www.fdncenter.org/grantmaker/castle) for full information about my grants strategy). Well connected to Hawaii's philanthropy as it relates to children and families, I am situated well to inform my colleagues both on the ELC and in the philanthropic community how public and private dollars will be needed to increase access to quality education, narrow the achievement gaps, and to ensure the basic health and safety needed for community well being.

I have served on numerous boards on the mainland as well as in Hawaii. These include Good Beginnings Alliance, the Hawaii Humanities Council, Academy of the Pacific and Hawaii School for the Girls. I am well read on the historical and current issues in early education and have written and spoken widely on these issues. Working with the Hawaii Business Roundtable on the "Be My Voice Campaign" and as co-chair of the Keiki Funders Network, and as a member of the ELC's Finance Committee, I work well with pre-school providers, teachers, foundation executives, donors, mainland foundations and legislators.

The key role of the ELC is to advise and assist the executive office of Early Learning and the Governor on key legislative initiatives relating to the education and well being of children. The ELC is a key link between government and the large and diverse private sector. In my 2-year term I hope to substantially advance the connectors between public policy and private financial investment and advocacy. I do not see any conflict of interest in my service but would quickly declare it if I did see it.

Bringing the qualities of (1) understanding of the key issues faced by teachers, children and families, (2) knowledge of the private funding world both in Hawaii and on the mainland, and (3) my awareness of the historical origins of our current circumstances I believe I would be of major assistance to the vital work of the ELC.

Your consideration is much appreciated.

Alfred L. Castle  
Executive Director and Treasurer,  
Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation