

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

LATE

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 Al Castle as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Al and his family have a legacy in early learning advocacy. They led us early on in such advocacy and continue strongly today. As Executive Director of the Samuel and Mary Castle Foundation of Hawaii, Al 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. Al 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 Al 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,

Dee Jay Mailer
Early Learning Council

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LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

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

DATE: Friday, March 27, 2012
TIME: 1:15 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

FROM: Michael Robinson
President

RE: **Testimony in Strong Support
GM 781 – Nomination of Alfred Castle
Early Learning Council**

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to express my **full support** for Governor Abercrombie's appointment of Alfred Castle to the Early Learning Council.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Al for more than a decade. Although my work has been primarily in the health care arena, Al's reputation as a thoughtful opinion leader in the education realm is unrivaled. Many of us from the non-profit community admire the wisdom and perspective that Al brings to a variety of settings.

Most importantly, you can be certain that Al will always also act with the public's best interest top of mind. With that I respectfully provide my full endorsement to his appointment to this important committee.

LATE



Tuesday, March 27, 2012

1:15 PM

Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

RE: GM 781 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALFRED CASTLE, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Dear Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

HAIS supports GM 781 and Al Castle's appointment to the Early Learning Council (ELC). Mr. Castle has been in the field for over three decades and I have had the pleasure of working with him for more than twenty of those years. I hold him in the highest esteem. HAIS has long been an advocate for educational programming and services for young children, particularly through our active involvement in the ELC. Our association's participation has given me the opportunity to collaborate on numerous policy matters with Mr. Castle.

HAIS looks forward to continued and thoughtful discussion on how best to achieve high quality early learning programs that are available, affordable, and accessible for all children, birth to kindergarten entry, and address children's diverse abilities and needs.

I strongly believe that Al Castle's continued involvement in early learning initiatives via the Early Learning Council will be to the benefit of young children in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 781.