

# GM 783

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORA PERRY, 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 783  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, LORA PERRY, 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 783, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORA PERRY, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Lora Perry, the Governor's nominee to represent the family-child interaction learning or FCIL program sector for another term on the Early Learning Council (ELC), has done extensive work with young children and families in Hawaii for the past 30 years. Her leadership contribution to the development of Hawaii's comprehensive and integrated early childhood system, has especially been towards the effective administration of culturally competent programs that support the development of the child and the education of the family. The State of Hawaii, through the establishment of our School Readiness definition in law in 2002, has acknowledged the important role parents and families play in school readiness outcomes for children.

Lora Perry is a Native Hawaiian who in the past has lived in the Waimanalo Hawaiian Homestead community. She has a Degree in Early Education and Human Resource Management. Her master's thesis was *First Year Outcomes of a Native Hawaiian Family Education Program*. During her impressive career, she also worked in Kamehameha Schools's early childhood education division. Today she is the Project Director of Nā Pono No Nā 'Ohana, Partners in Development's (PID) comprehensive family education program. The program is located at Blanche Pope Elementary School in Waimanalo where the family comes to school to learn together with their preschool child.

Nā Pono No Nā 'Ohana contends that while Hawaiian traditions and western values may differ, they are not incompatible. The two cultures actually share values such as pa'ahana (righteousness), kela (excellence), alaka'i (leadership), and ku i ka ni'o (achievement). Where they differ is in their approach: Hawaiians practice these values by not drawing attention to

themselves, but rather striving for achievement and excellence through working hard for the benefit of the group. By integrating progressive teaching methods with Native Hawaiian cultural values, Nā Pono No Nā 'Ohana seeks to improve social, economic, and educational opportunities for families in the program.

Besides Nā Pono No Nā 'Ohana, PID also administers Tūtū and Me an FCIL program that aims to identify, recruit, and service this underserved segment of the Native Hawaiian population through an innovative traveling preschool program done in cooperation with churches and community organizations serving the Hawaiian and part-Hawaiian community. Tūtū and Me aims to meet the developmental needs of these young children and to support the grandparents — as well as parents and other primary caregivers — who are raising them.

Ms. Perry has been an active member of 'Eleu, a consortium of member organizations that include Hawaiian-focused Early Childhood Education (ECE) center-based programs and other ECE organizations, both Hawaiian focused and non-Hawaiian focused. These are programs that are culturally responsive early learning options for families with young children that provide direct services to families (average of three hours per day, three days a week). These FCIL programs include adult participation and parent learning, as well as child learning time, and where learning activities and experiences are often transferred to and practiced in the home. Parent and caregiver involvement in these programs is expected to assist adult family members in understanding their role as the primary influencer of their children during these formative years.

As a member of the ELC, Ms. Perry was a lead contributor to the development of the ELC's framework for a comprehensive early childhood system, which was launched at the State Legislature in 2011. Most recently Ms. Perry joined the Hui Kupa'a early childhood work group which part of the larger state Hui Kupa'a initiative that supports Governor Abercrombie's New Day Plan. Hui Kupa'a utilizes "collective impact" principles and strategies to bring about transformative change and action to address particular human services, health and education issues through the engagement of a public - private partnerships.

Therefore the Abercrombie Administration is in strong support of Lora Perry as the family-child interaction learning program representative for our state Early Learning Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 783.

**Date:** 3/27/2012

**Committee:** Senate Human Services

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Bill:** GM 783, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee: LORA PERRY for a Term to Expire 6/30/2014

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

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports the confirmation of Lora Perry (Family-Child Interaction Program Representative) to serve on the Early Learning Council (ELC). Upon your committee's confirmation, Ms. Perry would serve on the ELC from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2014.

Lora Perry is currently Co-Director, Coordinator, and Teacher of the Partners in Development Foundation's comprehensive family education program at Blanche Pope Elementary School in Waimanalo on the island of Oahu. Ms. Perry's more than 30 years experiences in early childhood care and development programs as an early childhood practitioner and trainer are beneficial skills to support the development and implementation of Hawaii's early learning and development system. She is an active member of state and community organizations focused on child care and family engagement practices. Ms. Perry has also served as the Interim Director for Kokua Ohana to recruit Native Hawaiian foster families for the State of Hawaii.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Perry. Her 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.



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: **GM783: Early Learning Council Gubernatorial Nominee – Lora Perry**

We wholeheartedly recommend Ms. Lora Perry be confirmed as a member of the State Early Learning Council. Ms. Perry has been a strong representative of the Family Child Interaction Learning programs on the Council, and she brings a wealth of knowledge, insight, and experience to the Council.

We have worked closely with Ms. Perry for the last four-plus years, and she has proven to be the strong advocate and thinker. She is a true champion for Hawaii's young children and will continue to be a valuable member of 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)

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

GM 783 Early Learning Council Gubernatorial Nominee LORA PERRY

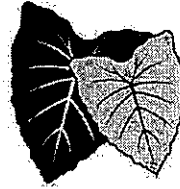
Dear Chair Chun Oakland and Vice Chair Ihara, Jr., and Committee Members:

As Chair of the Early Learning Council, I wish to recommend that the Committee confirm Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has done extensive work with children and their families in Hawaii for 30 years. I first became acquainted with Lora during the Act 259 Task Force work and have since worked with her as a member of the current Early Learning Council. Lora has contributed her knowledge about the needs of Hawaii's children and their families to the Council's work through her participation on sub-committees and been supportive of early learning needs in the public forum. She is the incoming co-chair of the Council's Quality subcommittee which is monitoring the progress of the state's QiRS pilot program implementation and will address the issue of program standards. She is a strong advocate for early learning and brings a sensitivity to the needs of our Hawaii families to the Council's deliberations.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. Her background and familiarity with the needs of Hawaii's children as well as those of our families will certainly contribute much to the work of the Council.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Council



**PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT**  
FOUNDATION

March 15, 2012

Chairperson, Senator Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has worked extensively with children and their families in Hawai'i for 30 years. I have personally worked with Ms. Perry for over ten years and can attest to her expertise in the early childhood education field. She has managed a comprehensive family literacy program in Waimānalo and served hundreds of children and families through this program. Under her direction, this program has equipped these children for success in school which has contributed to the improvement of Blanche Pope Elementary School's AYP standing.

Thank you for your consideration of my request for approval of Ms. Lora Perry's nomination to the Early Learning Council. Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication will be an asset to the Council and the children and families in our state.

Sincerely,

Laura R. Dang  
Vice President of Administration/  
Secretary/Treasurer



91-1841 Fort Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Phone 808.681.3500  
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[www.childandfamilyservice.org](http://www.childandfamilyservice.org)

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

RE: GM 783 Confirmation Hearing for Lora Perry, Gubernatorial Nominee to the Early Learning Council

March 27, 2012

My name is Howard S. Garval. I am the President and Chief Executive Officer of Child & Family Service (CFS), Hawaii's oldest human services organization founded in 1899. I have served in this capacity since April 2006 and have responsibility for running the organization that is statewide and touches the lives of over 40,000 of Hawaii's residents each year and directly serves 15,000. Our mission is: **strengthening families and fostering the healthy development of children.**

I submit this testimony in strong support for the nomination of **Lora Perry** to the Early Learning Council. I have known the nominee for several years now and she serves on an Early Childhood Work Group for a Collective Impact project called Hui Kupa'a that I co-chair with Terry Lock, the Governor's Early Childhood Coordinator for the State of Hawaii. Lora is very knowledgeable about the early childhood system of education and family support services and is a strong believer in the importance of children getting off to the "right start" in life so they enter school healthy, safe and ready to learn and be successful. She runs a very effective program in Waimanalo for Partners in Development Foundation which does a lot of good work in the early childhood arena.

Lora will be an excellent contributor on the Early Learning Council and I hope you will agree.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

With warm Aloha,

Howard S. Garval, MSW, President & CEO

*Our Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children*

Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has worked extensively with children and their families in Hawai'i for over 30 years. I have had the privilege of experiencing her expertise while facilitating the Hawaii Careers with Young Children (HCYC) workforce system building group. On the HCYC Core Group, Ms. Perry represents Family-Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) programs including representing the unique needs of the practitioners that work in FCIL programs. She makes valuable contributions to workforce system building discussions and assists the group with making critical decisions that affect system success and effectiveness. I have known Lora personally and professionally for over 20 years and I applaud her commitment to children and families. I believe she brings with her a wealth of knowledge and skills to assist the Early Learning Council in achieving their goals.

I want to say mahalo for considering Ms. Lora Perry's nomination to the Early Learning Council. I consider her an asset to the field and to the children and families we serve.

Sincerely,

*Melodie Vega, MAEd*

*Facilitator/Project Manager*

*Hawaii Career with Young Children*

*c/o The Good Beginnings Alliance*

*808-531-5502*

Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has had extensive worked with children and their families in Hawai'i for 30 years. I have experienced her expertise personally when I worked with Lora as she pursued the NCFL Family Literacy Certified Trainer credential in 2004. Lora has worked diligently to create an outstanding family education program - Nā Pono No Na 'Ohana, housed at Blanche Pope Elementary school in Waimanalo on the island of 'Oahu, serving over 2,500 families in the last seven years .

Thank you in advance for approving Ms. Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. This is important work and with Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication I feel that she will be an asset to the children and families in our state.

Sincerely,

  
Bonnie Lash-Freeman

National Center for Family

325 W. Main St

Suite 300

Louisville, KY 40202



1806 So. King Street □ Suite 30 □ Honolulu, HI 96826 □ (808)942-4708 □ FAX (808)955-2739  
□ [haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org)

**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair**  
**Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair**  
**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**From:** Katherine Murphy, Executive Director  
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

**Date:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012

**Subject:** GM 783, Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, LORA PERRY

HAEYC is pleased to submit testimony in support of Lora Perry for reappointment to the Early Learning Council. Ms. Perry is a strong advocate for early education in Hawaii and has been an invaluable member of the ELC. In addition to her work to promote early education, she donates her time to the community through her work with organizations that assist Kupuna and Native Hawaiian communities. HAEYC is confident that her dedication and leadership to the education community will continue to be an asset to the Council.

HAEYC will continue to be a positive contributor to the state's transition to a true, comprehensive public/private early learning system. Our volunteers and staff would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at 942-4708 or [haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org).

HAEYC represents nearly 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state.

*HAEYC's mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's children (0-8) and their families.*

Katherine E. Murphy  
Executive Director  
HAEYC

KAREN L. SHISHIDO  
31 Coelho Way  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

March 15, 2012

The Honorable Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Chair, Senate Committee on Human Services  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Chun Oakland and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

Gubernatorial Nominee – LORA PERRY  
Early Learning Council

I wish to recommend that your honorable committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has extensively and consistently worked with children and their families in Hawai'i for the past 30 years. I have personally experienced her expertise while working alongside her as a colleague in the Partners in Development Foundation. She exemplifies humanitarianism at its best and sincere empathy for her fellow man with emphasis of Hawai'i's keiki.

We kindly ask that Ms. Lora Perry's nomination to the Early Learning Council be approved. This is important work and with Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication, I know that she will be an asset to the children and families in our State.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on her behalf.

Respectfully,

KAREN L. SHISHIDO

[Karenlani8@gmail.com](mailto:Karenlani8@gmail.com)  
(808) 551-7868

Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

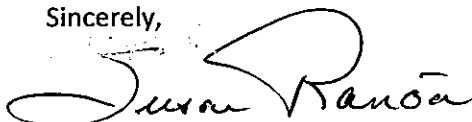
Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has worked extensively with children and their families in Hawai'i for 30 years. I have experienced her expertise personally as I have worked for her for 5 years. She is extremely passionate and knowledgeable about Early Childhood Education. She continues to expand her expertise through educational opportunities and is always up to date on issues affecting children and families, especially here in Hawaii. Ms. Perry is a mentor and educator to all those she works with, myself included. She inspires us and insists that we provide the best quality services we can for our families and children. She is a strong advocate for issues that affect early childhood education, sitting on several committees and being proactive in supporting legislation that benefits children and their families. I believe she would be an excellent choice to serve on the Early Learning Council.

Thank you in advance for approving Ms. Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. This is important work and with Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication I feel that she will be an asset to the children and families in our state.

Sincerely,



Susan Ranoa  
245 Kalama St.

Kailua, Hawaii 9673

Chairperson Senator Chun-Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rom 226  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Chun-Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services:

I wish to recommend approval of Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council for a second term as a representative of the Family Child Interaction Learning (FCIL) program setting.

Ms. Perry has worked with children and families in Hawaii for 30 years as a care provider, parent educator and administrator. She has represented the FCIL voice on the Early Learning Council for the past several years, advocating for what's best for all children, including those of Native Hawaiian ancestry living in high need communities. Her years of experience and intimate knowledge of working with families of young children makes her a knowledgeable and reliable resource for the Early Learning Council. I feel that she will continue to be an asset and strong voice for Hawaii's children and families on the ELC, if her nomination is approved.

Sincerely,

Chris Jackson  
84-680 Kili Drive #302  
Waianae, HI 96792

Sally Sinclair Jordan, Director  
Muscogee County Family Literacy  
514 Morris Road  
Columbus, GA 31901

Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has had extensively worked with children and their families in Hawai'i for 30 years. I have experienced her expertise personally when we jointly provided Best Practice training for the preschool programs and families in Honolulu for three years. She is a visionary, able to identify a need for early childhood and family services, take that vision to reality and motivate an entire community and professional team to implement it at the highest level of performance. Lora has a rare combination of technical skills and knowledge and the ability and experience to implement programs that go where no other program has gone before. She also is able to provide stability to the programs so that they are sustainable, both with talented personnel and resources. She has paved the way for other preschool and family literacy programs to use models she has created. She is a skilled program manager, an able translator of local level program to state policy, has developed curricula, and has trained many professionals in the early childhood field.

Thank you in advance for approving Ms. Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. This is important work and with Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication I feel that she will be an asset to the children and families in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Sally Sinclair Jordan  
PO Box 533  
Talbotton, GA 31827



Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 14, 2012

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has had extensive work with children and their families in Hawai'i for 30 years. I have experienced her expertise personally when I worked with her in the leadership of the Kalaniana'ole Athletic Club, when I observed her over the years working with pre-school children and their families, when I observed her in volunteer positions with children with illnesses and in foster care and in many other work/volunteer positions. I can state emphatically that she has the perfect blend of maturity and empathy in her dealings with children and their families. She is trustworthy and above reproach in all of her dealings, and she has been a role model and an inspiration to me and to others under her leadership.

Thank you in advance for approving Ms. Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. This is important work, and with Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication, I feel that she will be an asset to the children and families in our state.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Chong

566 Halemaumau St, Honolulu, HI 96821

Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Date:

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has had extensive work with children and their families in Hawai'i for 30 years. I have experienced her expertise personally for over 25 years. I have worked with Lora on community items outside of the work place and have been friends with her for many years and I can honestly say Lora's commitment and expertise to the well being of the children is impeccable and her number one mission in life. Her dedication in assisting families in all walks of life is amazing and I have always been in awe of what she has been able to accomplish. Lora would definitely be an asset to the Early Learning Council. Thank you in advance for approving Ms. Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. This is important work and with Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication I feel that she will be an asset to the children and families of the State of Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Wendy Raiola

819 Paahana St

Honolulu, HI 96816

March 14, 2012

Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland  
Chairman Human Services  
Senatorial district 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Vice-Chair Senator Les Ihara, Jr.  
Senatorial District 9  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators,

I am writing to you as a personal friend and business associate of Ms. Lora Perry who is subject to confirmation of her appointment by Governor Abercrombie to the position of council member of the Early Learning Council. I have known Ms. Perry for 19 years and support her nomination for the position. Over the years she has shown me to be a person of high integrity and moral character. She has over 30 years experience in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) field in the classroom, in management and most recently in her position on the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry would bring extensive knowledge and experience to the Early learning Council. I feel that the Department and the State would truly benefit from an appointment of Ms. Perry to this position.

Very Truly Yours,

Cathleen Enos  
Waimanalo, HI 96795  
808-221-2063

Chairperson Senator Chun Oakland  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senatorial District 13  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 226  
415 S. Beretania St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

March 14, 2012

Dear Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services,

I wish to recommend that the Committee approve Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Ms. Lora Perry as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Ms. Perry has had extensive work with children and their families in Hawai'i for 30 years. I have witnessed her expertise first, as a fellow teacher at Kamehameha Preschool, and currently as a colleague at Partners in Development Foundation. During the many years I have known Ms. Perry, one of the things that stand out for me is her undeniable passion for helping children and families succeed. This passion is what has sustained countless families in Hawai'i. This passion is what has helped hundreds of children enter school ready to learn and succeed. And this passion is what has transformed the Waimanalo community through her leadership of the Na Pono No Na 'Ohana Family Education program. I know that as a member on the Early Learning Council, her passion and genuine concern for children and families will have far-reaching effects.

Ms. Perry is very knowledgeable about what is good for young children and their families and she is able to eloquently and successfully advocate for their needs. Her past performance as a member on the Early Learning Council is admirable, and I have no doubt that if given the opportunity to continue in this capacity, Ms. Perry will continue to be a driving force in early childhood education and family support in our State.

Thank you in advance for approving Ms. Lora Perry's nomination for this assignment to the Early Learning Council. This is important work and with Ms. Perry's qualifications, experience, knowledge and dedication I feel that she will be an asset to the children and families in our state. Ms. Perry has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

*Gail Omoto*  
1450 Akanaha Place  
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March 14, 2012

TESTIMONY

Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Human Services

*March 13, 2011*

Lora Perry

The Early Learning Council

Chair Chun Oakland and members of the Senate Committee on Human Services, thank you this opportunity to present background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Early Learning Council.

I was born and raised in Hawai'i. I attended Star of the Sea School from Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade; Hawai'i Loa college, receiving a Bachelor Degree in Human Resources. I then attended UH Manoa where I received a Masters Degree in Education. My thesis was on the subject of Family/Child Learning together in a non-center-based educational setting.

During my 30 years in the field of Early Childhood Education I have held various positions (i.e. classroom assistant, classroom teacher working with various ages - Infants and Toddlers, Preschoolers, and Elementary School; Traveling preschool teacher working with parents and children in a mobile preschool environment; director of a preschool; CDA advisor and national representative for Home Visiting and Center-based candidates; Early Childhood consultant for various organizations; Trainer in the field of Early Childhood Education and Family Literacy (certified by the National Center for Family Literacy); and for the past 10 years I created and currently direct a comprehensive four component Family Education(Adult Education, Parent Education, Childhood Education and Parents and Children Together) program where families come together and are engaged in Family/Child learning. This program is housed in a DOE school in Waimanalo.

I am fortunate to have been involved in a variety of Early Childhood educational settings, all of which have included the family as partners in their children's education. I am passionate about providing high quality Early Childhood Education to all young children no matter what their socio-economic background, existing risk-factors or disabilities; and to provide this education in whatever setting the family chooses. A position on the Early Learning Council would allow me to continue to serve Hawai'i's children and their families in a meaningful way. My years of experience, knowledge of Early Childhood

Education, my work with families and communities and most recently my appointment on the Early Learning Council will all contribute to the council's effort to create an Early Childhood System for all young children in our state. I would be honored to continue to serve on this council and am dedicated and committed to doing whatever is necessary to make the Early Learning System become a reality.

I humbly ask you to support my nomination to the Early Learning Council.

Thank you,

Lora Perry