

March 30, 2012

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Gail Mukaihata Hannemann
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Re: Confirmation of Mrs. Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui for Board of Education –
Support

Hearing date: Friday, March 30, 2012

Hearing time: 1:15 pm

Conference Room: 225, State Capitol

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Good Afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui as an appointed Member of the Hawai'i Board of Education.

It is hard to believe that it is almost one year ago when your committee held its confirmation hearings for the members of the first appointed Hawai'i Board of Education. At that time, I submitted testimony in support of Cheryl because I believed then and now, "Like so many times before, she will humbly prove herself worthy of the great task before her. Her thoughtful queries, work ethics, and willingness to serve others will mean that the students, thereby, the State of Hawai'i will truly benefit."

During the year that followed her confirmation, I have witnessed week-by-week how her commitment to Hawai'i's public education system has only deepened. She truly believes that it is not only imperative but possible to develop a unique educational system that deeply roots every student with a strong sense of place and prepares them to realize their own vision of success by becoming life-long learners. As she has already demonstrated, she is prepared and willing to do the hard work to realize such results. Her way of work aligns with her unwavering belief that every person can be a contributing member of society if given the opportunity to do so.

I continue to consider it a great honor to support the nomination of Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui and do so without any reservations or hesitation.

Mahalo