

GM 840

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, PAMELA PERKINS, 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 840
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council,
Gubernatorial Nominee, PAMELA PERKINS, 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 840, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, PAMELA PERKINS, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Pamela Perkins, the Governor's nominee to represent the family child care program sector for a second term on the Early Learning Council (ELC), has had over 40 years of extensively working in the field of early care and education among diverse early care and education settings. She is a licensed family child care provider, and has had over ten years in teaching adults, curriculum writing, consulting and facilitating parent education, with specialization in working with infants and toddlers in group care.

Ms. Perkins is a lifelong learner and has a M.Ed. in urban sociology and community education; early childhood studies and educational philosophy from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is a fully certified WestEd Program for Infant/Toddler Caregiver Program (PITC) Infant/Toddler Trainer and Specialist. Ms. Perkins has a certification through the Juniper Tree School of Story and Puppetry Arts program, which emphasizes artistic, pedagogical and therapeutic aspects of storytelling and puppetry. She is a LifeWays certified graduate, which gave her training in mixed family child care skills and education. Finally, Ms. Perkins is a Simplicity Parenting Group facilitator, and has most recently taken the introductory course for Respectful Infant Educators (RIE).

Before coming to Hawaii in the late '90s, Ms. Perkins spent the '70's and '80s, in Massachusetts and New York, teaching in a variety of settings, including Upward Bound for high school students, public school kindergarten, farm-based educational residential program for high school students, and director and lead teacher of Waldorf-inspired preschool program.

In 1998-2000, Ms. Perkins worked on Hawaii Island as the Malama Waldorf School combination second and third grade teacher and from 2000 - 2002 and again from 2004 to present, she operates Ao Kukui No Na Keiki, a licensed Waldorf-Inspired Family Child Care program.

Ms. Perkins is an active member of NAEYC/HAEYC. She is the current Hawaii Island Chapter President, and is the Big Island representative on HAEYC's State Board and HAEYC's Policy Committee. She has done professional development workshops for teacher and caregivers at the HAEYC's annual conferences and at the Hawaii Island Early Childhood Conference.

To stay abreast of national efforts, she is a member of Alliance for Childhood, LifeWays (North America), Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), and National Association for Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (NACCRRA).

In addition to her extensive education and experience, Ms Perkins brings a communication style that is open and collaboratively with colleagues and members of the community. She uses self-reflection and evaluation to improve subsequent programs.

Therefore the Abercrombie Administration is in strong support of Pamela Perkins as the family-child care program representative for our state Early Learning Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 840.

Date: 3/27/2012

Committee: Senate Human Services

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: GM 840, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee: PAMELA PERKINS for a Term to Expire 6/30/2014

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

Department's Position:

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

Pamela Perkins is currently a family child care provider at the Ao Kukui No Na Keiki Licensed Family Child Care in Pahoā on the Island of Hawaii. Ms. Perkins is an experienced early care and education teacher, trainer, and infant/toddler specialist with 40 years of professional experience. She also has more than 10 years of experience in adult education with a focus on infant/toddler curriculum and field. Ms. Perkins has shared her experiences as a community-based infant/toddler practitioner in workshops at the Hawaii Association for Educating Young Children Annual Leadership Symposium and the Hawaii Early Childhood Conference since 2002.

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

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

From: [Wayne Watkins](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Subject: GM840 Pamela Perkins - Early Learning Council
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:05:36 PM

Aloha,

As an Early Childhood Educator in Hawaii for the past 19 years I have worked on every island and had the honor to meet and work with many outstanding people in the Early Education field. Pamela Perkins has been a strong advocate for children, families and quality early childhood education her entire adult life. Ms. Perkins has a deep understanding of child development, learning theory and how to provide positive quality early learning experiences for children of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds in a variety of settings. As a Family Child Care provider she has an intimate understanding of family dynamics and the positive role a quality early childhood program can play in strengthening families. Despite the fact that Ms Perkins spends most of her days on the floor with young children she is able to see early childhood education in the context of our whole society. Ms. Perkins would bring great insight, knowledge and creativity to the Early Learning Council. I strongly urge you to approve her nomination to the council. If you have any questions please contact me.

Wayne Watkins

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Wayne Watkins, Director
University of Hawaii at Manoa Children's Center
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Honolulu, HI 96822
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PATCH

Supporting Hawaii's Child Care Needs

March 23, 2012

Re: GM 840
Testimony for Pamela Perkins

Dear Senate Members:

Please accept this letter serve as a strong recommendation for Pamela C. Perkins' continued service as the Family Child Care Representative on the Early Learning Council. Pamela has been a licensed Family Child Care provider for seven years as well as a trainer for PATCH for ten years. PATCH wholeheartedly endorses her nomination. PATCH is Hawaii's only statewide child care resource and referral nonprofit, serving families since 1976. We specialize in offering nearly 10,000 families each year with child care referrals and providing professional services to those who work in early childhood education and child care.

As a PATCH trainer, Pamela routinely instructs other early childhood practitioners and keeps abreast of the latest research and issues in the profession. She is a fully certified Infant/Toddler trainer from California's WestEd PITC training institute and has applied this training towards her pursuit of her doctoral degree in early education and care. She is clearly well-versed in the topics surrounding child development and optimal child care.

Pamela also serves as a Family Child Care representative on the Child Care Advisory Committee and is the Hawaii Island Chapter President for the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children. She has proved her ability to actively participate in those roles despite being a full-time family child care provider in Hilo. Normally it is difficult for someone in the profession of child care to be able to leave the home business and attend community meetings. Pamela however, has access to a professional substitute for her business and thus has regularly attended meetings via telephone or video-conferencing for the positions she holds noted above. She has also been serving on the Early Learning Council already with positive results.

Pamela will assess information from fellow committee members and thoughtfully respond using her knowledge of the subject and her respect for the consensus process. Pamela will be an invaluable source of information and experience for the Early Learning Council and fully and fairly represent the sector of Family Child Care.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns with regards to the above. Thank you for this opportunity to support Ms. Perkins and we look forward to hearing the outcome.

Yours truly,

Katy Chen

Katy Chen
Executive Director

Oahu

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Member of

Child Care Aware
of America

National Association of
Family Child Care

Aloha United Way

Hawaii Island United Way

Kauai United Way

Better Business Bureau of
Hawaii

March 22, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this testimonial on behalf of Ms. Pamela Perkins. I currently work as the Recruiter and Food Program Monitor for PATCH (People Attentive To Children) at the Hilo branch. Ms. Perkins has been affiliated with our organization for over ten years and I have had the pleasure of visiting her daycare over the years. Part of my position is to conduct unannounced home visits in order to monitor and support child care providers who participate in the Federal Food Program. Ms. Perkins is always compliant with this program and continues to go above and beyond when implemented this program into her day care. Her philosophy as a caregiver sets up a great foundation for children and sends a positive impact on their growth and development. I believe that Ms. Perkins would be an excellent advocate for young children as the family child care representative for the State of Hawaii. It is clear that she has a passion for children and having over 20 years of experience in the early childhood field would really benefit Human Services Senate committee. In my opinion, she is the best candidate for this position.

Sincerely

Meshell Martinez

PATCH Family Child Care Recruiter and Food Program Monitor

305 Wailuku Dr. Ste 4

Hilo, HI 96720 (808)-935-0200



HAWAII ASSOCIATION
FOR THE EDUCATION OF
YOUNG CHILDREN

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Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., 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 840, Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, PAMELA PERKINS

HAEYC is pleased to submit testimony in support of Pamela Perkins for appointment to the Early Learning Council. Ms. Perkins is a strong advocate for early childhood education in Hawaii. She dedicates her time to the community through her diligent work with organizations that assist early childhood education and Native Hawaiian communities. HAEYC is confident that her dedication and leadership to the education community will 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.

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

Melissa Pavlicek
c/o 841 Bishop Street, Suite 2100
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Subject: GM 840, Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, PAMELA PERKINS

Aloha kakou,

My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am an attorney and small business owner in Honolulu. I have served as the president of Hawaii Women Lawyers, an officer of the Hawaii State Bar Association and as the chair of the bar association's diversity committee for more than five years. I am also a parent and a resident of Hawaii, committed to promoting early education for Hawaii's keiki.

In my professional life, I have the pleasure of working with many outstanding individuals and organizations promoting the development of a public-private statewide system of early learning. Through this work, I have gotten to know Pamela Perkins and to personally observe her intelligence, diligence and commitment. I have met with her many times and worked alongside her as a volunteer. We worked together to produce a half-hour television program on the Hawaii Island Public Access television channel on early learning and I can say with certainty that Pamela is a dedicated public servant.

Please confirm her nomination.

March 23, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing today to give a big bravo to Pamela Perkins as an instructor that I have enjoyed and from which I have learned a great deal this past year. She is easy to understand and always has an excellent sense of humor. She is highly educated in so many ways, but for this reference it is her ability to assess and understand child wants and needs in a school setting that sets her apart from most teachers I have had as associates. Her kindness and compassion are prevalent in everything she undertakes. The focus in her consulting has always been and I know will remain FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHILD.

I am highly recommending her for the task of lending great wisdom to the advancement of educational systems and the enhancement of all organizations that she will belong to.

Sincerely,
Carol Dencker
Student of PATCH organization
Substitute Teacher for Montessori

BS –Psychology – Colo State U
MA- Education – Colo State U
CEO –Renoir Staffing Services, 25 yrs, retired 2010

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Testimony for GM840 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM
Date: Friday, March 23, 2012 11:20:37 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM840

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: steve hirakami
Organization: Individual
E-mail: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Submitted on: 3/23/2012

Comments:

I would like to recommend highly Pamela Perkins to the Early Education Council. Pamela has had her children and grandchildren in our school. We have both sat on forums that proclaim that if we, as a State, invest in early education, it will pay immense rewards in the future towards less incarceration, less special education intervention, less mental and physical health problems, a more educated and productive society, and less dependency on government support services. Pay it forward. It is a progressive movement that will pay dividends only if we believe in our youth. Pamela will be a great addition to not only this council, but to the future of early education in this fine State.

Sincerely,

Steve Hirakami, Director, Hawaii Academy of Arts & Science PCS

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: shelleyng808@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM840 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 1:46:14 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM840

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shelley Ng
Organization: Individual
E-mail: shelleyng808@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

To: Senators Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair, and Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair, Committee on Human Services

My name is Shelley Ng and I am a community services planner on Oahu. I am writing in full support of Pamela Perkins nomination to serve on the Early Learning Council. I have known Pamela for the last four years through our volunteer roles on the Public Policy and Education Committee of the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children. Through our work promoting Early Childhood Education and professional development, I have observed Pamela as a veteran master of early childhood education, possessing deep knowledge of childhood development and educational methods. She has been a family child care provider for many years on Hawaii island, and would well represent her colleagues who provide services in similar settings. Pamela is a life-long learning and is constantly upgrading her skills and knowledge in curricula and methods for working with families and facilitating the development of young children. As a Neighbor Island provider, she provides a unique perspective on the challenges related to providing early childhood education where resources are further away and fewer between. She serves as HAEYC's Hawaii County Chapter President and is working hard to provide professional development experiences for her colleagues around the island.

I wholeheartedly recommend Pamela Perkins as an extremely qualified representative of the Early Childhood Education profession to the Early Learning Council. Her heart is with young children and their families.

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Shelley Ng

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: nadiaalwagga@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM840 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 2:06:03 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM840

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nadia
Organization: Individual
E-mail: nadiaalwagga@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

Pamela has been my teacher on my teacher training program for the past two years. She has been the most thorough on imparting information and setting down the structure of the course as well as being the most inspiring. Her experience and knowledge of the younger child and their development needs are very evident as well as her devotion and enthusiasm in bringing them what would best serve them. She is also continually updating her knowledge.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: jeangawalt@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for GM840 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 3:39:19 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM840

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: jean gawalt
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jeangawalt@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

I am acquainted with Pamela Perkins since 1971. In all that time, through her Graduate School studies in Early Childhood Education, Practice Teaching, Professional Employment as Teacher of Pre-school children and finally as her I am acquainted with Pamela Perkins since 1971. In all that time, through her Graduate School studies in Early Childhood Education, Practice Teaching, Professional Employment as Teacher of Pre-school children and finally as her successful and successive parenting and grand-parenting, I can honestly say that I have never met anyone as able and seemingly endlessly willing to nurture and instruct young children; I have witnessed her exemplary professional and human affection for children and I attest to it. I believe that she would serve well as a voice for all young people. I offer my testimony on Pamela's behalf as a long time friend, not as a colleague or teacher myself.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: silviajsharrar@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM840 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 6:05:37 PM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM840

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Silvia J Sharrar
Organization: Individual
E-mail: silviajsharrar@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:
Silvia J Sharrar
91-945 Pahuhu St
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
silviajsharrar@gmail.com

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

From: Silvia J Sharrar, ECE Member

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Subject: GM 840, Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, PAMELA PERKINS

My name is Silvia Sharrar and I'm pleased to submit testimony in support of Pamela Perkins for appointment to the Early Learning Council. Ms. Perkins is an active member in the field of Early Childhood in Hawaii and believes in providing high quality care for all children. Ms. Perkin's works tirelessly to keep the early childhood community connected by being involved with numerous organizations and advocating for quality care. Ms.Perkins will be an asset to the Council.

Silvia J Sharrar
ECE Member

From: [Esther Yanogo](#)
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Subject: RE- Pamela Perkins
Date: Saturday, March 24, 2012 1:44:35 PM

To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing on behalf of Pamela Perkins whom I met in the year of 2009 at PACTH adult training classes. I didn't really have any motivation to go and wasn't sure of the learning outcomes. For some unknown reasons I decided to give it a try.

Pamela was my instructor for ECE adult classes that was provide. Her passion, enthusiasm and belief in ECE was so contagious that I drove 45 miles one way to her classes.

Pamela passion kept me in Early Childhood and I have now decided to pursue a Master degree in Early Childhood. I will recommend Pamela to anything and everything that involves Early childhood.

Mahalo, Esther.

Jacquelyn Benton Ching, M.A.
HC2 Box 6911
15-1731 Kukui Street
Keaau, Hawai'i 96749
ph: 808-982-6106
email: jpulelehua@gmail.com

RE: Submitting Testimony in Support for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, PAMELA PERKINS, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Family Child Care Providers (FCCP) must be included as an significant component of Hawaii's Early Childhood Education (ECE) and care system. In the *Hawaii's Early Childhood Comprehensive System Plan 2005-2008 Needs Assessment*, Hawaii's child care services were reported as "highly fragmented." In the past there was rarely communication between early childhood professionals (center-based faculty, staff, and school administrators, family-child interaction learning programs, Native Hawaiian early learning programs, ECE college faculty, and NAEYC affiliate members) *and* family child care providers.

Family child care provider, Pamela C. Perkins, M.Ed. who has been my colleague and friend for over 12 years. Pamela brings her extensive knowledge of early brain development and best practice to any early learning project. She is a graduate of the nationally recognized WestED Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) and has incorporated many of the key concepts into her family childcare business. Pamela makes connections with people and creates a relationship-based environment when working with parents and training adults as well as providing excellent care for children in her care. She will offer fresh

approaches to challenges while maintaining integrity and a commitment to quality early learning and care.

Ms. Perkins has demonstrated her ability to be effective and has had experience in many of the above early childhood education and care settings including currently operating her family childcare. She has taught in center-based programs, participated in a Native Hawaiian family-child interaction learning program and taught Professional and Career Education for Early Childhood (PACE) through the University of Hawaii Community College system. Her capacity to be objective and independent is a great asset to the early learning council and will bring cohesiveness to a once isolated sector of Hawaii's ECE and care system, family child care. Family child care providers are important and deserve support and recognition for the work they do with Hawaii's young children and their families.

I highly recommend Pamela C. Perkins to you as a member of the Early Learning Council.

Yours Truly,
Jacquelyn Benton Ching, M.A.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HMS Testimony](#)
Cc: elainey208@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM840 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:17:50 AM

Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM840

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elaine Yamashita
Organization: Individual
E-mail: elainey208@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

As an early childhood advocate and member of Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children's public policy committee, I support Pamela Perkins' appointment to the Early Learning Council.