

GM906

ALAN OSHIMA

Nomination to the Education
Commission of the States

Alan M. Oshima

April 9, 2012

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Education Commission of the States, GM906

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Thank you for hearing my nomination to the Education Commission of the States (ECS). This responds to your April 2, 2012 letter in the order the questions were posed.

- (1) I decided to apply to serve on the ECS because I believe the effective and timely sharing of education-related information and research can be valuable in improving public education across the United States. I believe ECS provides the organization to gather that information and to conduct needed research. It also provides the forum for the states to share common issues and information that will affect education policies. I have supported public education for many years, beginning when I was a student in the Farrington High School complex. When our now-adult offspring were students in the Roosevelt High School complex, I supported those schools. This direct involvement led to becoming involved in various initiatives, including serving on the Act 51 working group, the formation of Hawaii 3Rs, participating in early education policy discussions and workshops as well as the recent project to develop a public school land trust as a source of revenues to rebuild our aging public school facilities to meet the needs of 21st Century learning. I think I have some parent and community perspectives that can add to the dialog at ECS. I know I can learn from the exchange of information and hopefully, bring that knowledge and experience back to Hawaii.
- (2) As stated in response to (1) above, I think the exchange of information on issues affecting education in all of the states can be applied to some of the issues we face here, including the advancement of early childhood development and how resources can be used to provide that solid foundation at the start of the P-20 continuum. Hawaii is not alone in working to improve student achievement, parental involvement, facilities, and workforce development for the economy. Learning how other states have approached common challenges could advance the adoption of similar processes here.

- (3) I am a business executive and practiced law in Hawaii for decades. My work requires grasping facts and seeking creative solutions. I have invested time and energy in trying to learn about the challenges facing public education in Hawaii. I've participated in Hawaii public schools as a student, parent and volunteer. With that background, I believe I can add those perspectives to discussions at ECS. In summary, three qualities that I would bring to ECS are the ability to seek the facts, my background as a non-educator in Hawaii's public schools and my sincere interest in improving public education in Hawaii.
- (4) A short-term goal if selected as a member of ECS would be to meet other ECS members from other states who are from the business/parent/volunteer sectors. Being able to exchange information with colleagues with similar backgrounds would be helpful in the long run. Attending ECS meetings and staying in touch with other ECS members will help to meet this goal. A long-term goal would be to work with other ECS members who are involved with facilities and their impact on student achievement. As a member of the Council for Educational Facilities Planners International and as a member of the board of the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs, I have been working on measures designed to improve all of Hawaii's public school facilities to meet the needs of the 21st Century. By connecting with other members who are involved in similar initiatives in their states, I hope to bring new ideas, financing mechanisms, community building processes, etc. to Hawaii.
- (5) I do not know of any possible conflicts of interest at this time. If I become a member of ECS and have to appear before legislative committees chaired by other ECS members, I would disclose my membership even if there are no financial interests attached to our common membership.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to your questions. Please let me know if I may provide any further information prior to the hearing that is scheduled for 1:15 pm on Monday, April 16, 2012.

Very truly yours,

Alan Oshima

GM906

TESTIMONY

Testimony before the
Senate Committee on Education

Monday, April 16, 2012
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 225

Statement on Governor's Message No. 906

by Robert A. Alm
Executive Vice President
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.

TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR,
MICHELLE N. KIDANI, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of Alan Oshima to serve on the Education Commission of the States.

Alan Oshima's interest in education begins at a very personal level. His children attended public schools (Nuuanu Elementary, Kawanānakoā Middle, and Roosevelt High Schools). In each case, he threw himself into school activities and was a model for parental involvement in the improvement of each of the schools. He both supported what they were doing and at the same time pushed them to do more.

He was deeply involved in activities to improve the physical settings of the schools through programs such as Hawaii 3Rs. He was involved particularly in the successful efforts to get a new auditorium and athletics field for Roosevelt High School. Both are excellent facilities that receive very substantial use by Roosevelt and by others.

He has also worked on education improvement issues through the Early Learning Coalition, the 21st Century Schools discussions, the Council for Educational Facilities Planners and the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs.

Alan Oshima is the kind of leader who "walks the talk." When he gets involved, he fully commits. If he needs more information in order to move forward, he goes out and gets that information. If he needs to challenge what is going on currently, he will do so. And whatever the task is, large or small, he takes it on.

I urge your support of this nomination.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Monday, April 16, 2012, 1:15 PM
State Capitol Room 225

Testimony of
Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii

To the Senate Education Committee
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

GM 906
Consideration and Confirmation of Alan Oshima
to the Education Commission of the States

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to appoint Alan Oshima to the Education Commission of the States. His term will end on 6/30/2016.

Oshima is well known as an advocate of public education. A Farrington High School graduate, Oshima was active with his children's schools including serving as Parent Teacher Student Association President of Kawanānakoā Middle School. Oshima is Vice President of Hawaii 3Rs, a non-profit organization that facilitates government, business, community, and school partnerships to repair, remodel and restore Hawaii's public schools.

Currently Oshima is Executive Vice President for Corporate and Community Advancement for Hawaiian Electric Industries. Previously, he served at Hawaiian Telcom as the Senior Advisor, Board Member, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of the Company. In addition to his work in telecommunications, Oshima has served as the regulatory attorney for various Hawaii utility companies and other Hawaii businesses.

Oshima received the Hawaii State Bar Association's Pro Bono Service Award in 2005 for his countless hours of volunteer legal work in the community. He has also been recognized as one of "America's Best Lawyers" in the field of public utilities.

Oshima's community service also includes serving as a Board member of the YMCA of Honolulu and The Learning Coalition. Oshima is also an board member of the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs where he helps to lead a project on 21st century school facilities.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that you confirm Alan Oshima to the Education Commission of the States.

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April 9, 2012

Senator JIII Tokuda
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Michelle Kidani
Vice-Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Alan Oshima's Nomination to the Education Commission of the States; GM906

Honorable Senators:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Alan Oshima as a member of the Education Commission of the States.

I have known Alan for many years and as many others, I have always viewed him as an active and prominent community member whose guidance is often sought on various business as well as public matters. The founder of a well-respected local law firm, Oshima, Chun, Fong & Chung, Alan made many appearances on "America's Best Lawyers" list and was been honored by the Hawaii State Bar Association's Pro Bono Service Award for his countless hours of volunteer legal work in the community.

Alan is recognized as a staunch supporter of public education in Hawaii, and has been for decades. He is a graduate of Farrington High School and demonstrates his passion and advocacy through organizations such as Hawaii 3Rs, a non-profit organization that facilitates government, business, community, and school partnerships to repair, remodel and restore Hawaii's public schools. He is also active in many other organizations – always striving to improve Hawaii for all of us.

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit my support of the confirmation of Alan as a member of the Education Commission of the States.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew D. Friedlander", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew D. Friedlander



Repair, Remodel, Restore Our Schools.

www.hawaii3rs.com

Dillingham Transportation Building
735 Bishop Street, Ste.336
Honolulu, HI 96813

April 13, 2012

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Michelle Kidani
Vice-Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Alan Oshima's Nomination to the Education Commission of the States; GM906

Honorable Senators:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Alan Oshima as a member of the Education Commission of the States.

As a parent of public school students, Alan witnessed firsthand the poor condition of public school facilities. Instead of turning a blind eye or just complaining, Alan joined with other concerned parents and citizens to try to find a solution to the problem. As one of the founders of Hawaii 3R's in 2001, Alan had the vision to realize the important role the community could play in improving the condition of public school facilities.

Since then, Hawaii 3R's has completed over \$44 million in repair and maintenance projects statewide, saving the State over \$41 million. Although extremely busy with other worthy endeavors, Alan recently increased his commitment to Hawaii 3R's by becoming the chairman of the board of directors.

After all of the years I have known Alan, I am still impressed by his eagerness to learn about latest innovations to improve the school system, and the amount of time and energy he expends towards the goal of creating 21st century schools.

I have no doubt that Alan will be an excellent representative of our State. More importantly, he has the dedication to bring back and integrate the knowledge he will gain through collaboration with experts from other states.

Very truly yours,

Ryan T. Shigetani
Executive Director
Hawaii 3R's

April 10, 2012

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Michelle Kidani
Vice-Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Alan Oshima's Nomination to the Education Commission of the States; GM906

Honorable Senators:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Alan Oshima as a member of the Education Commission of the States.

I have known Alan for over 30 years and he is a man of integrity, hard work and commitment to our community. Alan is deeply committed to Hawaii's public school children. He is a graduate of Hawaii's public schools and continues to champion exceptional public education in Hawaii.

Alan is a member of the Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs' board of directors and started HIPA's 21st Century Schools Initiative. He has spent countless hours shaping the concept that our public schools need to be renovated and in some cases rebuilt to allow for 21st Century learning. Alan has touched hundreds of people during the course of this initiative.

He believes that we need a dynamic public school system to ensure a prosperous economy and a healthy society for all residents of Hawaii. His vision has always been to make Hawaii a better place for all our citizens.

He is able to do this with his experience as an attorney, a business executive and as a caring and committed volunteer. Alan will bring his many years of experience to the Education Commission of the States.

Alan likes challenging assignments and from personal experience he is a joy to work with. His warm personality, subtle sense of humor and inquisitive mind creates a wonderful working environment. His Hawaii charm is at its best when he is meeting people from other cities, states and countries.

Alan Oshima will bring all these skills and character traits to the Education Commission of the States. You will have added a real gentleman to the Commission if you appoint him.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Schultz Afuvai

Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs
Executive Vice President
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 765
Honolulu, Hawaii 96734
808-585-7931 ext. 101

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Senator Michelle Kidani
Vice-Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Alan Oshima's Nomination to the Education Commission of the States; GM906

Honorable Senators:

I am writing in support of the confirmation of Alan Oshima as a member of the Education Commission of the States.

Alan Oshima has been a catalytic force in the field of public education reform in the state of Hawaii for many years. His involvement has covered a wide array of initiatives ranging from access to early childhood education, parent and community engagement, facilities development and redevelopment and public school fundraising. I have known and worked with Alan for over five years on a number of these initiatives and in my personal experience there are three principal character traits that underlie his successes:

Alan has a rare gift for strategic thinking that allows him to draw from across his broad interdisciplinary background (legal, philanthropic, executive) as well as his years of public and private service. In addition, while Alan is certainly a “big” thinker in every sense of the word he also possesses the humility and the relentless drive to further his theories of change over time horizons that are often generational in scope. Both of these attributes are underpinned by Alan’s deep sense of social justice and a belief that all children deserve access to high quality education as a key component of their rights to self-expression and self-determination.

There is quite simply no one I would recommend more highly to participate in the Commission’s dialogue to improve public education both here in Hawaii and on a national level.

Very truly yours,

Bill Reeves

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 7:39 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: Hppaexec@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for GM906 on 4/16/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU 4/16/2012 1:15:00 PM GM906

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Melissa Pavlicek
Organization: Individual
E-mail: Hppaexec@gmail.com
Submitted on: 4/3/2012

Comments:

Alan has the highest degree of commitment to public service. His integrity is unquestionable and he is a true leader and a role model. Please confirm his nomination.