

GM908

FELICIA VILLALOBOS

Nomination to the Hawaii Teacher
Standards Board

GM908

Felicia Villalobos

Nomination to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

To Whom It May Concern:

My decision to apply to serve on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board has come about for many reasons. My first and foremost reason comes from my love and deep respect for the profession I have chosen. I understand the great responsibility that comes with being a teacher and feel that creating and maintaining quality standards for all teachers will only strengthen my profession for many years to come. This is something I would love to contribute to and be apart of. Another reason for my decision is to help build a bridge between the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board and the teachers on the island of Kauai. As a leader, not only within my school, but as a leader on my island, I find that many teachers look to me for information, advice and direction. I believe that being apart of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board will give me a chance to develop a stronger link of communication between my colleagues and the board. Lastly, as a life long learner myself, I feel that becoming actively involved in my profession in as many ways as possible gives me a satisfaction and drive to becoming the best educator I can be.

I believe I am qualified for this position for many reasons. Since the very beginning of my teaching career I have been placed in an assortment of schools in a variety of grade levels. These experiences have taught me a lot over the years. It has not only allowed me to become a very knowledgeable teacher, but I feel that I have gained a tremendous amount of strength in regards to my flexibility to work with a range of grade levels and curriculum. These experiences have also given me a chance to actively participate and have enhanced my ability to work collaboratively within a team and in some instances, become the facilitator of the team. These occurrences, even though I have not taught as many years as some of my veteran peers, have given me qualities such as stepping up when asked or needed, becoming a productive collaborator when working within a team, always being ready to actively participate and ask questions when more information is needed and if necessary, gathering information to help make educated decisions. These qualities have prepared me for this very important job at hand.

I perceive that the role and responsibilities of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board is to continuously maintain the highest standards and accountability for all teachers in the State of Hawaii. This includes licensing and relicensing of teachers statewide. These standards directly result in the assurance that every child is taught by highly qualified teachers in their field of expertise. With highly qualified teachers in the classroom we ensure that all students in the State of Hawaii will have the opportunity to have a quality education and the chance to work towards achieving their full potential in and outside the classroom.

One short term goal I have as a Hawaii Teacher Standards Board Member is to help facilitate a clearer line of communication between teachers on my own island (as well as teachers statewide) and the HTSB. There seems to be a communication glitch between

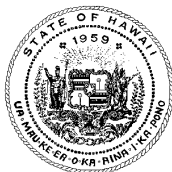
the HTSB and the teaching community. It has gotten better over the years and I would like to help further this along. A long term goal I have is to continuously monitor, reevaluate and improve the licensing process so that we can recruit and retain highly qualified teachers. I plan on working very hard to inform teachers and to make sure I am readily available for teacher input. An open-line of communication is how I hope to achieve both my goals.

Currently, there is a lot of educational reform happening both at the State and National level. I don't foresee any conflicts of interest. However, if one does arise, I will give each situation the upmost respect and attention needed to solve the conflict. I am very open-minded and will make decisions in an educated and informed manner.

Thank you for your attention.

GM908

TESTIMONY



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 908
Consideration and Confirmation of Felicia Villalobos
to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

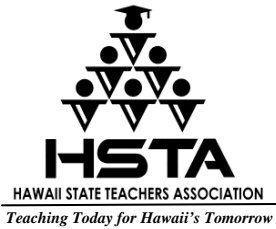
Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I am pleased to nominate Felicia Villalobos to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Villalobos will represent Oahu secondary school teachers. Her term will end on 6/30/2013.

Villalobos has nine years of teaching experience, seven of which were served with the Hawaii Department of Education. She is currently a first grade teacher at Wilcox Elementary School where she also served as a second grade teacher from 2008 to 2010. The Rotary Club of Kalepa Sunrise named Villalobos Teacher of the Year in 2006.

Villalobos is committed to ensuring that there is a quality teacher in every classroom in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully request that you confirm Felicia Villalobos to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 λ Fax: (808) 839-7106 λ Web: www.hsta.org

Wil Okabe
President

Karolyn Mossman
Vice President

Joan Kamila Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer

Alvin Nagasako
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: GM 908 FELICIA E. VILLALOBOS
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-13
APRIL 16, 2012 1:15PM CONFERENCE ROOM # 225

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports GM 908 which submits for consideration the appointment of Felicia E. Villalobos to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board (HTSB) for a term to expire June 30, 2013.

Felicia has over seven years of teaching experience in the Department of Education. She is currently a 1st grade teacher at Wilcox Elementary School on Kauai. Felicia is also a mentor teacher for the University of Hawaii at Manoa Student Teacher Program. She demonstrates the skills of an exemplary teacher. Felicia is very knowledgeable about curriculum and always utilizes best teaching practices.

Felicia has represented the Hawaii State Teachers Association in many leadership roles such as Kauai Chapter Vice President and at Wilcox as a school level leader. She takes pride in being the best at what she does and is conscientious about investing the time it takes to know most about what she represents. With her perspective and experiences she has the ability to provide feedback on a myriad of teacher issues.



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Felicia has always been committed to helping her colleagues in the classroom and the student teachers she mentors. She helps them understand the expectations and requirements to achieve the goal of being an effective teacher. Her love for the students she teaches shows in their achievement. Felicia is committed to support and maintain the highest standards and accountability for all teachers in the State of Hawaii. With this appointment she will be able to help facilitate and educate others about the teacher licensing process. . We urge you to approve her recommendation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and show our support for Felicia E. Villalobos.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Re: GM908 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, FELICIA VILLALOBOS, for a term to expire 6-30-2013.

Hearing Date: April 16, 2012, 1:15 p.m., Room 225

Testifying: Lynn Hammonds, Executive Director, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Chairperson Tokuda, Vice Chairperson Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board strongly supports the consideration of FELICIA VILLALOBOS for a term on the board. Currently, the island of Kauai is not represented on the board, and the addition of Ms. Villalobos will allow teachers statewide representation in matters concerning teacher licensure, teacher candidate preparation and National Board for Professional Teaching Standards support. As a Department of Education elementary level teacher for seven years, Ms. Villalobos also serves as a mentor for University of Hawaii-Manoa student teachers, so her input will be pertinent not only to licensure matters but on teacher preparation issues as well. The HTSB thanks you for your consideration and asks you to confirm Ms. Villalobos as a member of the board through June 30, 2013.

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in support of GM 908, the appointment of Felicia Villalobos to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. Hard working, dedicated, and knowledgeable are just a few of the words I would use to describe Felicia. Teaching is her true calling and it is extremely evident in everything she does.

I met Felicia about seven years ago, when we first served together on the HSTA Kaua`i Chapter Executive Board. We have since gone from being appointed committee chairs to elected officers. She currently holds the office of Chapter Vice-President, and has gained the respect of many teachers on our island. In addition to her role as a chapter officer, Felicia also serves at the school level as a faculty rep, grievance rep, and APC rep. I have never met someone as hard working as Felicia. If she is not at an HSTA activity or working her second job, she is at school, preparing lessons for her first-grade class. As the Chapter President, serving 21 schools and approximately 700 teachers on the island of Kaua`i, I rely a lot on my Executive Board members. Felicia has always stepped up to the plate to help me. Her dedication to the organization and the teachers is unparalleled. She not only answers the call for help, but has a desire to learn more so that she can do more to serve the teachers.

When it comes to teaching, Felicia is an excellent teacher. I know this firsthand, as my nephew was in her class just a couple of years ago. When I look back at my nephew's school experiences, the one thing that really stands out is how much he enjoyed being in Felicia's class. He has not spoken so highly of any other teacher as he did of Felicia. He would even try to visit her class when he had the chance the following year, when he was in the second grade. I know that she has very high academic standards and works very hard to prepare relevant and meaningful lessons for her students.

Felicia has many experiences that make her a very qualified candidate for the HTSB. She has served as a chapter chairperson for the HSTA Negotiations Committee, Government Relations Committee, and Institute Day Committee. She has also served her school as a faculty rep, grievance rep, and APC rep. She has experience lobbying at the State Capitol for issues that affect teachers and has established a relationship with the Kaua`i Board of Education representative.

Finally, I would like to add that Felicia does all these things with a very positive attitude. She has a very open-mind, works well with many different people, and knows how to think with a level head, even when the situation she is in can be an extremely frustrating one.

I have absolute confidence that Felicia Villalobos will be an excellent member of the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. I urge you to support GM 908, the appointment of Felicia Villalobos to the HTSB. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jodi T. Maeda

HSTA Kaua`i Chapter President

11 April 2012

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chair Senate Education Committee
Senatorial District 24
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Ms. Felicia Villalobos Nomination to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Measure Number GM 908.

Honorable Senator Tokuda,

Thank you for the opportunity to lend my support for the nomination of Ms. Felicia Villalobos to serve on the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. Ms Villalobos' background and experience is ideally suited for her to represent Kaua'i County and to work the critical issues facing the Board in the future.

In addition to her current position at Wilcox Elementary as a first grade teacher, Ms. Villalobos serves as a mentor teacher where she provides assistance and guidance to new teachers. As a NCLB Highly Qualified Teacher, Ms. Villalobos brings valuable teaching experience to the Board.

I strongly recommend Ms. Villalobos for appointment to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board based on her combination of teaching skills and personal commitment to giving Hawaii students the very best possible education we can give to them. I regret that I am not able to attend the hearing and testify in-person but I trust your committee will find Ms. Villalobos worthy of confirmation.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Patrick
Member, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board