

GM616

Justin Mew

Hawaii Teacher Standards
Board



GOV. MSG. NO. 416

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

January 25, 2013

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Senate President,
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senate President Kim and Members of the Senate,

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board**:

HAWAII TEACHER
STANDARDS BOARD

TERM TO EXPIRE

Justin Mew

6/30/2016

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
RECEIVED

Justin S.N. Mew
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Ph. (808) 395-6464

Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chair, Senate Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Via email

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Re: Response to Questions on my Nomination to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

1. Why did you decide to apply to serve on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board?

I view the gubernatorial nomination as a call to serve the People of Hawaii through the HTSB. It is an honor being asked; a vote of confidence in what I can contribute. Service on the HTSB is a professional duty to my profession. From the balcony of a sitting school principal, I also view service on the HTSB as a means to provide students with the most highly qualified teachers.

2. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, experiences, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Highlight three qualities you feel make you a highly qualified candidate.

Throughout my ongoing 31-year career as a public school educator, I've been student-centered, convinced that highly qualified and highly effective teachers are absolutely required for student growth and learning, and passionate about the status of classroom teachers as a professional, as other professionals enjoy.

Broad Experiences: tenured classroom teacher (8 years), tenured state educational specialist (12 years), and tenured school principal (9 years). Skills: Staffing a school. Interviewing for the DOE, state, district and school level positions. School transformation to include teacher training. Teacher Evaluation. Employee Investigations (e.g., misconduct). Professional Development. Cooperating Teacher for 7 student teachers. Mentor for 4 vice principals. Lecturer for New Principal's Academy. Lecturer for ACE Program. Served on National Selection Committee: Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching.

Three Qualities as a highly qualified candidate: (1) Committed to student growth/learning. (2) International, National and Local perspectives on learning, teaching and assessment. (3) Ability to work collaboratively with others.

3. What do you perceive the role and responsibility of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board as it relates to teacher quality and student achievement?

Given that student achievement is a direct result of teacher quality and effectiveness, the HTSB sets the standards for a teacher to have the privilege of educating Hawaii's keiki. Thus, the essential functions of the HTSB: (1) Standards Setting for teachers/counselors/librarians, and Teacher Preparation Programs. (2) Licensing, to include initial and renewals, professional fitness, testing, and determining contested cases. (3) State Approved Teacher Education, to include reviews, visits, reporting.

A license issued by the HTSB is meaningful because it signifies to all stakeholders that the licensee meets those standards and has abilities to teach for student learning. It is therefore the role and responsibility of the HTSB to keep current with the standards of the teaching profession, identify accredited teacher education programs that prepare teachers for licensing, and screen out those programs who do not meet standards. Finally, it is the role and responsibility of the HTSB to investigate and mete out sanctions as provided under HRS for cause.

4. Because of long-standing legislative concerns, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board was audited by the State Auditor in 2009. Especially serious was the negative perception of Hawaii Teacher Standards Board by those it served and with those it worked with. What progress has been made in your tenure and what more could or should be done to improve the perception and effectiveness of Hawaii Teacher Standards Board?

Progress made to improve the perception and effectiveness of the HTSB:

- It is professionally rewarding serving with fellow HTSB members and working with the HTSB staff. Having a Deputy AG to consult with and to research issues has been crucial for discourse and decision-making.
- Streamlined the licensing process, while maintaining rigor.
- Provided for payment options including on-line capability and payment plans.
- Clarified licensing process for both in-state and out-of-state candidates.
- Conducted on-line surveys and focus group meetings to learn from the field.
- Approved new teacher education programs; streamlined review process.
- Approved multiple ways for license candidates to demonstrate proficiency.
- Recognized National Board Certified Teachers
- Support sessions for NBCT candidates.
- Provided \$55K in fee subsidies for NB candidates.
- Conducted Community Meetings statewide.
- Updated and revised HTSB Website. E-Newsletters, feedback requests.
- Moved all communications to HTSB Licensing Section from contracted service.
- Moved to remind employers of sanctions for hiring unlicensed teachers.

- Conducted hearings on contested cases.

What more can be done?

The HTSB developed a Strategic Plan for 2011-2015. Two of the four goals we developed will address concerns from the audit on negative perceptions of the HTSB: Goal 2: Enhance Efficient Customer Service with Aloha, and Goal 3: Strengthen Relationships with Stakeholders. Objectives and Indicators were developed for each goal.

Should I be confirmed by the Senate, then I will have an opportunity to see this Strategic Plan through.

5. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

Yes. I come from a family of teachers. My Mom is a retired public elementary school teacher. Four of her five children became teachers, myself included. Two brothers are currently licensed teachers in Hawaii public schools. Should any become subject to investigation and/or sanction by the HTSB, I will disclose my filial relationship and recuse myself from the process.

Respectfully,



Justin S. N. Mew

Nominee for Re-appointment to the HTSB

Head of School/Principal, Niu Valley Middle School

GM616

Testimony



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

Monday, February 25, 2013, 1:15 PM
State Capitol Room 414

Testimony of
NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

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

GM 616
Consideration and Confirmation of Justin Mew
to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

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

I am pleased to appoint Justin Mew to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB). Villalobos will represent Oahu secondary school educational officers. This appointment will continue his service on the HTSB. His term will end on 6/30/2016.

Mew is Principal of Niu Valley Middle School. As Principal since 2006, Mew led the school's initiative to become an International Baccalaureate World School, and Kaiser school complex is the first public school region in the state to offer the International Baccalaureate from kindergarten through high school graduation. Mew has been a school principal for ten years and previously served as State Science Educational Specialist, Vice Principal and High School Science Teacher.

Mew 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 Justin Mew to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Testimony on GM615, GM616 and GM617, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEES
LOUISE CAYETANO, JUSTIN MEW AND FELICIA VILLALOBOS

Monday, February 25, 2013
1:15 pm, State Capitol Room 414

By Terry Holck, Chairperson, Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board

February 25, 2013

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

I am writing in strong support of Louise Cayetano, Justin Mew, and Felicia Villalobos for continuing terms as members of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board.

Louise Cayetano is an elementary school teacher who brings with her over 20 years of experience. She is extremely involved in her community and has served in many leadership roles, including being an HSTA teacher lobbyist. Her broad experiences allow her to consider issues from various perspectives, and it is evident during board meetings that she is always thinking about what is in the best interest of the students and teachers in Hawai'i.

Justin Mew is an extremely well respected principal, leader, and community member. He believes that all students deserve a high quality education, and therefore, he holds a high bar for himself and all educators. His broad perspective and leadership experiences have been a wonderful asset to the board.

Felicia Villalobos is an elementary school teacher from Kaua'i. Being from a neighbor island, Felicia helps to create a bridge between the board and the teachers on Kaua'i. She has been an active participant on the board, and she is never afraid to ask the hard questions.

Having a broad range of board members who represent various constituents makes the HTSB better able to have rich discussions and look at issues from a wider range of perspectives. The board can only be as strong as those who serve on it. These three individuals come prepared to the meetings, actively participate, and are highly collaborative, which contributes to a very strong and productive board.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the board with these three people, and I ask that you confirm their reappointment to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board so they can continue the great work they have been doing.

Mahalo for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Testimony on GM615, GM616 and GM617, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEES LOUISE CAYETANO, JUSTIN MEW AND FELICIA VILLALOBOS

Monday, February 25, 2013
1:15 pm, State Capitol Room 414

By LYNN HAMMONDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

February 21, 2013

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

I am writing in strong support of LOUISE CAYETANO, JUSTIN MEW AND FELICIA
VILLALOBOS for continuing terms as members of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board
with terms to expire on June 30, 2016.

LOUISE CAYETANO brings a wealth of experience as an elementary school teacher and
former lobbyist for the Hawaii State Teachers Association. Her consideration and focus
on student achievement supports strong preparation and licensing standards and
policies.

JUSTIN MEW brings knowledge and perspective from the principal's viewpoint. His
input has been invaluable in considering impact of policies on school and faculty.

FELICIA VILLALOBOS represents teachers from the Island of Kauai. She actively brings
concerns and perspective of Neighbor Island teachers and is well acquainted with
teacher preparation, having served as a mentor for University of Hawaii-Manoa student
teachers.

Members Cayetano, Mew and Villalobos represent a cross section of constituents across
our state and contribute to the strength of the Board in considering well rounded policy
that meets the needs of educators in the field, preparation programs and most
importantly, the students and families in Hawaii which we serve. All three serve on both
the Board's Teacher Standards Committee and the Legislative and By-Laws Committee.
Their background and understanding of policies adopted during their terms will provide
continuity and a continued move toward rigorous licensing and renewal standards and
support of streamlined and user friendly operations. I thank you for your consideration
and ask you to confirm these three members for continuing terms on the Hawaii
Teacher Standards Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony on GM615, GM616 and GM617, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEES LOUISE CAYETANO, JUSTIN MEW AND FELICIA VILLALOBOS

Monday, February 25, 2013

1:15 pm, State Capitol Room 414

By EDWARD G. PATRICK, MEMBER, HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

February 21, 2013

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

I am writing in strong support of LOUISE CAYETANO, JUSTIN MEW and FELICIA VILLALOBOS for continuing terms as members of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) with terms to expire on June 30, 2016.

LOUISE CAYETANO's wealth of experience as an elementary school teacher and former lobbyist for the Hawaii State Teachers Association is a valued resource to the HTSB. Her focus on student achievement clearly promotes strong teacher preparation and licensing standards and policies.

JUSTIN MEW brings knowledge and perspective from the principal's viewpoint. I am impressed with his diligent and thoughtful approach to critical issues brought before the Board.

FELICIA VILLALOBOS represents teachers from the Island of Kauai. As an NCLB Highly Qualified Teacher and mentor, her background and experience is ideally suited for her to represent Kauai County and to work the critical issues facing the Board in the future.

Members Cayetano, Mew and Villalobos represent constituents across our state in an outstanding manner and contribute greatly to the strength of the Board. All three serve on both the Board's Teacher Standards Committee and the Legislative and By-Laws Committee. Their experience and understanding of policies adopted during their terms will provide continuity and continued strengthening of rigorous licensing and renewal standards. I regret that I am not able to attend the hearing and testify in-person on these outstanding citizens in-person but I trust your committee will find them worthy of confirmation for continuing terms on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

GM616

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Ahn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony for Justin Mew – Reappointment for the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board

I am submitting my full support for Principal Justin Mew to be reappointed to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. Through my experience with Mr. Mew as a colleague of Principals in the Honolulu District, I know he is an effective leader. I have worked with him for several years on the Honolulu District Science Fair Committee. He has led us through years of success by making sound decisions and ensuring our students qualify for the Hawaii State Science Fair. Mr. Mew's dedication to our teachers and students is obvious. He has mentored teachers and administrators to be more successful in their efforts to lead their individual schools. Mr. Mew has a lot to offer the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board and has my full support to remain in this position.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: edward_oshiro@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM616 on Feb 25, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Friday, February 22, 2013 11:09:26 AM

GM616

Submitted on: 2/22/2013

Testimony for EDU on Feb 25, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edward Oshiro	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Hi. My name is Edward Oshiro, principal of Ewa Makai Middle School. Justin Mew is a fantastic choice for the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. He is very knowledgeable, articulate, a complex thinker, a distinguished educator and Principal! I highly recommend his approval for this position!

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: [Wray Jose](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of Justin Mew
Date: Sunday, February 24, 2013 11:27:46 PM

Aloha! Thank you for this opportunity to share testimony in support of the confirmation of Justin Mew as a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I have worked with Justin during the past two years on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Justin distinguishes himself by his knowledge of issues in education and teacher licensure. As a school principal, he is able to bring important knowledge and information about the school system to bear on licensure issues before the Board. His experience helps provide valuable insight and direction to the Board in terms of discerning the needs of the schools and what is in the best interest of the public school children of the state of Hawaii. Justin Mew is eminently qualified to continue as a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I urge that his re-appointment be confirmed by the Senate Committee on Education.

Best Regards,
Wray Jose
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wjose@lava.net