

GM747

Lynn Cabato

Nomination to the Early
Learning Advisory Board

EDU

April 5, 2013

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

Re: Lynn Cabato' Nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board

Honorable Senator Jill Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am honored to have been nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie to be a member on the Early Learning Advisory Board. To assist the Senate with its confirmation process, I am happy to submit responses to your request for information.

1) Why did I apply to be a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board?

It has been a personal goal and passion to see the establishment of an early learning system that would provide opportunities for all children in Hawaii, regardless of their family's socio economic status. I started on this journey with our previous Head Start Director 37 years ago, employed as a Social Services worker. It was exciting for me to see after many years of effort on the part of a dedicated early childhood community, provisions for the development of an early learning system was put into statute by the legislature. With the creation of the Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL), the Governor has provided us with a huge opportunity to begin the journey for quality, early learning experiences for all of our Keiki in the State of Hawaii. We cannot let this opportunity slip by.

2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board, specifically as it relates to the Executive Office on Early Learning?

- Supporting the EOEL on the implementation of strategies on School Readiness and Early Childhood Development & Education plan
- Engaging in partnership and collaborating with various agencies, community organizations, business leaders and educators from the private and public sectors to support shared goals and outcomes
- Consensus building and creating synergy within the board
- Being informed and aware of key issues and community needs impacting a comprehensive, early childhood system
- Addressing disparities in access to services for all families
- Results oriented

- 3) **Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board.**

I have been in the field of early childhood for the past 37 years in various positions in the Head Start program including Social Services worker, Training Coordinator, Home Base Teacher, Program Manager, Assistant Director, and currently as the Program Director. Functioning in different capacities, I have gained knowledge and training in the implementing and monitoring of various components of health, social services, education, and family engagement, guided by regulatory performance measures. Our program has operated various program options including center based, home based, family child care, and a mobile preschool on wheels to provide services to homeless children and families. Under my leadership, our program has been recognized in Triennial Federal Monitoring reviews for innovative practices and executing public/private partnerships with the Department of Education, (Pre-K Inclusion, Pre-Plus, High School Teen Parenting Child Care for Infant and Toddlers), City and County of Honolulu (Child Care in the Parks), University of Hawaii, Center on the Family (Early Reading First Program, Children's Healthy Living Program), churches, and military bases. Our more recent partnerships are in Homeless Transitional Shelters with services for children from Birth to 5 years old. With this background, I can share the learned lessons, best practices, and emerging trends in developing key components of Hawaii's early learning system.

- 4) **Given that the advisory board is in the process of defining itself, are there particular issues or additional responsibilities that you would like considered?**

- Secure line of authority for the Executive Office on Early Learning to impact decision making processes in the public sector to build a coordinated system
- Working with the Executive Office on Early Learning and DOE to establish fundamental competencies and support systems from Preschool to 3rd grade for successful transitions for children as well as parents for sustainable achievements

- 5) **What challenges and opportunities do you see Hawaii facing as it works to create the first ever publically funded early learning system, and what role should the Early Learning Advisory Board play as we move forward?**

- Alignment of policies and program priorities within the public agencies (such as DOH, DHS, DOE) in building a quality, comprehensive system
- Sustainable funding to ensure successful achievement of goals and outcomes

- Creation of new public and private revenue sources for sustainability
- Support Executive Office on Early Learning in establishing its autonomy and authority to develop and monitor a well coordinated, quality, comprehensive early learning system

6) **Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Early Learning Advisory Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts or interests?**

None at this time. If there were any real or perceived conflicts of interest, I would be open, honest, and transparent in discussions with any issue

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board. In closing, I would like to share our program's mission that is at the core of my commitment to the work I do on behalf of the children and families.

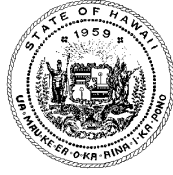
Mission: *"Enriching the Lives of Children, Engaging Families, and Strengthening Communities"*

Sincerely,

Lynn Cabato, Director
Honolulu Community Action Program, Inc.
HCAP Head Start

GM747

Testimony



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING
HONOLULU

TERRY LOCK
DIRECTOR

Testimony of Terry Lock
Director, Executive Office on Early Learning

Before the Senate Committee on Education
April 10, 2013
1:15 p.m., Room 414

Governor's Message No. 747
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Lynn Cabato,
For a Term to Expire June 30, 2015

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Governor's Message No. 747, nominating Lynn Cabato, to the Early Learning Advisory Board. The Executive Office on Early Learning strongly supports her nomination.

Ms. Cabato is a graduate of the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Development. As director of the largest early childhood education program in the State of Hawaii, she is responsible for implementing the Honolulu Community Action Program's objectives mandated by the National Head Start Performance Standards for funded enrollment of 1,659 children and families. Her cooperative relationships with various agencies at local, state, and federal levels, her leadership role as a community resource for Early Childhood programs for both public and private agencies, and her advocating for Head Start children and families at the State Legislature and at the federal level with the Hawaii Congressional Delegation, demonstrate her ability to manage the HCAP Head Start program while maintaining the relationships that help build and sustain it.

Ms. Cabato's development of programs building the capacity of HCAP Head Start while incorporating her inclusive management philosophy allowing staff to be involved in the decision making process, aids in success and promotes commitment and ownership of the organization they serve. Her collaborative style and her dedication to the education of our most disadvantaged young children are of great value to the Board.

Senate Committee on Education
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, 2013
State of Hawaii

DATE: April 2, 2013

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michell N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

1:15 pm, Conference Room 414
Hawaii State Capitol

FROM: Robert G. Peters, ELAB Chair

RE: GM 747, Lynn Cabato Nominee

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Lynn Cabato's consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board as a Gubernatorial Nominee for a term to expire 6 – 30 – 2015.

Lynn is currently a member of the Advisory Board and makes an important contribution to our conversations and planning on behalf of Hawaii's children. Her voice is an important one to keep at the table and she has my support.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Peters, EdD

GM747

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

Testimony for EDU on Apr 10, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lynn B. Wilson, PhD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Lynn Cabato's nomination to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning. Ms. Cabato's long-term experience with Head Start and its programs providing comprehensive, integrated services to pre-school children and their families, her leadership as Director of Hawaii's largest Head Start program, and her respectful way of working with colleagues and community make her uniquely qualified for the position.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: chrisjacksonhi@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM747 on Apr 10, 2013 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:56:27 AM

GM747

Submitted on: 4/3/2013

Testimony for EDU on Apr 10, 2013 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support Lynn Cabato's nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board. She brings a Head Start perspective to the system-planning work of the ELAB. Mahalo.

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

Wednesday, April 3, 2013
Hearing on Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 1:15 p.m.
Senate Education Ways and Means Committee
Conference Room 414

To: Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair; and Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Re: The consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Lynn Cabato to the Early Learning Advisory Board, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Honorable Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Committee Members:

My name is Celia Chang Takahashi and I am an Early Childhood Professional and the mother of two young children.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony for the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Lynn Cabato to the Early Learning Advisory Board, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

As the former O'ahu Coordinator with the Good Beginnings Alliance, I have had the privilege & honor to work with Ms. Cabato in a variety of capacities.

Ms. Cabto is currently the Director of HCAP Head Start. Her 30+ years with Head Start has provided her with the skills needed to work with Hawaii's most vulnerable young children (i.e., low-income, homeless, special needs, etc.). Her professional experience includes Social Service Aide I (a position that is now known as Family Advocates), Teacher, Program Manager, and Assistant Director.

Her vast experience in child development, community mobilization, policy & advocacy work provides her with the skills to advise the Executive Office on Early Learning with recommendations on how to promote collaboration across agencies/organization, private/public partners & all stakeholders that provide services (direct & in-direct) to young children & their families.

It is important now, more than ever, that we help families with young children access quality early learning experiences for their keiki. In the current economic climate the “haves & the have nots” are often separated by one or two months pay checks & “middle class families” struggle to find & pay for quality childcare & early learning experiences for their keiki.

I am confident that Ms. Cabto’s experience as an Head Start professional will provide her with the expertise on being a voice for **all** of Hawaii’s keiki to ensure that a comprehensive early learning system is created; that is one that focuses on the health, safety, welfare, development & education of Hawaii’s youngest residents.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Lynn Cabato to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

April 6, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair,
Senate Committee on Education

Re: Ms. Lynn Cabato's nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board of the Governor's Executive Office on Early Learning.

Aloha,

My name is Miles Nakanishi and I am a professor here at the Honolulu Community College (HCC) in the Early Childhood Education department. I have known and worked collaboratively with Ms. Lynn Cabato for many years professionally through the HCAP Head Start Program. I am honored to share my voice in support of her appointment to the Early Learning Advisory Board of the Governor's Executive Office on Early Learning.

I have worked with Ms. Cabato to provide professional development and training opportunities for her staff. In these collaborations, she showed initiative and focus; realizing the importance of building a highly-educated and capable staff. I am convinced that she will bring this same kind of determination and enthusiasm in her advisory capacity on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

I am most impressed by Ms. Cabato's commitment to young children, their families, and the people in their service. She has exhibited this dedication early as a grass roots family advocate (social services worker) with the HCAP Head Start Program and more currently as its director. She has worked tirelessly with families and her staff to provide an administratively sound and model Head Start program. Her ability to make wise and hard decisions highlights the integrity and compassion that I have known her for.

In Ms. Cabato's position as a Head Start director, she has built many strong working relationships with other community entities focused on early childhood education and care. She will bring this experience and her extensive knowledge of families and early childhood programs to the Early Learning Advisory Board. I fully support her appointment.

Sincerely,

Miles P. Nakanishi, Ph.D.
Professor, CC
Early Childhood Education Department
Honolulu Community College

Honorable Jill Tokuda,
Chair, Senate Education Committee

April 4, 2013

I am pleased to provide my support for the nomination of Lynn Cabato to the Early Learning Advisory Board. I have been engaged in the development of Hawaii early childhood policy and programs for nearly twenty years and have come to know many members in the field. Mrs. Cabato has the necessary knowledge and experience to assist the Governor's Executive Office of Early Learning (EOEL) in developing key components of Hawaii's early learning system, including knowledge of various delivery methods (e.g., home-based, center-based & family child care) as well as experience in executing public-private partnerships (e.g., Pre-Plus, Pre-K Inclusion and Teen Parenting Child Care) which will be critical to ensuring broad access to services.

For the past four years, I have worked closely with Mrs. Cabato in her capacity as Honolulu Community Action Program's `O`ahu Head Start Director, which provides critical early learning opportunities for approximately 1600 disadvantaged children and families annually. Her knowledge of Head Start is essential to ensuring that Hawaii takes full advantage of the opportunities this key federal program may offer to build our early learning system. She has managed and continues to manage, the transition of Head Start from a comprehensive child development program towards a more school readiness focus. This experience will be most helpful to the EOEL, as it enhances quality components of our existing child-care system to assure school readiness.

Mrs. Cabato has been a key partner in our public-private Ho`okahua Project, which provides a coherent birth through Kindergarten early learning continuum in the Wai`anae school-community of Kamaile Academy. She provides the leadership necessary to ensure that all those involved, including her administrators and teachers in addition to Head Start children and their families receive the supports necessary for success. As a testament to this fact, over the past three years, the Project's Head Start children have *consistently out performed* those children entering Kamaile Academy's Kindergarten, including those with other preschool experiences. Our data also indicate that children with the *most* exposure to the Project's Head Start classrooms out-perform all others, particularly in early literacy and math.

Mrs. Cabato also has a deep appreciation for and commitment to supports needed by families to reach the goal of school readiness. The Head Start teachers in our Ho`okahua Project all have strong ties to the community and are very skilled at engaging families in the learning of their children. This again, is an area where she can offer critical advice to the EOEL as it strengthens the family partnership component of the early learning system.

In closing, Mrs. Cabato has demonstrated leadership and expertise in areas critical to the development and management of Hawaii's early learning system. These competencies as well as her strong commitment towards developing the innate potential of Hawaii's young keiki, will make her an excellent team member of Hawaii's Early Learning Advisory Board. I strongly support her nomination.

Sincerely,

Gale Flynn
Ho`okahua Project Director
Ho`okako`o Corporation