

# GM749

Kerrie Urosevich

Nomination to the Early  
Learning Advisory Board

EDU

April 3, 2013

**Attn: Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education**

Re: Nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board

**Dear Senator Tokuda,**

Please find attached the requested information to be considered for my confirmation to serve on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

**1. Why did you apply to be a member of the Early learning Advisory Board?**

I did not apply but was contacted by the Governor's office in August/September 2012. I was told I had been nominated and was asked if I was interested. It was a true honor to be asked and I expressed my interest. I then proceeded to attend Advisory Board meetings throughout the fall. I am currently the Executive Director of Family Hui, an organization that supports families with children birth to 5 years of age, focused on a peer-led, neighborhood-based framework with a 30-year history of success. I was a participant in the program with my three children, now ages 12, 8 and 5, served as a peer leader for two of our hui and then served on the Board of Directors for four years.

I personally was humbled by the challenges of raising young children and the Hui grounded me with a community of families that were sharing similar experiences. The support provided my husband and I with confidence and really effective strategies for supporting our children's development when they were young. Two statistics solidified my commitment to continue working with families with young children and why I committed to serving on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

- a) Given that 85% of a child's foundational brain development is formed by the age of 5, building capacity for families, program staff and others working with young children is absolutely critical to the child's school and life success. There isn't a more critical age for development. To do this well, it will take collaboration between state agencies, families, community programs and schools. The Advisory Board is designed to support cross-sector collaboration.
- b) 75% of reported cases of child abuse and neglect involve children birth to age 4 and 80% of the abusers are parents. There is powerful data that demonstrates the long-term social and economic impacts of early abuse

K.Urosevich, Ph.D.  
Early Learning Advisory Board Confirmation  
Written Statement

and neglect. We need more investment in early childhood and prevention to save on costly and extended interventions. I am confident that the Advisory Board can help the Executive Office on Early Learning achieve its goals in ensuring our youngest thrive and am excited to be a part of the team.

**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?**

We currently have a skilled facilitator serving the Advisory Board to help us establish roles and responsibilities, which will help guide the relationships moving forward. My personal opinion is that the Advisory Board can assist the Executive Office on Early Learning in many ways. First, the Advisory Board is meant to serve the Executive Office on Early Learning, so the roles and responsibilities should be based on what Terry Lock and her staff feel is most needed. Secondly, The Advisory Board is strategically diverse and we all bring unique sets of skills and areas of focus. I would expect the Executive Office on Early Learning to tap the skills and resources of each Board member as needs arise. Third, the Executive Office on Early Learning spent one year with over 100 volunteers from across government sectors and community organizations to create an *Action Strategy Plan*, which includes six major goals and strategies and indicators for each goal. Because the office has a very small staff, it will be critical for the Advisory Board to assist in the implementation of the *Action Strategy Plan*. Fourth, the Advisory Board should be a mouthpiece in the community, supporting the Office's efforts and ensuring the Office hears the concerns of the community. Finally, as with any Advisory Board, they are responsible for providing quorum to vote on critical matters put forward by the Office and ensure the public has input at each meeting.

**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 feel I am qualified to serve on the Early Learning Advisory Board for several reasons. They include:

- a) I serve as the Executive Director of Family Hui, supporting families with children birth to age 5. I was asked to serve as the "Parent Representative" on the Board and feel confident that I can represent the diverse needs of our families.

- b) I have a Ph.D. in Political Science, with a focus on collaboration and public policy and hold a Master's Certificate in Conflict Resolution. I teach Facilitation, Conflict Resolution for Educators, Mediation and Culture and Conflict at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. These skills will assist me in being an effective collaborative leader on the Board.
- c) I am a co-lead for one of the Action Strategy Priorities: Family Partnership: Supported and Supportive Families, intimately involved in the implementation of our strategies. I am intimately familiar with the Office's plans moving forward.
- d) I serve as a Board member of Our Public School, which identifies and films "promising practices" for professional development for teachers. Because "early childhood" has been extended to age 8, my experiences with the Department of Education will be helpful.
- e) I am serving on Castle Complex's Redesign Team, co-leading the Family-School Partnership Initiative.
- f) Family Hui sits on Ahuimanu Elementary's School Community Council as the community partner, helping support collaboratives between school staff, families and community organizations.
- g) I am serving on the Family Partnership statewide team responsible for drafting and vetting the Family Partnership Guidelines, which will be used as a toolkit and evaluation tool for all early programs and the K-12 system.
- h) I am serving on the Education Task Force for HUD's Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant at Kuhio Park.
- i) I am involved with the four pilot community school efforts, particularly in Castle Complex and Waianae/Nanakuli focused on prenatal-age 8 wrap-around services.
- j) I value evidence based and data informed decision-making. I also value everyone's voice and have the skills to ensure all knowledge is heard and justly considered.

**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?**

I would like Advisory Board members to be clear about their responsibilities to the implementation of the Action Strategy Plan. Everyone works full-time plus, so I hope we share the responsibility as equitably as possible given people's schedules. I personally would like more time for public input because we each represent thousands and thousands of people. We can't possibly represent all their needs. Outreach for public participation will be helpful. I would also like to hear from Terry Lock and her staff about how we be most helpful.

**5. What challenges and opportunities do you see Hawai'i facing as it works to create its first ever publicly funded early learning system, and what role should the Early Learning Advisory Board play as we move forward?**

The opportunities are enormous. We have unprecedented top leadership support from President Obama, Senator Hirono, Representative Hanabusa, Governor Abercrombie and the majority of local Representatives and Senators. We have a plan to utilize the existing early learning structures such as Head Start, private center-based preschools and parent participation preschools to defray infrastructure costs. We have a confirmed demand for an early learning system, identified through the Junior Kindergarten program. The Executive Office on Early Learning has done an exceptional job of forming cross-sector teams to help in the implementation and they are developing a private/public funding strategy to decrease the financial burden to the State. Student's test scores are lower in all areas than the national average. Investing in an early learning program will give all four year olds an opportunity to excel in kindergarten- third grade, setting them on a course of long term success, especially for our most vulnerable children who do not have support from family. Thirty-nine states have state supported early learning programs and the evidence shows that the children who participate experience greater academic success in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade than their peers who did not have opportunities in early learning programs.. We have mentors across the nation to ensure successful design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

The challenges include ensuring sustained funding so that we are able to serve all 4 year olds. Ensuring we have a highly qualified work force to support the program will also be a challenge given the changes in qualification requirements, lack of professional development opportunities and a small cohort of early childhood professionals in the islands. Ensuring the programs can accommodate the unique needs of families such as early intervention supports, translation/interpretation needs etc. will be critical. Transition challenges will include data sharing for each child as they transition from home to toddler program to the early learning program and then into kindergarten will exist. The high cost of living in the islands results in challenges for families in every arena. But for the early learning program, ensuring that family partnership strategies accommodate families that work 2,3 or 4 jobs will be critical. Finally, getting DOE principals to support the early learning program is imperative to ensure seamless transitions, collaborative opportunities and use of space.

Advisory Board members will collaborate to remove barriers to success.

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

K.Urosevich, Ph.D.  
Early Learning Advisory Board Confirmation  
Written Statement

Every member belongs to a particular agency or community organization. We cannot really take those hats off because that is why we were asked to be a particular “representative” but we can ensure that when we are making decisions together that we are making them as ELAB members for the benefit of our keiki, not for our own individual organizations. Another potential conflict of interest would be if ELAB is advocating for a particular public policy as “ELAB” that my organization does not support. I highly doubt this will occur but in the event that it does, I would abstain from voting.

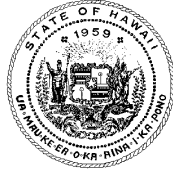
Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Kerrie Urosevich, Ph.D.  
Family Hui, Executive Director  
808-381-9635

K.Urosevich, Ph.D.  
Early Learning Advisory Board Confirmation  
Written Statement

**GM749**

**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. 749  
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Kerrie Urosevich,  
For a Term to Expire June 30, 2014

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Governor's Message No. 749, nominating Kerrie Urosevich, to the Early Learning Advisory Board. The Executive Office on Early Learning strongly supports her nomination.

Ms. Urosevich is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Japanese. She has earned her Master of Arts in International Policy Studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies, and her Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she also recently obtained her Ph.D. in Political Science. As an advocate for peaceful conflict resolution, she is the Co-Founder of Lead4Tomorrow, a global organization providing violence prevention leadership development for families, schools, businesses and government agencies. As Director of Family Hui, she leads and manages a positive-parenting, family engagement and child-abuse prevention program for families with children ages 0-5, and oversees family peer groups of 8-10 families, led by peer trained facilitators. She has developed a positive parenting and family engagement curriculum and writes and oversees grants that partner with and mobilize the community around public policies affecting children.

Her skills as a trainer in strategic planning, community mobilization, capacity building and conflict resolution processes, combined with her unwavering advocacy for the engagement of families in the earliest years of our children's lives, make her a great asset to the Board.



841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

April 10, 2013

This testimony is in support for GM749, consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, KERRIE UROSEVICH, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Dear Senator Tokuda,

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

HE'E has had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Urosevich as the facilitator of HE'E's strategic plan. Kerrie oversaw a challenging seven-month strategic planning process, bringing together a diverse group of community based organizations, parent groups, members of unions, the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii system. Moreover, Ms. Urosevich was able to build and establish trust through the entire process that is paramount to the Coalition's success today.

HE'E will have another opportunity to interface with Kerrie through her work with the Family Hui, a positive parenting, family engagement and abuse prevention organization that serves all island families with children 0-5. Family Hui is in partnership with YMCA Hawaii, who is a member of the Coalition.

Most importantly, along with Kerrie's academic and professional success, she is also a dedicated and loving parent of three young children. She has experienced the challenges of raising her young ones and understands how critical these years are to establish a strong foundation for a child's learning and education. She brings to the table the needed perspective of what parents and families are seeking for their child in their early years.

We strongly encourage the appointment of Kerrie Urosevich to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21  
After-School All-Stars Hawaii  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
\*Castle Complex Community Council  
Center for Civic Education  
Coalition for Children with Special Needs  
\*DOE Windward District  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawaii  
\*Good Beginnings Alliance  
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation  
\*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice  
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars  
\*Hawai'i Charter School Network  
\*Hawai'i Education Matters  
\*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\*Hawaii State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
Hawai'i P-20  
Hawai'i 3Rs  
Head Start Collaboration Office  
It's All About Kids  
\*INPEACE  
Joint Venture Education Forum  
Kamehameha Schools  
\*Kanu Hawai'i  
Kupu A'e  
\*Leaders for the Next Generation  
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds  
\*Our Public School

\*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning  
\*Parents and Children Together  
\*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i  
Punahou School PUEO Program  
Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education  
YMCA of Honolulu  
Voting Members (\*)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [dtabangay@ymcahonolulu.org](mailto:dtabangay@ymcahonolulu.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM749 on Apr 10, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 02, 2013 6:06:34 AM

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GM749

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Tabangay	ymca of honolulu	Support	No

Comments: We support Kerrie Urosevich for the Governor's Advisory Board to Office of Early Learning because of her knowledge and perspective of family, importance of engaging families, and her direct connections to community.

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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, Kerrie Urosevich

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Kerrie Urosevich's consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board as a Gubernatorial Nominee for a term to expire 6 – 30 – 2014.

Kerrie Urosevich has brought her unique understanding of the parent perspective to the work of the Early Learning Advisory Board, assisting the group's planning for a statewide system. I strongly endorse her confirmation as she is both an articulate spokesperson for children as well as their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Peters, EdD

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [vested\\_interest\\_hi@yahoo.com](mailto:vested_interest_hi@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM749 on Apr 10, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 28, 2013 5:45:22 PM

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GM749

Submitted on: 3/28/2013

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is my pleasure to submit testimony in support of this nomination. I have worked with Kerrie and watched her career, and have been very impressed. I am sure she will be a great addition to this Board. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony in support of this nomination.

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**GM749**

Submitted on: 4/1/2013

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

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

Comments:

Testimony to support nomination of Kerrie Urosevich to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning:

I support Kerrie Urosevich's nomination to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning. Dr. Urosevich is grounded in research and community, experienced in leadership and cultivating leadership in others, and committed to early childhood learning and development both as a mother of young children and as an executive director of an local/international organization aiming to positively impact young children and their families.

**COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, April 10, 2013  
TIME: 1:15 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 414  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

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

I am writing in strong support of Kerrie Urosevich's nomination to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning. Since working with Kerrie from July 2012 in my capacity as Oahu Coordinator for Good Beginnings Alliance, I have known her to be an excellent, fair-minded, and articulate representative for parents and families with children across the state of Hawaii.

As the Executive Director of a family interaction non-profit organization, Family Hui, Kerrie strives to engage and empower families with young children to be involved in their child's lives and to help them reach their fullest potential. As a colleague, Kerrie is ever conscientious and vocal about including families and community in the work that we do for young children, ensuring that the parent voice is never forgotten or overlooked. And as a parent of three young children herself, Kerrie is an icon in her fearless dedication to both her work and her children, inspiring others around her to remain balanced in an ever-demanding world for working mothers and parents.

I would have no reservation in recommending Kerrie with my full support for this role, and on behalf of the many early education providers I work with and parents like myself, am elated at her nomination, and look forward to her confirmation, to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Mahalo,  
Ku'ulani Keohokalole, M.A.  
Good Beginnings Alliance  
Policy & Public Engagement Specialist/Oahu Coordinator  
[kkeohokalole@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:kkeohokalole@goodbeginnings.org)

April 1, 2013

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Education

Dear Senators Tokuda and Kidani,

I am writing to support the nomination of Kerrie Urosevich to serve on the Governor's Early Learning Advisory Board. Dr. Urosevich is an experienced advocate for peace education and conflict resolution for young children, and she has a unique understanding of the optimal home and school environments required for the optimal growth and development of children. At Montessori Community School, Dr. Urosevich was instrumental in developing a peace education curriculum for our kindergarten students. The curriculum is now in its third year, and has been well received by students and parents alike.

Dr. Urosevich also developed Ceeds of Peace, a workshop series designed for adults who live and work with youth. The workshops are designed to encourage awareness of the "C"s that can assist children and young people in their journey to becoming peacebuilders. I was fortunate to be a recent participant in a Ceeds of Peace workshop, and I left feeling that all educators and youth leaders could benefit from attending.

In her role as the Executive Director of Family Hui, Dr. Urosevich understands the daily struggles of parents as they work to provide a peaceful home environment for themselves and their children. Dr. Urosevich and her team at Family Hui have taken the building blocks from the former Baby Hui organization, and built a new and improved "toolbox" and support network for our island families. As a Baby Hui alum, I understand the importance of such a support group for young families. I'm extremely grateful to Dr. Urosevich and her team at Family Hui for continuing such a vital service to the island's young families. Our community will only be the better for it.

In addition to her hands-on training and experience, Dr. Urosevich is a person of compassion and high integrity. I firmly believe that she will be an outspoken advocate for young children throughout our state, and that the Advisory Board's mission will be furthered by her inclusion.

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Bartell  
Director of Development  
Montessori Community School



**From:** [Fiona & Dave Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM749 - Kerrie Urosevich  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 02, 2013 12:59:21 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to support the nomination of Kerrie Urosevich to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning. Kerrie has been a strong supporter of Hawaii keiki for many years as an Educator, a Mother, and leader in Baby Hui, (now known as Family Hui). She is very committed and would be a dedicated Board member.

Aloha,

Fiona Kennedy

Cell 808-728-2454

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [chrisjacksonhi@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisjacksonhi@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM749 on Apr 10, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 03, 2013 8:53:04 AM

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GM749

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 Kerrie Urosevich's nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board to the Executive Office on Early Learning. She brings a critical parent perspective to the work that is needed to develop an early learning system. 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.

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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, Kerrie Urosevich 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 Phyllis Ida and I am a retired DOE Special Educator, and the former 619 Coordinator for the Windward District. I also over see the grant administration for the Windward District P-3 Demonstration Project that focuses on keiki reading on grade level by third grade, providing model program of seamless early learning experiences from early childhood programs through elementary school for young children in the Windward District.

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony for the consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kerrie Urosevich to the Early Learning Advisory Board, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

We have a plethora of research that demonstrates how family involvement is at its highest when children are young, that is, during the formative “preschool” years.

Research documents that there is a direct correlation between family involvement and educational success.

For the past two decades Ms. Urosevich has worked in local and international community mobilization and peace building and is very familiar with various models of Family Child Interactive Learning models, including the Family Hui Model & will be able to advise the Executive Office of Early Learning on a variety of ways on how to reach out to parents & effectively engage them in the healthy, safety, welfare & education of their keiki.

As a Special Education professional with more than 30 years of experience of working with young children & their families I know how important parental choice & perspective is when it comes to identifying & providing quality early learning experiences.

I firmly believe that Ms. Urosevich will provide parental as well as community perspective if confirmed as a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board because she will be able to advise & provide recommendations to the ELAB on how best to present/implement early learning/child development programs & activities to a “cross section” of Hawaii parents.

As a professional with almost 20 years of community mobilization, Ms. Urosevich has an extensive knowledge on how to work collaboratively across agencies & stakeholders serving young children.

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

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, Kerrie Urosevich 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, Kerrie Urosevich to the Early Learning Advisory Board, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

As the former O'ahu Coordinator with the Good Beginnings Alliance, and as a mother of two young children, I know that when it comes to quality early learning experiences, we need a model that IS NOT "one size fits all." Through both my professional and personal experiences I have discovered that what may work for one family (i.e., preschool setting) may not work for another (i.e., kith and kin or family child interactive learning may be better suited for them).

I firmly believe that Ms. Urosevich will use her two decades of experience working with various models of Family Child Interactive Learning, including the Family Hui Model, as well as her knowledge of community mobilization, to advise the Executive Office of Early Learning on a variety of ways on how to reach out to parents & effectively engage them in the healthy, safety, welfare & education of their keiki.

Thank you for letting me take the time to submit testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kerrie Urosevich to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [soetoro@hawaii.edu](mailto:soetoro@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM749 on Apr 10, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 03, 2013 3:31:45 PM

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GM749

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
Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, Over the past couple of years, I have had the privilege of working closely with Kerrie Urosevich on a number of nonprofit projects and educational initiatives here in Hawaii. I have witnessed Kerrie's deep commitment to our island community and our keiki on many, many occasions. Together, Kerrie and I have designed a number of peace education workshops hosted by a variety of organizations, including the Center of Global Nonkilling, Montessori Community School, and the Association for Conflict Resolution. We have also worked alongside one another through our nonprofit, Our Public School, which is devoted to connecting public schools with the communities that surround them, as well as Family Hui, which supports families when their children are in need of strong foundation building. Additionally, I know Kerrie through her work at the Matsunaga Institute for Peace, with which we are both affiliated. Most recently, Kerrie and I have teamed up to design an educational program called CEEDS of Peace and we are excited to be launching five peace education workshops for teachers, parents, and community members. I wholeheartedly support, and recommend, Kerrie Urosevich's nomination to the Governors' Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning. I cannot think of a candidate better suited to this position. She has strong experience with many formal educational programs as well as family and community programs, and a profound dedication and drive to improve the education and lives of all of our state's keiki. Her voice is thoughtful and her vision is broad. Please give her your most careful consideration. Mahalo for your time, Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng

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April 8, 2013

Committee on Education  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Dear Senators:

I fully support Kerrie Urosevich's nomination to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning. I first met Kerrie in a workgroup outlining the desired outcomes and strategies for the State Action Strategy Plan for the Executive Office of Early Learning. Our group was tasked with representing the concerns of families of children, birth through age 8. When one of our leaders was unable to continue her work with us, Kerrie graciously co-led the remainder of this 6 month project and was instrumental in helping us bringing in the family voice with her background as the Executive Director of Family Hui, as a community member, and as a parent of 3 children. Kerrie has a wonderful gift of being able to help connect groups and resources together to work efficiently. I especially appreciate her passion for families' well being and her desire to support them.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Kerrie Urosevich's nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Warmest Aloha,  
Cherilyn Shiinoki

**From:** [Diana Warrington](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Kerrie Urosevich -Hearing April 10th  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 09, 2013 9:53:29 AM

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Aloha,

I support Kerrie Urosevich's nomination to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning without reservation. I have known Kerrie through our work with the Association for Conflict Resolution Hawaii Chapter where she is currently President-Elect. Last year, Kerrie introduced the Raising Peacebuilders 360 Workshops which brought together teachers, parents and community members to brainstorm and share ideas for raising children to be leaders in conflict resolution, critical thinking and compassionate citizenry.

Kerrie embodies the characteristics she supports in raising our children: curiosity, creativity, compassion, critical thinking, courage, community, commitment, leadership and perseverance in all areas of her life and she freely shares them with everyone she comes in contact with. As a retired Family Court Judge I am acutely aware of the importance of early learning and its impact on the health and well being of our children and wholeheartedly support Kerrie's confirmation.

Mahalo,

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To all it may concern,

I would like to offer my written testimony in support of Kerrie Urosevich serving on the Governor's Board for the Office of Early Learning.

I have known Kerrie for more than 7 years and in that time have had the pleasure of seeing her work processes in several different arenas.

Throughout each endeavor, whether it be her work in facilitation, sitting as Executive Director, Family Hui at Lead4Tomorrow or engaging her students at UH, Kerrie's commitment and dedication are always evident, as well as her ability to individualize each and every event.

The heartfelt passion Kerrie has to ensure every child is given the opportunity to thrive, be loved, and be given the precious gift of education, comes from an unwavering conviction that our future is truly in their hands. She firmly believes all communities have the capacity to address their own obstacles and overcome them through education, dialogue, and planning. She is committed to building safe and thriving communities by working to eradicate the root causes of violence, poverty and marginalization.

This begins with early education.

Whether working towards solving the issue of global warming, eradicating disease or world hunger, putting a stop to human trafficking or moving toward a more peaceful global community, Kerrie's passion is only matched by her training, education, drive. She knows the key to solving all these global issues is in proper education starting in early childhood. Children are the key to unlocking all of these doors.

Early education that incorporates conflict resolution is imperative. Kerrie works with an indefatigable spirit towards providing this for all our children. She has made tremendous progress in the past year, and has established working programs not just here in our own neighborhoods, but in other countries as well. It's working. Kerrie is working. She is an asset to the Early Learning Advisory Board and will continue to do great work with our support.

Me ka aloha pumehana,

Vickie Groten