

GM750

Benjamin Naki III

Nomination to the Early
Learning Advisory Board

EDU



GOV. MSG. NO. 750

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

March 22, 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 **Early Learning Advisory Board**:

EARLY LEARNING
ADVISORY BOARD

TERM TO EXPIRE

Benjamin Naki III

6/30/2015

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

13 MAR 25 10 22

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

April 2, 2013

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

From: Benjamin K. Naki III

Re: Responses to Questions on my Nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board

Why did you apply to be a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board?

The opportunity to serve on the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) is a privilege that has allowed me to share my thoughts, opinions and insight as the state of Hawaii embarks on creating a much needed early learning system. I applied to be on this board to be able to implement change in the state of Hawaii and emphasize the importance of early childhood education and the benefits of investing in the education of young children.

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?

I see the role of the ELAB as a body that works WITH the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). In my opinion, ELAB is responsible for supporting, providing guidance, and feedback to EOEL.

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 state 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 Education for over 13 years. My experience includes 2 years of work as a home visitor and 11 years of experience with the Early Head Start (EHS) and Head Start (HS) programs. As a Father Facilitator (2 years), I conducted home visits and worked with fathers, with children 0-3 years old, on the understanding the importance of father involvement. I then began my career with EHS and HS where I held positions such as Family Services Coordinator (2 years), Comprehensive Services Manager (2 years), Assistant Director (1 year), and finally my current position as Program Director which I have been in since 2007. My strengths are in the area of organizing and establishing comprehensive services (i.e. Health, Family Engagement, etc.) to better support early childhood education services. My educational background consists of a Bachelor's Degree in Family Resources from the University of Hawaii, at Manoa and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Chaminade University. Since 2008, I have been the Treasurer for the Head Start Association of Hawaii and served on the Region IX Head Start Association Board of Directors from 2008 to 2010. I also completed the UCLA/Johnson & Johnson Head Start Management Fellows Program in the summer of 2009. From 2000-2002, I was the Past Co-Chair for the Hawaii Coalition for Dads.

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

The one issue that has surfaced from time to time thus far during ELAB meetings is the discussion around clear expectations of what the role is of ELAB. Steps are being taken to provide some clarity around what is expected of ELAB and its role as it relates to EOEL.

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

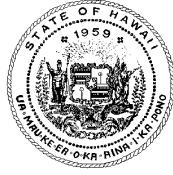
The biggest challenge I foresee is building capacity to roll out a quality state funded early learning program. There are so many moving parts that need to be solidified for the program to be consistent among providers. We will need to focus on establishing standards, space issues, recruitment of qualified staff, higher education involvement, and public and private collaborations. All of these challenges also serve as opportunities to develop an efficient, sustainable, quality early education program. The journey has already begun, but there is still a lot of work ahead.

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 of interest?

At this time, I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interest that may arise while I am serving on the Early Learning Advisory Board. If a conflict of interest were to surface, I would reclude myself from the process and/or discussion.

GM750

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 8, 2013
2:00 p.m., Room 414

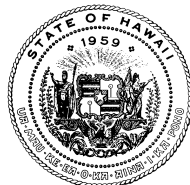
Governor's Message No. 750
Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Benjamin Naki III,
For a Term to Expire June 30, 2015

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Governor's Message No. 750, nominating Benjamin Naki III, to the Early Learning Advisory Board. The Executive Office on Early Learning strongly supports his nomination.

Mr. Naki is a graduate of the University of Hawaii with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family Resources, and a Master of Science Degree in Counseling/Psychology from Chaminade University. He has been the Program Director for Parents and Children Together (PATCH), Early Head Start/Head Start since August 2007. His history with the organization, beginning in October 2000 as a Father Facilitator, then progressing to Family Services Coordinator in December 2002, Comprehensive Services Manager in October 2004, Assistant Director in July 2006, to his present Program Director position, has given him the depth of experience to effectively engage his colleagues and the families he serves in accomplishing the goals of a comprehensive early childhood education program.

His ability to effectively collaborate with members of the early learning community, both public and private, and his strong dedication to the education of young children, is a great asset to the Board.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

Senate Committee on Education

G.M. 750, Confirmation Hearing for Benjamin Naki III, Early Learning Advisory Board

**Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

April 8, 2013

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports Mr. Naki as the Home Visiting
2 representative to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** none

4 **Purpose and Justification:** Confirmation hearing for Benjamin Naki as the Home Visiting
5 representative for the Early Learning Advisory Board.

6 Mr. Naki is the Program Director at Parents and Children Together (PACT) Early Head Start
7 (EHS) and Head Start (HS) program. In addition to his administrative responsibilities to these
8 programs, Mr. Naki has provided training and technical assistance on family engagement to home
9 visiting staff. He has experience as a home visitor Father Facilitator where he engaged fathers through
10 weekly home visits. Mr. Naki is highly qualified to represent home visitors on the Early Learning
11 Advisory Board. He was nominated through the Hawaii Home Visiting Network; a collaborative
12 coalition of evidence-based home visiting programs. The Network membership includes ten (10)
13 agencies representing seventeen (17) home visiting programs.

14 Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**PACT PARENTS AND
CHILDREN TOGETHER**
A FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY

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

FROM: Haaheo Mansfield
Senior Vice President of Programs
Parents And Children Together

RE: GM 750, in Strong Support of Appointment of Ben Naki

DATE: April 3, 2013

My name is Haaheo Mansfield. I am employed by Parents And Children Together and serve on the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council, the State Council on Mental Health and the loan review committee of Pathways to Work. Most recently, I had the honor of co-facilitating one of the six groups tasked with developing strategic action steps for the Governor's early learning initiative. I strongly urge you to support GM 750, relating to the appointment of Ben Naki to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Ben Naki is employed by Parents And Children Together as the Program Director of our Early Head Start/Head Start Program. His position in the agency affords Mr. Naki a hands on perspective of the educational challenges children and their families face, especially those children who are still assimilating to western culture, mores, and values. He brings to this position a profound respect for and understanding of how children learn best. Mr. Naki understands the importance of parent involvement and has made consistent efforts to promote leadership opportunities for parents. He recognizes that the learning process is significantly more impactful when the entire family is learning together. Also, Mr. Naki has made quality teaching his mantra, promoting positive and respectful attitudes amongst his staff because he understands the "how" of teaching can significantly determine the outcome of whether you have an engaged student or one that is completely disengaged and bored.

I believe if you asked any of his colleagues on the "temporary" Early Learning Advisory Board about Ben Naki and his commitment to early childhood education, they will sing his praise and urge you to strongly support his appointment to the Early Learning Advisory Board. If you would like to speak directly with me about Mr. Naki, please feel free to call me at 847-3285.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Ben Naki's appointment to the Early Learning Advisory Board.



**PACT PARENTS AND
CHILDREN TOGETHER**
A FAMILY SERVICE AGENCY

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

FROM: Kim Gould, Chief Operating Officer
Parents And Children Together

DATE: April 3, 2013

**RE: In Support of Benjamin Naki III for the Early Learning Advisory Board
(GM 750)**

I would like to support confirmation of Ben Naki for the ELAB. I am the Chief Operating Officer at Parents and Children Together (PACT), where Mr. Naki has worked since 2000 in service to children and families in need. I am delighted to express the support of PACT, and wish to add my personal backing for Ben as an ideal representative for this work.

Ben manages the largest arm of the PACT group of services, our Early Head Start and Head Start Programs. As the Program Director he guides and manages nearly two hundred child care and early childhood development staff across more than thirty facilities and supplementary home development settings in a hands-on service capacity for families. With deep roots in Hawaii, a solid educational grounding, and his breadth of experience in early childhood education, he is able to manage this complex web of federal programs effectively for Hawaii families. Thousands of families and children have received quality services under Ben's guidance in the last thirteen years. The resulting perspective he can bring to the Board will be valuable and forward thinking. Further, Ben's reputation is one of absolute integrity and care for Hawaii's keiki.

As someone who cares deeply about the long-term effectiveness of our early childhood education systems in Hawaii and as a close observer of Ben's work, I urge confirmation of him for the ELAB.

Submitted by: Lynn B. Wilson, PhD
3 April 2013

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

I support Ben Naki's nomination to the Governor's Advisory Board for the Office on Early Learning. Ben has experience and expertise in providing high quality, integrated, comprehensive services to low-income families as Program Director for Early Head Start on Oahu and for Head Start on the Big Island. He understands the issues surrounding early childhood, for families, for communities, and for the programs themselves. Ben would be a great asset to the governor's Early Learning Advisory Board.

To: Senate Committee on Education
Attention: Chairperson Sen. Jill Tokuda
Vice-Chairperson Sen. Michelle Kidani

From: John M. Compton, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist

Letter of Support for the Nomination of Ben Naki to the Early Learning Advisory Board

I am extremely pleased to have the opportunity to offer my full support for the Governor Abercrombie choice of Ben Naki as a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board.

I have had the good fortune to spend the major part of my career working with Hawaii's families, most commonly to support and assist the parents in their unending efforts to provide the most positive care, experiences, and education to do their best in helping their children develop their talents and skills to encourage healthy and meaningful aspirations and ultimately the attainment of positive adult lives for themselves and their families as adults. In that journey I have worked in the Hawaii's DOH Mental Health Division, the Department of Education, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hilo, Leeward, and Windward, as well as working with Head Start and Early Head Start.

I relate this broad experience because I can truly say I have worked with many, many wonderful people, all dedicated to improving the lives and opportunities for Hawaii's children and families; and I can say, without any reservation, that among those persons I have known who consistently, every day, spend the vast bulk of their waking hours working as hard to do everything they can to provide the best programs possible that Ben Naki is right there at the top. I first met him when he was the Director of Special Services for Head Start and Early Head Start Programs for Parents and Children Together (PACT). His work in that position made him the obvious choice when the position of Director of those wonderful programs became available.

Having observed Mr. Naki's very caring attitude and dedication in his work in the first position, as well as with his own family, I could not imagine he would not be selected for the position, and his quick selection confirmed my expectations. What makes Ben Naki such a great choice for the Early Learning Advisory Board is what makes him such an excellent Director for PACT Head Start and Early Head Start. He is one of those individuals who has it both ways: He has exceptional intellect, but he cares, and he always recognizes there are multiple approaches to every challenge and task humans must face, especially providing nurturing environments and programs for young children. He never jumps to conclusions, or tries to impose what he thinks should be done.

Culturally, Hawaii's strength is recognizing the importance of sharing our ideas, looking at all possibilities, and ultimately working together to come up with plans, programs, and methods of doing things in the best way possible, but in ways that provides for sensitivity for the multicultural world that families represent. Here is where Ben excels; he not only has the intellect and knowledge about early childhood development and education, and

administrative acumen, but he genuinely cares about humankind. He appreciates and values humankind, families, individuals, adults and children. He cares; he seeks to do whatever he can to make a better world, and a most important road is to assist our children and their families in ensuring they can develop their talents to the fullest. Ben always does his best to further that goal not only for his own family, but without fail in his work for our community. I am sure the other nominees are excellent as well, but I am most happy and impressed to know that our Governor Abercrombie has nominated Mr. Ben Naki, like his father, a caring community leader, to be a member of The Early Learning Advisory Board. I know of no better person for a position on that Council.

I thank you for your service and the time you are taking to ensure that all the members of The Early Learning Advisory Board can meet the high standard suggested by the nomination of Mr. Naki. He has both the brain and the heart that is needed for this most important responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Compton, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist
Educational, Family, Forensic, and Neuropsychology Services

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: Jlsurf@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM750 on Apr 8, 2013 14:00PM
Date: Thursday, April 04, 2013 11:55:41 AM

GM750

Submitted on: 4/4/2013

Testimony for EDU on Apr 8, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Linsangan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. Ben Naki is one the most outstanding, honest, and hardworking individuals I know. Having Ben serve our state's Early Learning Advisory Board would be a blessing. I have worked with Ben and I have watched him grow his program by leaps and bounds. Ben will be a definite asset and be positive voice for Hawaii's children. Thank you for considering Ben.

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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Honorable Jill Tokuda,
Chair, Senate Education Committee

April 5, 2013

I am pleased to provide my support for the nomination of Ben Naki 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. Mr. Naki 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 home based and center-based services for prenatal, infant-toddler and preschool age groups. In addition he has experience in executing public-private partnerships (e.g., inclusion classrooms for infants-toddlers and preschoolers, Pre-plus, Hawaii P-3 Farrington Complex Initiative) which will be critical to ensuring broad access to services.

For the past four years, I have worked closely with Mr. Naki in his capacity as Parent and Children Together's Early Head Start and Head Start Program Director, which provides critical early learning opportunities for disadvantaged children and families throughout O`ahu and the Big Island. His knowledge of the Early Head Start and Head Start programs are essential to ensuring that Hawaii takes full advantage of the opportunities these key federal programs may offer to build our early learning system. He has managed and continues to manage the transition of these programs 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.

Mr. Naki 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. He provides the leadership necessary to ensure that all those involved in the Early Head Start program, including administrators, teachers, children and their families receive the supports necessary for success. His teachers have participated in ongoing mentoring and professional learning community discussions with the Project's Head Start and Kindergarten teachers to ensure continuity and coherence in each child's learning experiences.

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

Sincerely,

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: 808laiepoint@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM750 on Apr 8, 2013 14:00PM
Date: Friday, April 05, 2013 3:45:10 PM

GM750

Submitted on: 4/5/2013

Testimony for EDU on Apr 8, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Te'o	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have worked with Ben Naki III for the last 10 years. His commitment to ECE and his passion for Head Start make him a prime candidate for this position. I support him in this effort.

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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