



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

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

**FROM:** Ruthann Quitiquit  
President & CEO  
Parents And Children Together

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

**DATE:** April 4, 2013

My name is Ruthann Quitiquit and I have been the President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT) for over 20 years. Historically I have served on a number of Governor appointed boards and councils and thus have a fairly good understanding of the demands required and personality needed to successfully serve in this capacity. When the request came for PACT to consider nominating one of our employees to sit on the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB), I immediately asked Ben Naki to apply.

Ben Naki is the Program Director of PACT's Early Head Start and Head Start Program. Mr. Naki has worked at PACT for over 13 years, first as a Father Facilitator, then numerous positions within Early Head Start and Head Start and now as the very seasoned Early Head Start and Head Start Program Director. Mr. Naki's position presents him with a wealth of knowledge about early childhood education. In his oversight of the program, he is always strength based, culturally appropriate, and understands that children learn best in an environment of caring, love and hands on instruction. He understands the importance of parent involvement and is a master at working in collaboration with the parents -- working together to assure positive outcomes for their children.

For the past six years I have the good fortunate of supervising Ben in his work at PACT. He happens to be the only program director that I directly oversee and thus I have hands on knowledge on how he does the work of his program. I have seen Ben grow in his position, take on difficult tasks, work hand in hand with his staff to identify and solve problems and all the time assuring quality outcomes for the parents and children in the Early Head Start and Head Start Program. He does all of this with a quiet gentleness and an overriding respect to those he works with. However, Mr. Naki is also an astute business man as he oversees a program with an average annual budget of approximately 8.5 million, a staff of over 150 employees, with operations on two islands and in over 50 locations.

As you can see, Mr. Naki brings not only his deep understanding of early childhood education to the ELAB, but also a strong business acumen. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support GM 750, relating to the appointment of Ben Naki 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.