

# GM751

Voletta Noe Noe Tom  
Nomination to the Hawaii  
Teacher Standards Board  
EDU

April 4, 2013

Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol, Room 218  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Re: GM 751 - Nomination to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

Thank you for scheduling my nomination by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the HTSB.

As you requested, the following captures the questions you have asked of me and my responses accordingly:

- (1) Why did I decide to apply to serve on the HTSB?

I am requesting reappointment to the Board as the public member because I believe I have and can continue to be a contributing member. I also enjoy this form of public service.

- (2) Given my understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the HTSB, why do I believe that I am qualified for the position? (Include a brief statement of the skills, expertise, experiences, or knowledge that would aid in my decision-making ability as a member of the HTSB. Highlight the three qualities that make me a highly qualified candidate.)

With 20+ years of experience as the former administrator of a State regulatory professional and vocational licensing entity I bring to the HTSB familiarity with working with laws, rules, licensing and regulation, client service, budgeting, streamline and efficient processing, legislation and rule making, and working cooperatively with boards and constituencies. This provides a sound foundation for me to be an effective board member. I would describe myself as reasonable and practical, dedicated to doing any job well, and a proficient problem solver.

- (3) What do I perceive the role and responsibility of the HTSB is as it relates to teacher quality and student achievement?

We have a role in determining teacher quality for new licensees by ensuring the quality of their teacher preparation program provides clinical studies and practical experiences that are relevant to today's needs and that the program completer graduates with the capabilities and confidence to perform effectively in the classroom. Our responsibility is to keep abreast of changes that are needed and effectuate such changes

accordingly with the teacher preparation programs. We also have a role in ensuring that with re-licensure (also known as license renewal), the licensee has maintained a level of competency and professionalism to continue to be an effective teacher in the classroom. Our responsibility is selecting what would best demonstrate this standard and to re-license accordingly.

While I do not believe the Board has a direct role on the matter of student achievement there is no doubt that the above described roles and responsibilities, if done well by the Board, can positively impact teacher effectiveness and thereby be a factor for student achievement.

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

In my opinion, the Board has made great strides in improving its licensing services and communications with its constituency. It has also become much more transparent in the conduct of its business and engages stakeholders for input and recommendations. It also has become fiscally responsible. The relationship with the Department of Education has improved. The Board has also worked at being part of the solution (rather than the source of the problem), thoughtful and deliberate in its discussions, mindful of the parameters of its regulatory law and rules, and considerate of the impacts that could result from their decisions. Continuing to improve in all these areas should and is being done.

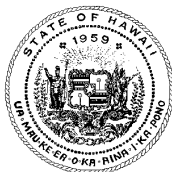
- (5) Do I foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during my service on the HTSB? How would I overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

No conflicts are foreseen at this time but should any arise I will fully disclose this to the Board and recuse myself from discussions and decision-making.

*Voletta Noe Noe Tom*

**GM751**

**Testimony**



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Wednesday, April 10, 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 751

Consideration and Confirmation of Voletta Noe Noe Tom  
to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

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

I am pleased to reappoint **Voletta Noe Noe** Tom to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB). As required by Section 302A-801, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Hawaii Business Roundtable, Hawaii P-20 Council, and Hawaii Workforce Development Council nominated Tom for the HTSB to represent the public. Tom's term will end on 6/30/2016.

Tom has over 25 years of administrative and managerial experience. Tom spent many years in her career leading the State of Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs in many capacities including Deputy Director and Licensing Administrator for the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division.

Tom's experience in regulating licensing has been invaluable to the HSTB as it has standardized and automated its processes to better serve teachers. Tom's contributions on the HTSB have allowed her to achieve her goal to "uphold a regulatory process that ensures qualified and competent individuals are licensed based on national standards and the needs of this state (and) is fair and equitable" and that "processing is executed effectively, efficiently and timeline and the organization is financially self sufficient."

I am appreciative of Tom's service on the board and grateful of her willingness to continue serving the state. I respectfully request that you confirm Tom to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Thank you for your consideration.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**Testimony for GM751**  
**Senate Committee on Education**  
**Wednesday, April 10, 2013 1:15 PM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 414**

**Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT for NOE NOE TOM**

LYNN HAMMONDS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD

April 2, 2013

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

It is my pleasure to strongly support the nomination of Noe Noe Tom for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board for a term to expire on June 30, 2016.

Ms. Tom's prior experience with regulatory licensing at the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs has been an invaluable resource for HTSB to implement policies which strengthen preparation and licensing standards and procedures. The HTSB is completing a two year revision of our Administrative Rules, and her input and guidance have ensured that this revision will result in streamlined, user-friendly licensing rules that will make sense to the general public.

In addition to Noe Noe's tremendous technical experience, she brings common sense and an expectation for excellence at all levels of HTSB responsibility. She heads the Board's Budget, Personnel and Strategic Planning Committee and developed and implemented a Strategic Plan to guide HTSB through 2015.

Most importantly, Noe Noe Tom is a person of great integrity and tireless dedication who gets the job done, and gets it done the right way. I am thankful for the time and expertise she has given to the HTSB, and ask you to allow her to serve another term.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony presented before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
April 10, 2013 at 1:15 pm  
By Karen C. Lee, Ed.D.  
Executive Director, Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for Education

GM 751: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, **VOLETTA NOE NOE TOM**, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

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

GM 751 recommends consideration and confirmation of **Voletta Noe Noe Tom** to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HTSB) until June 30, 2016.

Hawaii P-20 strongly supports this confirmation. Ms. Tom has been serving on the HTSB, as recommended by Hawaii P-20, the Hawaii Business Roundtable, and the Workforce Development Council, for the past term. Her extensive experience at the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, as well as her strong analytical background, intelligence, hard work and ability to work collaboratively with others, have made her an invaluable member of the Board. By all accounts, her contributions to HTSB have been significant and indispensable. The State of Hawaii and the teachers in our state would benefit greatly by Ms. Tom's continued service on the Board.

I am grateful that Ms. Tom is willing to serve another term. I urge you to confirm her to the HTSB.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jkissida@gmail.com](mailto:jkissida@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM751 on Apr 10, 2013 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 01, 2013 6:33:50 PM

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GM751

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 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jonathan Kissida | Individual   | Support            | No                 |

Comments: Noe Noe is a great asset for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. She has a wealth of background knowledge from her prior positions at DCCA. Her insight is invaluable.

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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3 April 2013

Senator Jill N. Tokuda  
Chair Senate Education Committee  
Senatorial District 24  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Ms. Noe Noe Tom Nomination to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Measure  
Number GM 751.

Honorable Senator Tokuda,

Thank you for the opportunity to lend my support for the nomination of Ms. Noe Noe Tom to serve on the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. Ms. Tom and I have worked together on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board for nearly two years and I am extremely impressed with her diligent and thoughtful approach to critical issues facing the Board.

Ms. Noe Noe Tom has over 25 years of administrative and managerial experience. She holds a Bachelors of Education degree from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. As a current board member, Ms. Tom represents the public and focuses on upholding a regulatory process that ensures qualified and competent individuals are licensed based on national standards and the needs of this state, that is fair and equitable, the licensure process is executed effectively, efficiently, and timely, and the Board is financially self-sufficient. In short, Ms Tom brings many years of valuable experience and personal dedication to the Board.

I strongly recommend Ms. Tom for appointment to the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board based on her combination managerial skills and personal commitment to giving Hawaii students the very best possible education we can give to them. I regret that I am not able to attend the hearing and testify in-person but I trust your committee will find Ms. Noe Noe Tom worthy of confirmation.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Patrick  
Member, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board