

GM779

Brian De Lima

Nomination to the
Board of Education

EDU

Brian J. De Lima
delima@bigislandlawyers.com
101 Aupuni Street, Ste. 133
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 969-7707

April 8, 2013

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218

Re: Nomination to the Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda:

I submit the following for your consideration of my nomination as a member of the Board of Education.

(1) Having served an inaugural term on the BOE, what made you decide to re-apply?

Service on the Board of Education is the most significant community service contribution I have undertaken in my life. These past two years, have allowed me to meaningfully engage on the issues in a positive and collaborative manner. The investment of time and energy in being the best board member I am able to be, mandated that I offer myself for nomination for an additional three year term. Furthermore, I hope to continue to bring voice to parents with special needs as I will continue to attend the Special Education Advisory Council meetings.

I will continue to work cooperatively with other members of the BOE, DOE, and all stakeholders to accentuate the positive achievements of our students, the hard work of our teachers, and the efforts of our legislators, educators, and community in support of public education.

(2) What do you feel has been your most significant contribution to the Board since you were confirmed in 2011?

The Board is comprised of individual members. the BOE may only take action as a Board. The Board is not responsible for day to day operations but rather sets policy directives that are enacted by the Superintendent of Education and State Librarian.

I believe that my most significant contribution as an individual board member is that I am fully prepared to participate, I read all the materials, I do independent research, I ask probing questions, I challenge assumptions, and ask for evidence based results.

The collective results of the Board decisions demonstrate a group of individuals that are willing to provide oversight and monitoring, provide constructive analysis, and require timely actions on issues of critical importance.

Board actions related to the strategic plan, audit plan, accreditation initiative, and overall efforts to improve student achievement is only accomplished through collective efforts of not only the Board but by all stakeholders.

- (3) What priorities do you feel are critical that the Board take up during the course of the year next term? What role do you see yourself playing in addressing these issues?

I am participating in a permitted interaction group of four Board of Education members in reviewing existing policies to reorganize, reformat, and if necessary rewrite policies that will be aligned to our strategic plan. We hope to have a report to the full Board within the next few months. The effort will also include a process by which the Department will be required to provide yearly monitoring compliance reports that address/identify compliance with BOE policies, progress/status in implementing policies, governance issues, management issues, and any recommend amendments or policies to improve compliance, governance, and management.

I expect the continued implementation of our strategic plan, and budget challenges will require prioritization. I stated during the confirmation process two years ago, that I believe that I have been trained my whole life to undertake this awesome responsibility in these challenging and difficult time. Resources are limited, priorities are being questioned, our citizens find it very difficult to meet their obligations. Our public schools provide hope for a positive future not only for the students that attend but for the families that dream of a better life for their children. I was blessed with **always** having supportive teachers and administrators that provided positive life lessons that I reflect on to this day and which I try to pass down to those who ask for my advice. The following will aid in my decision-making ability as a member of the BOE: 1. My training and work experience as staff person at the legislature. 2. My experience as a council member in evaluating programs and budgets for various departments. 3. My recent experience with the merit appeals board, and with my former role as a member and Chairman of the Hawaii County

Council for six years provide some insight on the workings of our collective bargaining law. 4. Being involved in our community, and working with people from a myriad of backgrounds, provide me with the skills to engage in public discussion about the policies that the Board must review and enact. 5. My background in public administration provides insight that policies need to be clear, capable of implementation and evaluation, and the need to consider and understand the fiscal implications of the policy. 6. Finally, my training as a trial lawyer hopefully will assist to articulate, persuade, and explain the intricacies of policy so that it is logical, understandable, and acceptable to the community as a whole.

(4) How do you feel individual members, and the Board as a whole, can improve stakeholder and community engagement in the formation of education policy?

I have held three community meetings each academic year although the law requires only one. The process of community meetings is best suited to address issues of public concern that allows for open discussion and exchange of ideas. I have also attended and have spoken to those community groups that I have been invited. I would support video conferencing of our meetings to permit as many citizens an opportunity to participate.

(5) As the Legislature contemplates various measures relating to the Department of Education, what conditions should be given, if any, as to the BOE's role in setting statewide education policy?

The Hawaii Constitution provides that the BOE shall have the power, "as provided by law", to formulate statewide educational policy. The legislature is the representative branch for our citizens and enactment of law requires the participation of the executive. Furthermore, the legislature is responsible for providing the funds for effective implementation of educational policy. It is within this framework that the BOE operates and is required to effectively define policies that are transparent and consistent with existing laws. Hopefully, all interested stakeholders including legislators will understand the basis for the decisions which fundamentally should be to improve student achievement.

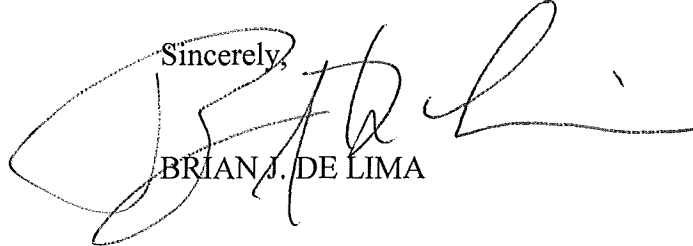
Senator Jill N. Tokuda
April 8, 2013
Page Four

- (6) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Board of Education? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I have undertaken representation of students and parents in the past in disputes with the Department of Education. I shall **not** undertake such representation in the future. I am a parent of a special needs student. The Board of Education is not involved in day to day operations and I would never seek any accommodation for my child that was not available for any student similarly situated.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. De Lima", written over the typed name.

BRIAN J. DE LIMA

GM779

Testimony

TULSI GABBARD
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER AND MARITIME
SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1102

300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 5-104
HONOLULU, HI 96850
(808) 541-1986

502 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4906

<http://www.gabbard.house.gov>

April 11, 2013

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
Chair, Senate Committee on Education
Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard
GM, 779 Letter of Support for Brian J. De Lima
Before the Senate Committee on Education

Dear Chairwoman Tokuda and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am honored to address your Committee and submit this letter in strong support of Brian J. De Lima for confirmation as the Hawaii Island Member of the Board of Education.

I have had the pleasure to work with Brian this past year and have seen his dedication and love for the people of Hawaii Island. He has invested his energy and commitment to serving the diverse communities on the Island of Hawaii. Brian is well respected throughout Hawaii Island and the State of Hawaii by constituents from a wide variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds.

Brian is a product of the public school system and has devoted his life to public service. Whether it be from his time on the county council where he was selected to be chairman, donating his professional time as a lawyer to help constituents of low income backgrounds with their cases, or advocating for the rights of special needs children and their families, Brian has whole-heartedly served the citizens of Hawaii.

It is necessary to have an individual with a wealth of knowledge and who will be able to provide keen insight into the complex issues that the Board must address in these critical and challenging times. Brian is a talented professional who is tough, passionate and logical. I know that Brian will represent the Island of Hawaii community with integrity, honesty, compassion and that he will be an asset to the Board of Education.

I am proud to strongly support Brian J. De Lima's nomination to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress
2nd District, Hawaii



STATE OF HAWAII
BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

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

Friday, April 12, 2013
1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

Testimony of Don G. Horner, Chairperson

GM 779 Confirmation of Brian De Lima to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

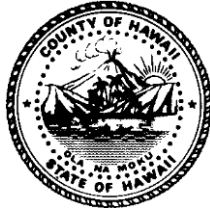
On behalf of the Board of Education, I am pleased to fully support the confirmation of Brian De Lima to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education (the "**Board**").

Brian has been a major contributor to the Board's strategic direction. He serves as the Board's vice-chairperson. Through this leadership role, Brian has been instrumental in supporting the effective governance of the Board and the development of our strategic plan. Additionally, he has worked tirelessly on the Board's policy audit. The goal of the policy audit is to do a comprehensive review of all Board policies in order to reduce redundancy and increase effectiveness and alignment with the Board and Department of Education's newly approved strategic plan.

Brian is committed to the students of Hawai'i. With his background in law, government service and a parent of a special needs child, his expertise has been invaluable. He has also gone above and beyond to make himself available to his communities. He organized and held three community meetings on the Big Island last year to ensure that he reached as broad an audience as possible by visiting Mt. View, Waikoloa and Hilo. Brian is a true public servant with a genuine caring and professional manner. In addition to the Board meetings and policy audit work group meetings, Brian also has committed to learning as much as possible about the special education aspects of the Department of Education. The Board appreciates his dedication and relies on him for his insights in this area.

Brian is truly an asset to this Board and we respectfully support his confirmation.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 12, 2013

Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Education
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to once again strongly support the nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the state Board of Education.

Brian's long-standing interest in public education dates back to his work to help establish the State Student Council, and his contributions as the first student representative to the state Board of Education in 1972. He was instrumental in drafting the Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities adopted by the Board of Education in 1974, and served as student body president at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in 1974 and 1975.

During his past two years of service with the state Board of Education, Brian has again clearly demonstrated his commitment to public education. Brian helped lead the effort to adopt a comprehensive strategic plan that focuses upon student achievement, and was instrumental in developing and adopting a plan to have all public schools from elementary through high school undergo accreditation. He also assisted in the successful effort to adopt an aggressive audit plan for the DOE.

Brian is an accomplished attorney and a product of the public education system, and has devoted many years of his life to public service. Brian served three terms on the Hawai'i County Council, where he was selected to lead the council as chairman. He currently serves on both the Hawai'i County Merit Appeals Board and the Hawai'i County Salary Commission.

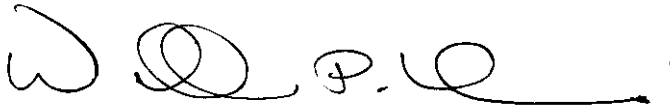
Honorable Jill N. Tokuda
April 12, 2013
Page 2

As a parent of two children, Brian understands that our community urgently demands improvement and excellence in public education to allow Hawai'i's children to thrive and compete in the global economy.

Brian will continue to help lead our public education system to a future that answers our community's demands for innovation and excellence, and provides a foundation to ensure all of our children have an opportunity to fulfill their academic potential.

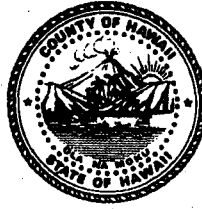
Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. P. Kenoi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

J Yoshimoto
Chair & Presiding Officer
Council District 2



Telephone: (808)961-8272
Facsimile: (808) 961-8912
Email: jyoshimoto@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL

*Office of the County Clerk
County of Hawai'i
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720*

April 9, 2013

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

Re: GM 779 - Confirmation to the Board of Education
Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN J. DE LIMA

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

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony IN SUPPORT of the confirmation of BRIAN DE LIMA as the Hawai'i Island Member of the Board of Education

I have known and worked with Mr. De Lima as a lawyer, council member and friend for over 20 years. Mr. De Lima provides wise counsel, is extremely knowledgeable about matters of public policy, and has a tremendous passion for Hawai'i and its people.

Mr. De Lima also has a reputation for getting results, largely due to his hard work and ability to identify practical solutions to difficult problems.

I attended public school, my children attend public school, and in my opinion the Governor made an excellent choice in this nomination. I believe that Brian De Lima has the knowledge, experience, and courage to make the right decisions. I strongly urge his confirmation.

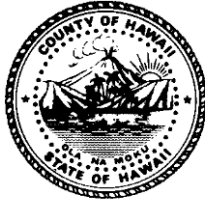
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,

J Yoshimoto, Chair
Hawai'i County Council

JY:awm

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Lincoln S.T. Ashida
Corporation Counsel

Katherine A. Garson
Assistant Corporation
Counsel

COUNTY OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

333 Kilauea Avenue, Second Floor • Hilo, Hawaii 96720 • (808) 961-8251 • Fax (808) 961-8622
E-mail: corpcounsel@co.hawaii.hi.us

April 10, 2013

Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and Senate Members:

RE: **Brian De Lima**
Nominee to Board of Education
GM779

This letter is submitted in support of the nomination of Brian De Lima to the Board of Education for the State of Hawai'i.

I have known Brian for over 25 years as a mentor and friend. Young lawyers in our community look up to Brian because of his vast legal and litigation experience, and most importantly his willingness to help others. As a young prosecutor I did cases against Brian, and what was most memorable was the honorable way he handled himself before the Court, and his civility in dealing with opposing counsel, parties and witnesses. It was never personal. After the case was done, Brian would mentor me, talk about the case, and give me helpful recommendations for future cases.

Brian's service to our community as a former Council member and community advocate is well documented. He gives his time and talents to make our community a better place.

Perhaps most impressive is Brian's humility. Despite his professional accomplishments, he *always* gives people the time of day. Brian is a great husband and father, and I am very proud to call him a friend and fellow lawyer.

I would unqualifiedly recommend the confirmation of Brian De Lima to the Board of Education. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,

LINCOLN S. T. ASHIDA
Corporation Counsel

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 12, 2013

This testimony is in support for GM779, consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN DELIMA, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

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 been attending regularly the Board of Education meetings, in particular, the Student Achievement Committee meetings, which focuses on student success, and also includes discussions on how family and community engagement can support students. Mr. De Lima, who is Vice-Chair of the Board, is often present and participates actively at the Student Achievement Committee meetings. We appreciate Mr. De Lima's contribution to this committee and for his support of family and community engagement.

We strongly encourage this Committee to reappoint Mr. De Lima. We look forward to continuing our work with him and the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. The support of this Governor's Message represents 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

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 (*)



S E A C
Special Education Advisory Council
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 101
Honolulu, HI 96814
Phone: 586-8126 Fax: 586-8129
email: spin@doh.hawaii.gov

April 12, 2013

**Special Education
Advisory Council**

Ms. Ivalee Sinclair, *Chair*
Ms. Martha Guinan, *Vice
Chair*

Ms. Brendelyn Ancheta
Ms. Cassandra Bennett
Dr. Tammy Bopp
Ms. Jyo Bridgewater
Dr. Robert Campbell
Ms. Deborah Cheeseman
Ms. Annette Cooper
Ms. Phyllis DeKok
Ms. Shari Dela Cuadra-Larsen,
liaison to the Superintendent
Ms. Gabriele Finn
Ms. Tami Ho
Ms. Barbara Ioli
Ms. Deborah Kobayakawa
Ms. Bernadette Lane
Ms. Shanelle Lum
Ms. Eleanor MacDonald
Ms. Rachel Matsunobu
Ms. Dale Matsuura
Ms. Stacey Oshio
Ms. Zaidarene Place
Ms. Barbara Pretty
Ms. Kau'i Rezentes
Ms. Melissa Rosen
Dr. Patricia Sheehey
Mr. Tom Smith
Mr. Mike Tamahaha
Dr. Daniel Ulrich
Ms. Cari White

Jan Tateishi, Staff
Susan Rocco, Staff

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

RE: GM 779 - GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE BRIAN
DELIMA FOR A TERM ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee;

The Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC), Hawaii's State Advisory Panel under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), **strongly supports** GM 779 requesting the Senate to consider and confirm **Brian DeLima** to a second term on the Board of Education.

To our knowledge, Mr. DeLima is the only member of the current Board with special education experience. He has been a frequent guest participant in SEAC's monthly meetings, and he has followed up well on our concerns, bringing back relevant information for our consideration. SEAC believes that if reappointed, Mr. DeLima will continue to keep the needs of students with disabilities in the foreground when deliberating policy or other Board actions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important legislation. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them.

Respectfully,

Ivalee Sinclair, Chair

KEAUKAHA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 5146, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Phone: (808) 937-8217

Email:kcaiprez@gmail.com

April 9, 2013

Senate Committee on Education

Hearing on Governor's Message 779, Scheduled for April 12, 2013 at 1:15pm Conf. Rm. 414

Nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair and members of the Education Committee,

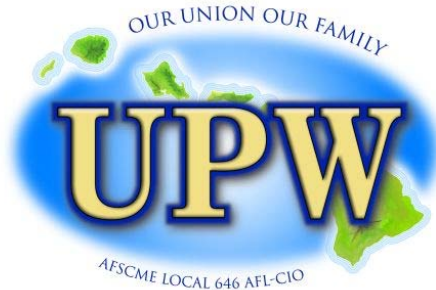
I am Patrick L. Kahawaiola'a a native Hawaiian as defined under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (HHCA, 1920) and the current president of the Keaukaha Community Association. We **strongly support** the nomination of Brian J. De Lima for the Board of Education.

Our native Hawaiian community has had the privilege this past two (2) years of having Board member De Lima advocate with the DOE for our community school's attempt to have a "**full service conventional kitchen**" built to replace our small cafeteria that can sit 100 students at a time, however we have a student body of over 400+ students on campus that needs to feed at three (3) sittings. We believe Board member De Lima has listened to our concerns and moved to help mitigate the sometime contentious adversarial role between community stakeholders and DOE. He has helped to bring about a small resolution whereby the DOE has awarded a contract to begin construction of our new cafeteria, albeit just being a "**servicing kitchen**".

We thank you for allowing this humble native Hawaiian community of Keaukaha to make comments we feel should allow Board member Brian J. De Lima to continue to do some of his best community service during his career.

If further comments are necessary I can be reached (808) 937-8217

ss/ Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2013

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The Honorable Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, April 12, 2013
TIME OF HEARING: 1:15 PM
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 414

**TESTIMONY ON GOV. MSG. NO. 779 SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BRIAN DELIMA**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports the confirmation of Brian Delima to the Board of Education.

Mr. Delima has many years of experience as a private attorney and former member of the Hawaii County Council. Currently, he is the BOE's vice chairman and was the board's first student member in 1972. Throughout his life he has dedicated and committed himself to public service. I believe that his unique perspective, passion for service and work ethic make him a perfect candidate for this position.

After your full consideration of Mr. Delima's background, character, experience and qualifications, I ask that the Committee on Education find Brian Delima qualified for the appointment and recommend that the State Senate confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2013

THE SENATE

Committee on Education

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 414

Friday, April 12, 2013; 1:15 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON G.M. 779
BRIAN DELIMA
FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The ILWU Local 142 supports the confirmation of Brian DeLima for another term on the State Board of Education.

Mr. DeLima, a native of the Big Island, has served on the Board of Education for the past two years as one of the board members appointed by the Governor following a constitutional amendment that provided for an appointed rather than an elected school board. A product of public education himself, Mr. DeLima is an attorney, a former County Council member from Hilo, and the parent of a child with special needs attending public school in Hilo.

During his two years on the Board of Education, Mr. DeLima has been involved in adopting a strategic plan focusing on student achievement and accreditation of each school. He is also working with other BOE members on reviewing, reorganizing, and even rewriting policies to be in line with the strategic plan.

The ILWU urges confirmation of Brian DeLima for another term on the Board of Education. Thank you for considering our testimony.

April 10, 2013

Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Governor's Message 779
Nomination of Brian J. De Lima as Hawaii Island Member of the Board of Education

sent via email to EDUTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Please allow this letter to express our full and strong support for Mr. Brian J. De Lima's confirmation to be the Hawaii Island Member of the Board of Education.

We all work with Brian J. De Lima in the law firm of Crudele and De Lima. Nearly all of our staff attended public schools. Gwen Abadilla has been Brian's legal assistant since 1990 and the majority of our staff have worked with the firm since 1996. Brian has an outstanding reputation and is a dedicated and hardworking lawyer. People trust his advice! Brian is a trial attorney, however, a majority of his work these past years have primarily been in the area of family law.



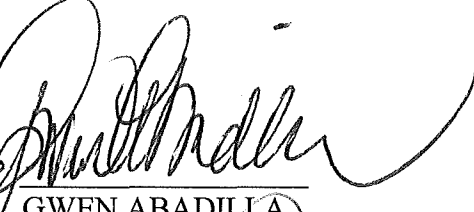
Brian often mentors new lawyers and enjoys working with associates who have in the past gone on to work as government lawyers and have excelled due in part to their work experience at Crudele and De Lima.

Throughout the years that we have known Brian, we are well aware of his public service, legal expertise and commitment to our Island and State. We have always known Brian to be a person of integrity, competence, and empathy.

We fully support his nomination and urge his confirmation.

Sincerely,


ROBERT CRUDELE

  
WILLIAM HEFLIN FRANCIS ALCAIN GWEN ABADILLA


SHEILA KANESHIRO

 
AIYANNA WAINWRIGHT ADRIENNE STEWART


AMY BAUTISTA


KAREN COIT


LAUREN VAN HEUKELEM

From: [S](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: BOE-Support for Brian J. De Lima
Date: Tuesday, April 09, 2013 4:58:30 PM

April 9, 2013

Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Governor's Message 779
Scheduled for April 12, 2013 at 1:15pm.
Conf. Room 414
Nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education

Sent via email to EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair & members of the committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education. Throughout Brian's life he has always been a strong advocate for public education in the State of Hawaii. He was educated in public schools & colleges & is a product of our educational system here in Hawai'i. He on a personal level has also been a very strong supporter for parents & children with special needs by diligently attending the Special Education Advisory Council meetings. He has been working hard on behalf of all students & I hope that he will be able to continue to contribute on this most important board.

Sincerely,

Cheryl J. De Lima
36 Hanohano St.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

LESLIE A. BOTELHO
78 AKALA ROAD
HILO, HI 96720
808-896-5553
lesbotelho@yahoo.com

April 7, 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:

**GM779 – Nomination of Brian DeLima to Board of Education
Hearing: April 12, 2013, Conf. Rm. 414**

I fully support the nomination of Brian DeLima to the Board of Education. I have personally known Brian for more than 25 years. Brian is competent, dedicated and has the energy to tackle problems that come his way.

Brian is a well respected lifelong member of the Big Island community. I ask you to support his nomination to the Board of Education.

Mahalo,

LESLIE A. BOTELHO

GERALD A. TAKASE
287 Kanoelani Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Telephone No. 959-4253(R); 961-8218(B)

April 10, 2013

Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Governor's Message 779, scheduled for April 12, 2013, 1:15 p.m., Conf. Room 414
Nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education

sent via email to EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education.

I have known Brian for over 40 years since our childhood days at Waiakea Intermediate and Hilo High School. Brian has always taken a keen interest in public education, which started with his selection as the first student member of the Board of Education, when he served as the Chairman of the Hawai'i State Student Council in 1973. He has come full circle with his past appointment to the Board of Education. This passion for public service led him to law school at the University of Hawai'i and to serve as a member of the Hawai'i County Council.

Brian has stated that of all the community service work he has undertaken, this is the best and most rewarding work he has ever done. Needless to say, we need smart, civic-minded individuals that are not afraid to ruffle a few feathers when needed. Brian is a proud member of the public school system and I know that he will strive to do what is best for them. The public school system outside of Oahu is really the main game in town for the neighbor islands and we need a strong public school system even more than ever before.

I know Brian has the knowledge, the experience and the determination to get the job done and I wholeheartedly endorse and support his nomination.

Sincerely,
/s/ GERALD A. TAKASE

Law Offices of Yeh & Moore

A Limited Liability Law Company

85 W. Lanikaula Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4199
Telephone (808) 961-0055 Fax (808) 969-1531

THOMAS L. H. YEH tly@lava.net

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Of Counsel:
JILL D. RAZNOV jdrznov@gmail.com

April 9, 2013

Via email <EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Governor's Message 779
Scheduled for April 12, 2013 at 1:15 p.m., Conf. Room 414

Re: Nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Brian J. De Lima's nomination to the Board of Education. I have known Mr. De Lima for over 30 years, both as a colleague in the legal profession here in Hilo, and as a friend. Brian is very committed to his work with the Board. He has accomplished much during his tenure. He should be allowed to continue with this work. He has told me personally that his work on the Board is the best community service he has done in his career. Please give his nomination a favorable review. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Law Offices of Yeh & Moore

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Moore', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

MICHAEL MOORE

ROBERT D.S. KIM, INC.

A Hawaii Law Corporation

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April 9, 2013

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BRIAN J. DELIMA

RE: Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Governor's Message 779
scheduled for April 12, 2013 at 1:15 p.m Conf. Room 414
Nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
and members of the committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education. I have known Mr. De Lima for over forty years. We served together as fellow class and student body officers at Hilo High School and at the University of Hawaii at Hilo College.

Mr. De Lima has always been involved with promoting education and opening access for youth in our State. As a former chairman of the Hawaii County Democratic Party, Mr. De Lima has had a solid history of supporting education, and education reform. Mr. De Lima is a product of our public school system, as well as the University of Hawaii Law School.

Mr. De Lima has given many hours of his time to community projects and concerns. He has a proven track record of being forward thinking and open to reform. Brian has the intellect, and motivation to make our state public education system work for the students, teachers and community. I endorse his nomination without qualification.

Very truly yours,



Robert D. S. Kim

From: [A Castberg](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Nomination of Brian De Lima to BOE
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 8:53:10 AM

This is written in support of the nomination of Brian De Lima to the Board of Education. I have known Brian since from the time he was of student of mine at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, many years ago. His keen intellect stood out then as it does today.

As a product of public education in Hawai'i (Kailua High School, 1959), and the husband and father of local high school

graduates (Hilo High School), I am keenly aware of the importance of public education to our state and our society.

Brian has always been a strong supporter of our public schools and especially of the challenge to our school system of special needs students

and their parents. He is an articulate voice of the public, a voice that must be heard by our legislature and its constituents. Unfortunately, too many

of our citizens are not involved in public education and/or have a negative perception of it, a perception that all too often is incorrect.

Brian is a member of a group of Board of Education members who are reviewing existing monitoring policies to make sure that the BOE adequately complies

with and responds to the public in general and the Legislature in particular. This work must continue, and it should continue with Brian as a member.

Sincerely,

A. D. Castberg

A.

From: [JIM WILSON](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: nomination of Brian DeLima to the board of education
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 4:46:51 PM

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218

April 10, 2013

Re: Nomination to Board of Education

Dear Senator Tokuda,

We have known Brian DeLima for many years, both socially and professionally, and think the Big Island will be well represented with Brian on the Board of Education.

His ability to look at issues objectively, through his experience as an attorney, his calmness, sensibility and ability to listen, make him a great asset to the Board.

When Brian was a Councilman, he quickly became the chair, when his leadership skills were recognized.

His performance this past year while serving on the Board of Education is a true example of the leadership skills he exhibited while Chair of the Hawaii County Council.

Often, special needs children fall through the cracks in the system. He is an advocate for the disabled. Brian has a personal interest because of daughter Blaire, who has Down's Syndrome.

Your consideration to reconfirm Brian DeLima to the Board of Education is greatly appreciated.

Jim Wilson
Retired Publisher, Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Audrey Wilson
Food Columnist, Hawaii Tribune-Herald

Cookbook Author

10 April, 2013

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair and members of the committee:

I strongly support the nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education.

I have known Brian for 20+ years both socially and professionally, and most especially recently in his role on the BOE. I am greatly impressed with his practical and logical approach to issues, and his strong and sincere desire to improve our schools so that all children and our community will benefit.

He has selfishly volunteered and given his time and energy extensively to this task, expecting nothing in return except the fulfillment of desire to make lives better for our kids.

He also demonstrates a balanced and perceptive approach, works well with people from all walks of life and all viewpoints. He has an excellent grasp of the issues, the problems, and the potential solutions and a better way forward. Business as usual is unacceptable given the results in our schools until now.

I strongly endorse his continued presence on the BOE

aloha
Edward Gutteling, M.D.

Hilo

(808)936-7200

From: [John Stover](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Brian J De Lima
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2013 5:33:25 PM

April 10, 2013

Senate Committee on Education

Hearing on Governor's Message 779 scheduled for April 12, 2013 at 1:15 pm Conf Room 414

Nomination of Brian J De Lima to the Board of Education

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair and members of the committee:

I am writing to you to strongly and enthusiastically support the nomination of Brian J De Lima to the Board of Education. Mr. De Lima is an influential and beloved attorney on the Big Island who has a passion for public service. My interactions with Brian always include discussion of education issues because these are dear to his heart. He cares deeply about public education on the Big Island and Hawaii as a state. I know that he has worked tirelessly over the past two years to focus on policies related to student achievement and success. He feels deeply that all students, especially those entering the system with disabilities, be offered equal access to excellent and well monitored programs of education. He is committed to ensure proper and thoughtful oversight of schools and teachers. He is also committed to seeing that education in Hawaii meets if not exceeds state and federal compliance requirements.

I am proud that Brian is such an accomplished yet humble ambassador for the Big Island on the state governing level. I am certain that his continuing to serve on the Board of Education will benefit our state's teachers, administrators and , most importantly, our students.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration in the matter.

Most sincerely,
John D. Stover, DDS, MD, PhD
Offices in Hilo, Kona and Kamuela

784 Kinoole St
Hilo, HI 96720
808-969-1818

April 9, 2013

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair
And Members
Senate Committee on Education

Re: GM779 – confirmation of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Committee members:

I am pleased to submit this testimony IN SUPPORT of the appointment of BRIAN J. DE LIMA to the Board of Education.

Brian J. DeLima will represent our island with integrity and honesty. Brian brings to the table a wealth of knowledge and will be able to provide keen insight into the complex issues that the Board must address. He is lifelong resident of the Island and State of Hawaii, and is a product of our public school system. That notwithstanding, Brian has a well-rounded background, including personal knowledge of private schools and also education and programs for special needs individuals. He is one of the foremost attorneys on our island, and can share his knowledge and understanding of the role education plays in the day-to-day life of our citizens.

Brian J. De Lima he has his own mind (and a keen one at that) however he is a team player, and is comfortable either as a leader or as a team member. He will be an asset to the Board of Education.

Thank you for allowing me to speak IN SUPPORT of the appointment of BRIAN J. DE LIMA to the Board of Education.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amy W. Miwa', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Amy W. Miwa

April 10, 2013

Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Governor's Message 779 scheduled for April 12, 2013 at 1:15 p.m Conf.
Room 414
Nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education

sent via email to EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair and members of the committee:

I am writing to you as a parent and a Vice President of the Noelani Parent Teacher Association to strongly support the nomination of Brian J. De Lima to the Board of Education.

Mr. De Lima has been serving on the Board of Education for the past two years. During this time, he diligently worked on: 1) a comprehensive strategic plan that focuses upon student achievement, 2) a plan to have all public schools from elementary through high school go through the accreditation process, and 3) an audit plan that focused upon high risk areas as recommended by auditors.

Mr. De Lima is currently participating in a group of four Board of Education members reviewing existing policies to reorganize and reformat policies that will be aligned to the strategic plan. The effort will also include a process by which the Department will be required to provide yearly monitoring compliance reports that address/identify compliance with BOE policies, progress/status in implementing policies, governance issues, management issues, and any recommend amendments or policies to improve compliance, governance, and management. Please allow Mr. De Lima to continue this work.

Respectfully,

Lola Salimova

DOUGLAS L. HALSTED
Attorney at Law
899 Ululani Street, Suite 4
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
Tel No. 808-961-5566
Fax. No. 808-961-5972
email: halstedlaw@hawaiiantel.net

April 11, 2013

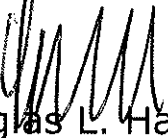
Senate Committee on Education
Hearing on Message 779
scheduled for April 12, 2013
1:15 pm Conf. Room 414

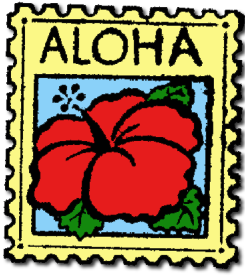
Nomination of Brian J. DeLima to Board of Education
via email to EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dear Senator Jill Tokuda
Chair and Honorable Committee Members:

I strongly support the nomination of Brian DeLima to the Board of Education. I have known Brian for many years and know he is devoted to public service. I know he has worked hard during his tenure on the Board and I am glad that he is seeking reappointment. I feel we will have a voice for the people of the Big Island in education by his continued service on the Board. He has taken steps to develop an audit plan for the DOE and generally streamline the operations of the Department (long overdue).

Please support him for the Board of Education.


Douglas L. Halsted



Holly J. Huber

1519 Nuuanu Ave #154 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 554-7692 • hollyjhuber@gmail.com

Senate Committee on Education

Hearing on April 12, 2013 @ 1:15 PM in Conference Room 414

GM779 APPOINTMENT OF BRIAN DELIMA TO BOARD OF EDUCATION

TESTIMONY - COMMENTS

April 11, 2013

Aloha Senators:

I provide these comments to notify you that recently the Board of Education has repeatedly violated its own By-Laws by not holding regular meetings.

In the past six months, the Board has skipped five regularly scheduled meetings.

Important issues are not being addressed in a timely manner by the Board of Education because of this.

Nominee Brian Delima has served as Vice Chair of the Board for the past two years. You may wish to ask Mr. Delima why the Board of Education of the 10th largest school district in the US has opted out of holding regular meetings and hearing community concerns.

General Business Meetings are not being held in accordance with the Board's By-Laws. According to section 6.1:

The Board shall meet regularly on the first and third Tuesday of each month, provided, however that any Board general business meeting date, time, or location may be changed or canceled by the Board Chairperson, subject to statutory notice requirements.

This twice-monthly meeting schedule is also published on the "Functions of the Board" webpage which describes the regular meetings "for the purpose of transacting official board business; receives requests and petitions from the public; receives reports from the Superintendent of Education, the State Librarian, board committees, commissions, and student representatives; and expresses board concerns."

Since October 2012, the Board has not been meeting regularly. In the past six months, only seven General Business Meetings have been held instead of the twelve mandated. The Board met only once a month in November, December, January, March, and April.

The effectiveness of the Board and ability of the community to provide input is greatly diminished when these regular meetings are not held. In many cases the Board has found itself in a reactive, as opposed to a proactive position.

Board policy clearly states that the Board has both the authority and the responsibility to "formulate policy and exercise control over the public school system." Monitoring and oversight are cited as "vital" Board functions. The Board cannot fulfill these obligations without holding regular meetings.

In addition, section 6.4 of the By-Laws requires the Board to "hold not less than one community meeting annually in each county in addition to regular meetings to discuss and receive input from the community on public education and public library issues." The Board has not held a Community Meeting since May 2012.

Most parents, students, teachers, librarians, administrators, and members of the public are unable to attend regular Board meetings because they are now held during business hours with committee meetings at 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM and the General Business Meeting starting at 1:30 PM.

Previously the Board held evening meetings scheduled at various schools across the islands for site visits and to ensure that people across the state had access to the Board. The current Board limits public testimony to agenda items only with no time for hearing community concerns except at an annual community meeting.

When held, the Board's meetings are being conducted in a manner that is not conducive to public participation and community input.

The structure of the General Business Meetings is backwards. Public testimony is permitted only prior to the agenda item being presented. Those wishing to testify are put in the awkward position of providing testimony on a report they have not yet heard. This is complicated by the fact that agenda items are often vague and many reports and presentations are oral or are not made available to the public in advance of the meeting.

Placing the Board's Executive Session at the beginning of each agenda is another impediment to community access. It does not serve the public to keep them waiting in the hall for an indefinite period, often an hour or more. The Board has prioritized its Executive Session agenda over all other reports and action items, often cutting later presentations short due to time constraints.

The Senate Committee on Education should be aware of these problems with the Board of Education and question nominees about these issues.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Huber