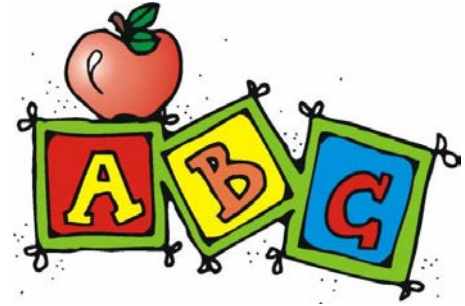


# GM650



Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ALFRED CASTLE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Report Title: Early Learning Advisory Board

Current Referral: EDU



GOV. MSG. NO. 650

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

March 27, 2014

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 Hawaii 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

Alfred Castle

6/30/2016

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor, State of Hawaii



733 BISHOP STREET, SUITE 1275  
HONOLULU, HI 96813  
(808) 522-1101  
(808) 522-1103 (FAX)  
EMAIL: [snandmarycastle@hawaii.rt.com](mailto:snandmarycastle@hawaii.rt.com)

ALFRED L. CASTLE  
Executive Director and Treasurer

THE  
SAMUEL N.  
AND  
MARY CASTLE  
FOUNDATION

March 31, 2014

and the  
HENRY & DOROTHY CASTLE  
MEMORIAL FUND

Jill Tokuda  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
Room 218  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Jill,

Thank you for considering my nomination for a second term as the philanthropy representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Since I will be attending Foundation board meetings in Washington, D.C. on April 9th, I have asked GG Weisenfeld to speak for me. My testimony is enclosed.

With best wishes,

Alfred L. Castle  
Executive Director

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR ABERCROMBIE'S NOMINATION  
OF ALFRED L. CASTLE FOR A SECOND TWO-YEAR TERM REPRESENTING  
PHILANTHROPY ON THE EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY BOARD.**

I have applied for a second term on the Early learning Advisory Board to ensure that the universe of private philanthropy has a voice in the making of a comprehensive high quality public-private early education System. Serving on the Board allows me to seek and to receive valuable information about policy and practice matters that I can communicate back to the Keiki Funders Network and the Be My Voice Hawaii associations which I co-chair.

My responsibility is to ensure that the perspectives of corporate and foundation philanthropy are shared with policymakers and that opportunities for private investments are communicated back to charitable investors.

I serve as Executive Director and Trustee of the venerable Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation. With roots back to 1836, the Foundation was responsible for many innovations in early education including the pioneering of kindergartens in Hawaii. I am active nationally as a former trustee of Grant Makers for Children, Youth and Families (Maryland) and as a member of the Family Foundations Committee of the Council on Foundations in Washington, DC. I currently serve as a director of the Federal Philanthropy Fund and as a director of the Early Education Funders Collaborative in Washington, DC. A complete resume is included for your reference.

My short-term goal for my participation in the Early learning Advisory Board is to help shape a funding strategy, with a mix of private and public sources of revenue, to support a high quality early learning system. I have a special interest in seeing the comprehensive action plan implemented. The long term goal is to provide ongoing teacher training to DOE elementary teachers and principals and to ensure that the public providers are reasonably well integrated horizontally with private providers and vertically integrated through a sequenced Pk-3 transition.

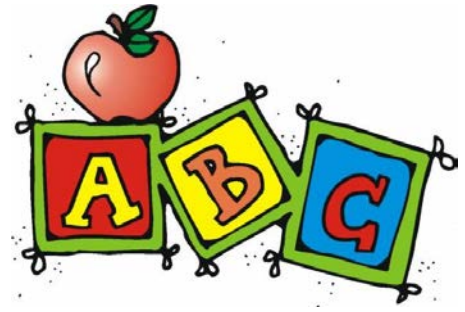
I see the ELAB has provided insight and advice to the Executive Office of Early Learning and assisting the executive staff with key decisions on how best to ensure quality and integration throughout the public-private pre-k system.

I see no major conflict with my position as a foundation executive. It is critical that the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation be independent of any government entity as we may well need to fund at cross purposes with decisions made in the DOE. However, this is easily handled by announcing a conflict and not voting on an issue if it is not appropriate to do so.

I want to thank Senator Tokuda, the members of her Senate Committee and the Governor for their thoughtful consideration of my interest to serve the State of Hawaii.  
Aloha,

Alfred L. Castle

GM650



TESTIMONY



EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING  
HONOLULU

GG WEISENFELD  
DIRECTOR

Testimony in **Support** of  
Governor's Message No. 650  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Alfred Castle  
For a term to expire June 30, 2016

By GG Weisenfeld, Director

Senate Committee on Education  
April 9, 2014  
1:15 p.m., Room 414

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 650, nominating Alfred Castle to the Early Learning Advisory Board. The Executive Office on Early Learning supports his nomination.

Mr. Castle is the Executive Director and a member of the Board of Trustees of The Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation, which is committed to providing resources to improve the life of Hawaii's children and families by improving the quality and quantity of early education. Their efforts are concentrated on creating greater social equality and opportunity through improving access to high quality prekindergarten education.

The Foundation has held a special place in the history of early education in Hawaii as its founder, Mary Castle, provided the funding for our first kindergartens in the early twentieth century. Mr. Castle is committed to seeing that legacy through and providing quality early childhood education opportunities for all of Hawaii's children. It was thanks to his non-federal share match – funding to support quality initiatives and professional development – and that of a few others that Hawaii was able to secure ARRA funding for the State Advisory Council (then the Early Learning Council) in 2008-2009.

It is important to note that the Foundation does not limit its work to funding; it supports the creation and maintenance of state and federal policies which support children and families to achieve the social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills necessary to learn and grow. The Foundation believes that “investing in the healthy development of young children requires a commitment to working across domains including health, mental health, education, early intervention, food and nutrition, maternal health and child welfare to build an accountable, comprehensive seamless system of high quality service.”

Mr. Castle is being recommended to serve on the Early Learning Advisory Board as its representative of philanthropic organizations that support early learning. As part of a philanthropic family with a legacy that dates back to the 1650s and spans both coastal boundaries of our county, Mr. Castle will bring a multitude of personal and professional assets to the Board’s work. Through his work with national philanthropic associations, he will bring both financial and intellectual resources to Hawaii’s task of educating young children.

April 4, 2014

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

In Re: Nomination of Alfred Castle to the Early Learning Advisory Board

Dear Senators Tokuda, Kidani and Committee Members:

As Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Board and President of the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation Board, I strongly support Alfred L. Castle for a second term as the philanthropy representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

During his first term, Al has made a significant contribution to our discussions and in our advisory capacity for the Executive Office on Early Learning. He has brought his broad understanding of early learning with a clear commitment to addressing access needs, supporting professional development for educators and a concern for ensuring quality experiences for children to the table.

Al offers a unique perspective to our deliberations as someone who is sensitive to local needs and history and has national affiliations offering him a broad view of the early learning landscape. As Executive Director of the Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation, Al has continued the legacy of its founders by supporting efforts to create public/private partnerships which extend opportunities and consider the needs of all Hawaii's *keiki*. He has served as a trustee of Grant Makers for Children, Youth and Families and as a member of the Family Foundations Committee of the Council on Foundations in Washington, D.C., giving him a sense of national trends and research findings. Currently, Al is a director of the Early Education Funders Collaborative which helps to keep the ELAB apprised of relevant issues.

Al Castle is committed to facilitating a high-quality state wide early learning system by helping to develop a sustainable funding strategy utilizing both private and public revenue, one that is particularly supportive of teacher training. His measured attitude, devotion to early learning and understanding of the philanthropic community make him an important member of the ELAB. I hope you will support his continued participation.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Robert G. Peters, ELAB Chair  
Samuel N. & Mary Castle Foundation Board, President





Wednesday, April 9, 2014

1:15 PM

Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION

RE: GM 650 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) Gubernatorial Nominee, ALFRED CASTLE, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

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

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

**HAIS is in strong support of GM 650**, Al Castle's reappointment to the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB). Mr. Castle has been in the field for over three decades and I have had the pleasure of working with him for more than twenty of those years. I hold him in the highest esteem. HAIS has long been an advocate for educational programming and services for young children, particularly through our active involvement in the ELAB. Our association's participation has given me the opportunity to collaborate on numerous policy matters with Mr. Castle.

HAIS looks forward to continued and thoughtful discussion on how best to achieve high quality early learning programs that are available, affordable, and accessible for all children, birth to kindergarten entry, and address children's diverse abilities and needs.

I strongly believe that Al Castle's continued involvement in early learning initiatives via the Early Learning Advisory Board will be to the benefit of young children in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to support GM 650.

**Good**  **Beginnings Alliance**  
Voices For Hawai'i's Children

April 7, 2014

To: Chair Jill Tokuda  
Vice-Chair Michelle Kidani  
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Deborah Zysman  
Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

Re: **GM 650** – Supporting ALFRED CASTLE for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee on Education,

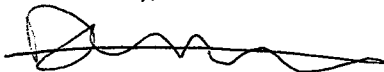
The Good Beginnings Alliance (GBA) strongly supports the nomination of Alfred Castle to serve on the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) for a term to expire on June 30, 2016. Al Castle has been, and continues to be, a steadfast leader and advocate for expanding and improving Hawaii's education system. As the Executive Director of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation, Mr. Castle has worked to expand the learning opportunities of Hawaii's keiki as well as invest in the quality of our educational workforce.

The perspective and experience that Mr. Castle has brought to bear on early education and health policy during his current term on ELAB has been invaluable – especially at this critical point when our state is on the cusp of making significant strides to improve and expand access to preschool. His decades of professional experience are an essential asset to ELAB's charge of overseeing the implementation of the state's early childhood action strategy.

On behalf of GBA, one of Hawaii's foremost policy and advocacy organization focused on children's health and education, we are truly honored to support the nomination of Alfred Castle to serve on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Deborah Zysman  
Good Beginnings Alliance



*For over 100 years,  
preparing children for success*

2707 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

Phone: (808) 941-9414  
Fax: (808) 946-1468

[www.kcaapreschools.org](http://www.kcaapreschools.org)

*Board of Trustees*

*Chairman*

Kimmo Steinwascher

*Vice Chairman*

Alan S. Ito

*Treasurer*

Christopher R. Dang

*Secretary*

Robert S. Ostrem, Jr.

*Trustees*

Piia Aarma

Alan H. Arizumi

Charles G. Braden, Jr.

Patricia L. Chan

Elisabeth A. Chun

Jeffrey C. Dinsmore

Mark H. Fukunaga

Lisa A. Halvorson

Stephanie T. Horio

Jim McCoy

Paul F. Morgan

Susan E. Yamada

*President*

Christina Cox

ATHERTON - KAILUA

KUAPA - HAWAII KAI

LAURA MORGAN - KAPALAMA HEIGHTS

MOTHER RICE - MOILILI

MURIEL - KAKAAKO

NA LEI - KALIHI

WAI-KAHALA - KAHALA



April 2, 2014

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

RE: Nomination of Alfred Castle to the Early Learning Advisory Board

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

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit a letter in strong support for the nomination of Alfred Castle, Executive Director of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation to a second term on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

I presently serve as the center-based program provider representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB). With the addition of Al Castle to our Board in 2012, as the representative from the philanthropic community, the voice of the philanthropic community and its strong commitment to early education and Hawaii's keiki increased dramatically.

Al Castle has devoted his entire career to supporting the work of early educators to better equip them to help low-income children and families grow and thrive. He has unique insights into the challenges that early educators face and possesses the patience and trust in our work to support our efforts to improve services for our youngest citizens.

Mr. Castle brings much to the table for Hawaii as a member of ELAB, thanks to the active role he plays at the national level with a number of philanthropic organizations that focus on children and families. He is one of Hawaii's strongest champions for children. Al's great-great-grandmother, Mary Tenney Castle, founded KCAA. To quote Mr. Castle, "She wanted the Free Kindergarten and Children's Aid Association to be a model early education center. It was multi-cultural and multi-racial in an era when segregation was a common phenomenon throughout much of the world."

Al Castle's depth of understanding of the history of these islands and the essential role that early education has played in the development of Hawaii as a state, in particular during the early years, makes him uniquely suited for the position. I strongly support his nomination as the philanthropic representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

Christina Cox  
President

Personal Written Testimony  
presented before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 pm, Room 414  
by  
Donald B. Young

RE: GM 650 Nomination of Alfred Castle to the Early Learning Advisory Board

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

My name is Donald Young. I am currently Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Today I am providing personal testimony, not in my official capacity as Dean or representing the University of Hawai'i, in support of the nomination of Mr. Alfred Castle to serve on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

I have known Mr. Castle for many years. He has served as a long-time advisor to the College of Education and, through his family foundation, a donor in support of early learning programs and policies. A trusted and consistent spokesperson for early learning, Mr. Castle has demonstrated by words and deeds his deep understanding of the importance of early childhood education, especially those in families of low income. His advice is consistently solicited from all proponents of early childhood, including the College of Education.

The coming months and years will be a critical time in shaping State policy in early childhood education. As we move forward in our State's efforts to better serve our keiki we need the kind of wisdom and guidance that Mr. Castle can provide.

I fully support this nomination and urge your committee to confirm Mr. Alfred Castle a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board. I can think of no better choice for this appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Testimony in Support of GM 650  
Confirmation of Alfred Castle to the Early Learning Advisory Board

Senate Committee on Education  
April 9, 2014  
1:15 p.m.

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

Good Morning. My name is Chris Jackson, and I am the Hawaii Head Start Collaboration Director. I am submitting testimony in strong support of the confirmation of Al Castle, Executive Director and Treasurer of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation, to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Al has, for many years, been a constant advocate and champion for early childhood here in Hawaii. He has not only demonstrated his strong support of efforts to move Hawaii's early childhood system forward through participation on advisory groups and task forces locally, but has always tried to keep Hawaii's early education history and current circumstances before national funders. His efforts have led to the securing of a number of national grants and initiatives for Hawaii. He has also been a generous donor of funds locally through his foundation and has been particularly focused on supporting the professional development of early childhood staff and quality improvement efforts of programs.

Al's involvement on the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB) will be critical in the coming months and years as the ELAB works closely with the Executive Office on Early Learning in implementing its Action Strategy, and moving towards the development of a coordinated and comprehensive early childhood system for the State. This is a very critical time to effect needed changes for our keiki, and Al will be instrumental in this cause.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this confirmation.