

GM836

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board Of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRUCE VOSS, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Report Title: Board Of Education

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: EDU

Introducer(s):



96 Pu'uhonu Place
 Hilo, HI 96720
 (808) 935-4304
 (808) 969-7512
 www.ahapunanaleo.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i
Board of Directors

- Kauano'e Kamanā,
Pelekikena
- 'Alohilani Rogers,
Kākau 'Ōlelo
- Ka'iu Kimura,
Pu'ukū
- Larry Kimura
- William H. Wilson
- Ki'ope Raymond
- Hulilau Wilson
- Keawe Lopes

Ka Luna Ho'okele
Executive Director

- M. 'Ekelela Aiona

Nā Papahana
Pūnana Leo

Pūnana Leo Programs

Nā Kula Pūnana Leo
**Pūnana Leo Family-Based
 Preschool Program**

- Pūnana Leo o Hilo
- Pūnana Leo o Honolulu
- Pūnana Leo o Kaua'i
- Pūnana Leo o Maui
- Pūnana Leo o Moloka'i
- Pūnana Leo o Wai'anae
- Pūnana Leo o Kona
- Pūnana Leo o Waimea
- Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa
- Pūnana Leo o Mānoa
- Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

Niuolahiki

Hawaiian Language Online

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
 Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
 Senate Committee on Education

Date: Friday, April 15, 2016
 Time: 1:15PM
 Place: Room 229

*Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Non-Profit Educational Organization
 Dedicated to the Revitalization of the Hawaiian Language*

GM 836: **Letter of Support** for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, **BRUCE VOSS**, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

Aloha Senator Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Members of the Committee,

My name is 'Ekelela Aiona, Executive Director, 'Aha Pūnana Leo.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo supports Mr. Bruce Voss to the Hawai'i State Board of Education. Mr. Voss comes to the board with experience as a public school graduate as well as the William Richardson School of Law. He has volunteered his time to Hiki Nō a PBS Hawai'i Learning Initiative. We are confident that he will be a good fit for the board, based on his legal knowledge and ties to public education.

We look forward to the confirmation of Mr. Voss and to great working relationship with the Hawai'i State Board of Education.

Mahalo nui,

Ms. 'Ekelela Aiona



April 13, 2016

Senate's Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, April 15, 2016 – 1:15 p.m.

RE: **COMMENTS ONLY for GM 836** – Bruce Voss

Aloha Chairperson Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and fellow committee members,

I am writing to you on behalf of the LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i and the Caucus neither supports nor opposes the confirmation of Patricia Bergin at this time. We are though hoping that you will use Mr. Voss's confirmation hearing to find out if where she stands on the following issues:

The Board of Education (BOE) has been "actively" working on their policy regarding transgender students for over 2+ years.

During this time the Department of Education's (DOE) unofficial policy is to handle transgender students on a case-by-case basis. It appears to LGBT Caucus that this is not working. We have received reports that transgender students have had their rights violated - ranging from being forced to out themselves to their classmates to being denied access to their gender locker rooms to the school's principle deciding which gender the student must follow.

The Board of Education has made sure that their meetings are inaccessible to the public that they are supposed to be serving.

Prior to Don Horner the BOE meetings would be held at time when parents that work would be able to make the meetings. Now if they even are able to make the meeting, if their concern is not on the agenda they cannot even address the BOE.

We hope that you will also find out if Mr. Voss is aware of the needs of LGBT students and what she sees the BOE's role is, if any, in ensuring that LGBT students are protected and safe so they can learn.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair

All Correspondence to
Administrative Office:
The MacNaughton Group
1288 Ala Moana, Suite 208
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
TEL: (808) 545-7722
FAX: (808) 545-7725

4339 Panini Loop
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
FAX: (808) 739-1904

THE MACNAUGHTON GROUP

DUNCAN MACNAUGHTON

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

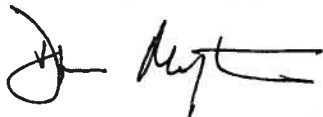
Friday, April 15, 2016
Conference Room 229, 1:15 PM
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

GM 836: Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRUCE VOSS

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and Committee Members, I support Governor David Ige's Gubernatorial Nominee, Bruce Voss to the Board of Education. Bruce is a clever, articulate, logical person as well as an incredible problem-solver. His law practice may emphasize on business, real estate and employment law however his dedication to Hawaii Education and the public school system is long-standing. His father and father-in-law are retired teachers as well as his wife, Liane Voss who currently teaches English at Moanalua High School. Bruce is a product of the public school system as a student of the last class to transition Kalaheo High School from an intermediate school. Even his own children graduated from and currently attend Moanalua High School. Bruce is very enthusiastic about the Hawaii public school system, its significance and potential to all our children.

I strongly request your consideration for confirmation of Bruce Voss to the Hawaii Board of Education, GM 836.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



Duncan MacNaughton
Chairman & Founding Partner
The MacNaughton Group



ABC STORES
766 Pohukaina Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5391
www.abcstores.com

Telephone: (808) 591-2550
Fax: (808) 591-2039
E-mail: mail@abcstores.com

April 13, 2016

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
State Senate, Committee on Education
and Members of the Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: In SUPPORT of GM-836 appointing BRUCE VOSS
to the Board of Education**

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Education Committee;

My name is Paul Kosasa, President & CEO of ABC Stores. The Board of Education (BOE) has a critical impact on the quality of education for our future generations in Hawaii, and therefore, must be comprised of strong leaders with a vision and a passion for our public education system. Mr. Bruce Voss provides these qualities that are needed in the BOE.

Mr. Voss has demonstrated the positive impact he can make as a leader, as well as a team player, in his capacity as a past news reporter and currently as an attorney/partner with the law firm of Bays Lung Rose & Holma.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my support for Mr. Bruce Voss in consideration and confirmation on the Board of Education for the State of Hawaii.

Very truly yours,



PAUL KOSASA
President & CEO



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Friday, April 15, 2016 at 1:15 P.M.
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 836 CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BRUCE VOSS**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") is in **strong support** of Mr. Bruce Voss' confirmation and appointment to the Board of Education.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We understand that Mr. Voss has a long commitment to public school education in Hawaii. Mr. Voss is a Hawaii public school graduate, his wife is the English department head at Moanalua High School, and his father was a career math teacher. Mr. Voss is passionate about Hawaii's public school system which can be seen his commitment to send both of his children to public school.

Having some "skin in the game" generally results in Board members who are committed to policy decisions that would benefit our public school system in Hawaii.

Finally, we understand that Mr. Voss will approach this opportunity with some specific goals in mind to improve the public education system. Some of these goals are:

- Investing in and improving the physical learning environment at the schools, to have facilities, buildings, and grounds at every school that students and parents can be proud of;
- Continue and broaden efforts to make the Board and D.O.E. more accessible to the comments and concerns of students and parents; and
- Better supporting teachers in the classroom, to improve teacher retention and growth. Improving and modernizing the condition of our schools' facilities will play a critical role in changing both the perception and the reality of public education in Hawaii.



Chamber *of* Commerce HAWAII
The Voice of Business

We strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Bruce Voss appointment to the Board of Education, and appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

2016 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
CRAIG WASHOFSKY
SERVCO HOME & APPLIANCE
DISTRIBUTION

PRESIDENT-ELECT
EVAN FUJIMOTO
GRAHAM BUILDERS, INC.

VICE PRESIDENT
DEAN UCHIDA
SSFM INTERNATIONAL, INC.

TREASURER
MICHAEL WATANABE
JW, INC.

SECRETARY
PETER ELDRIDGE
RAYNOR OVERHEAD DOORS &
GATES, INC.

SPECIAL APPOINTEE-BUILDER
PAUL D. SILEN
HAWAIIAN DREDGING
CONSTRUCTION CO, INC

SPECIAL APPOINTEE-BUILDER
MARK KENNEDY
HASEKO CONSTRUCTION
MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

SPECIAL APPOINTEE-ASSOCIATE
GARY T. OKIMOTO
HONOLULU WOOD TREATING, LLC

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
RICHARD HOBSON, JR.
GENTRY HOMES, LTD.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
GLADYS MARRONE
BIA-HAWAII

2016 DIRECTORS

ANTHONY BORGE
RMA SALES

BEAU NOBMANN
HPM BUILDING SUPPLY

DOUGLAS E. PEARSON
CASTLE & COOKE HOMES
HAWAII, INC.

CHRIS CHEUNG
CC ENGINEERING &
CONSTRUCTION, INC.

CLIFTON CRAWFORD
C&J CONTRACTING, INC.

CURT KIRIU
CK INDEPENDENT LIVING BUILDERS

DWIGHT MITSUNAGA
DM PACIFIC, INC.

JACKSON PARKER
D.R. HORTON, SCHULER DIVISION

JENNIFER ANDREWS
COLDWELL BANKER PACIFIC
PROPERTIES

MARK HERTEL
INTER-ISLAND SOLAR SUPPLY,
OAHU-MAUI-HAWAII-KAUAI

MARSHALL HICKOX
HOMEWORKS CONSTRUCTION, INC.

SARAH LOVE
BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

MAILING
P.O. BOX 970967
WAIPAHU, HAWAII
96797-0967

STREET
94-487 AKOKI STREET,
WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

P 808.847.4666
F 808.440.1198
E INFO@BIAHAWAII.ORG

WWW.BIAHAWAII.ORG

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education

Friday, April 15, 2016

1:15 p.m.

State Capitol - Conference Room 229

RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 836 CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, GUBENATORIAL NOMINEE, BRUCE VOSS

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Harimoto, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA Hawaii is in **strong support** of Mr. Bruce Voss' appointment to the Board of Education.

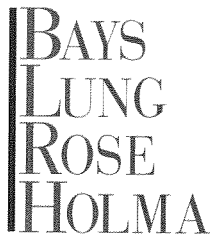
We understand that Mr. Voss has a long commitment to public school education in Hawaii. Mr. Voss is a Hawaii public school graduate, his wife is the English department head at Moanalua High School, and his father was a career math teacher. Mr. Voss is passionate about Hawaii's public school system which can be seen by his commitment to send both of his children to public school.

Having some "skin in the game" generally results in Board members who are committed to policy decisions that would benefit our public school system in Hawaii.

Finally, we understand that Mr. Voss will approach this opportunity with some specific goals in mind to improve the public education system. Some of these goals are:

- Investing in and improving the physical learning environment at the schools, to have facilities, buildings, and grounds at every school that students and parents can be proud of. Improving and modernizing the condition of our schools' facilities will play a critical role in changing both the perception and the reality of public education in Hawaii;
- Continue and broaden efforts to make the Board and D.O.E. more accessible to the comments and concerns of students and parents; and
- Better supporting teachers in the classroom, to improve teacher retention and growth.

We strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Bruce Voss appointment to the Board of Education, and appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



Attorneys at Law

Topa Financial Center
700 Bishop Street, Suite 900
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

P.O. Box 1760
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96806

Tel: (808) 523-9000
Fax: (808) 533-4184
E-mail: mail@legalhawaii.com
www.legalhawaii.com

Harvey J. Lung
Crystal K. Rose
Karin L. Holma
Bruce D. Voss
Craig P. Wagnild
Ryan H. Engle
Michael C. Carroll
Adrian L. Lavarias
Sarah M. Love
Bart W. Howk
Matthew C. Shannon

A Partnership of
Law Corporations

Sharon E. Har
Christian D. Chambers
David R. Major
Kristin A. Shinkawa
Jordyn S. Toba
John D. Ferry III
Leinaala L. Ley
Michael R. Kirgan
Grant E. Allison

Of Counsel:
A. Bernard Bays
Phillip L. Deaver
Jean K. Campbell

Jason N. Baba
(1957-2001)

April 13, 2016

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 836 – Nomination of Bruce D. Voss to Board of Education
Hearing: April 15, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

I **strongly support** the nomination of **Bruce D. Voss** to the Board of Education. I have worked with Mr. Voss for the last 10 years. Public education has always been as large part of Mr. Voss' life, as he is a proud public school graduate, he is married to a public school teacher, and his father was a long time public school math teacher. Thus, Mr. Voss understands the importance of receiving a good public education as well as the everyday challenges faced by today's public school teachers and staff. Mr. Voss is one of the most dedicated and hardest working partners in our office. He is also one of the most passionate attorneys in the office as well. I am certain that he will bring that same dedication and commitment to the Board.

I, too, come from a family of Hawaii public school educators. Both of my parents, two uncles, an aunt, and a cousin are current or former Hawaii public school teachers. I cannot think of a better person that I would want my family to work with on educational priorities than Mr. Voss. His knowledge and experience will make him a tremendous addition to the Board.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Mr. Voss' nomination.

Sincerely,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By:

Adrian L. Lavarias
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner

ALL:vc

428938_1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: susan.char@hawaiianelectric.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM836 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 2:25:38 PM

GM836

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Oshima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the appointment of Bruce Voss to serve as a member of the Hawaii State Board of Education. Bruce is a graduate of Kalaheo High School and has shown commitment to our public schools in many ways, including as a parent whose children attended our public schools. As a result, he has insight from various perspectives. Further, as a lawyer, he is experienced in conflict resolution; problem solving by seeking facts and fairly applying laws, policies and regulations. Please confirm his appointment. Thank you, Alan Oshima

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

April 12, 2016

I am Catherine Ngo, President and CEO of Central Pacific Bank. I am writing to you today to show my support for the appointment of Bruce Voss to the Board of Education. I have interacted with Bruce in his role as a law partner at Bays Lung Rose & Holma. I personally, along with my fellow officers at Central Pacific Bank, have collaborated with Bruce and his law firm on a number of business matters.

Bruce is a fine product of the public school system. Even after his graduation from Kalaheo High School, he continues to demonstrate his commitment to the public school community by raising money to assist teachers and enlightening the public on educational issues.

I believe that the kind of knowledge and passion that Bruce has for Hawaii's public school system makes Bruce very qualified to serve on the Board of Education. I am confident that Bruce will work with others on the Board to facilitate healthy communication amongst Board members, Dept. of Education administration, faculty, students, and parents. This communication is so critical in our quest to continue to improve the quality of education in our public schools

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can provide further input or perspective on Bruce.

Catherine Ngo
President and CEO
Central Pacific Financial Corp. and Central Pacific Bank

April 12, 2016

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Education
The State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 836: Confirmation of Bruce D. Voss to the Board Of Education
Hearing Date: Friday, April 15, 2016
Hearing Time: 1:15 p.m.
Hearing Place: Conf. Rm. 229

Dear Senator Kidani and Senator Harimoto:

I am writing in **strong support** of **Bruce D. Voss**, who has been nominated to serve on the Board of Education. Bruce is my law partner at Bays Lung Rose & Holma and we have worked together for 19 years. He would be a tremendous asset to the Board of Education and I can think of no one better qualified for this nomination.

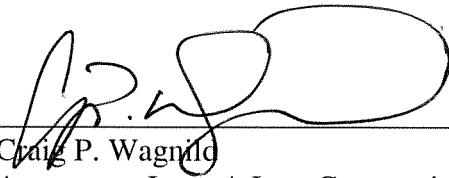
Please consider the following. First, Bruce is incredibly passionate about education in Hawaii. He is the product of a public school education, his wife teaches at Moanalua High School, his father taught in public schools, and his children have attended public schools here in Hawaii. Bruce truly cares about the state of our public schools, and believes in the importance of empowered and supported educators, well-maintained facilities, and meaningful involvement by the teachers and administrators in determining educational goals and policies. Second, Bruce is exceptionally bright, almost irritatingly so. More than just hearing and understanding facts and numbers, Bruce has a unique ability to assimilate and critically analyze large amounts of complex information and then use it to meaningfully address issues and solve problems. These skills make him formidable in a courtroom, but a tremendous ally and partner in collaborative endeavors like serving on a board. Third, simply put, Bruce works hard. He does his homework and is always prepared to meaningfully participate in discussions, debate the merits of proposals, and help negotiate solutions to problems. As his law partner, I can tell you he is a team player, and a truly caring and honest person.

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
April 12, 2016
Page 2

I am happy to discuss this further and you may feel free to contact me directly at (808) 528-8876. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the scheduled hearing on Bruce's confirmation this Friday, but I hope that this written testimony will assist in your evaluation and consideration of Bruce who will be an excellent addition to the Board of Education. Please confirm the nomination of Bruce D. Voss. Aloha and mahalo for your service.

Sincerely,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By: 
Craig P. Wagnild
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner
And
2013 HSBA President

CPW:akk



Attorneys at Law

Topa Financial Center
700 Bishop Street, Suite 900
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

P.O. Box 1760
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96806

Tel: (808) 523-9000
Fax: (808) 533-4184
E-mail: mail@legalhawaii.com
www.legalhawaii.com

Harvey J. Lung
Crystal K. Rose
Karin L. Holma
Bruce D. Voss
Craig P. Wagnild
Ryan H. Engle
Michael C. Carroll
Adrian L. Lavarias
Sarah M. Love
Bart W. Howk
Matthew C. Shannon

A Partnership of
Law Corporations

Sharon E. Har
Christian D. Chambers
David R. Major
Kristin A. Shinkawa
Jordyn S. Toba
John D. Ferry III
Leinaala L. Ley
Michael R. Kirgan
Grant E. Allison

Of Counsel:
A. Bernard Bays
Phillip L. Deaver
Jean K. Campbell

Jason N. Baba
(1957-2001)

April 13, 2016

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 836 Confirmation of Board of Education, Gubernatorial
Nominee, Bruce Voss, for Term to Expire 06-30-2019

Hearing Date: Friday, April 15, 2016

Time: 1:15 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senate Chair Kidani and Education Committee Members:

My name is Crystal K. Rose and I am a partner at Bays Lung Rose & Holma. I submit this letter as testimony in support of Governor Ige's appointment of Bruce Voss, to the Board of Education.

Bruce is my law partner at Bays, Lung, Rose & Holma and I have known him for over 20 years. He is highly accomplished both as news reporter and a lawyer. Bruce is smart, articulate, pragmatic and an incredible problem-solver. Bruce and his family are fine products of our public school system as both his father (Al Voss) and father-in-law (Joe Matsukawa) are retired teachers, his wife teaches at Moanalua High School and his daughter graduated valedictorian from Moanalua in 2014.

Bruce is extremely passionate about Hawai'i's public school system and its value and potential to all of our children. Bruce will add tremendous value to BOE as we all seek to improve in our public school facilities; continue and accelerate our efforts to make the BOE more accessible to the comments and concerns of students, parents, and teachers; and support our teachers in the classroom with the hope to improve teacher retention and growth.

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
April 13, 2016
Page 2

Thank you. Please vote in favor of Bruce Voss' appointment to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Crystal K. Rose". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Crystal K. Rose
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner

CKR:vc

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: deanhamer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM836 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 11:09:16 AM

GM836

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean hamer	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: One of the most important responsibilities of the Board of Education is to ensure that every student has equal access to educational opportunity. Several recent incidences demonstrate that the Hawaii Department of Education has failed to protect this right for transgender and gender non-conforming students by not developing an appropriate policy, neglecting to perform suitable training and education, and ignoring existing civil rights protections. While Bruce Voss appears generally well qualified for a position on the Board of Education, her views toward transgender and gender nonconforming students are not publicly known. As condition of confirmation, the Senate should confirm that Mr. Voss is committed to (1) Having the Hawaii DOE develop and implement in a timely fashion a policy to ensure that all students are safe, included and respected in school, regardless of their gender identity or expression; and (2) Having the Hawaii DOE conduct training, professional development and educational activities to ensure that this policy is known and implemented, and to provide an environment in which students have the opportunity to express themselves and live authentically. Thank you for including these timely and important factors in your consideration of this appointment. Dean Hamer, PhD APlaceintheMiddle.org Haleiwa, HI

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



KULANUI O
HAWAII MA HILO

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani
College of Hawaiian Language

<http://www.olelo.hawaii.edu/khuok/>

MOKUNA
PAPAĀHANA KĀLAI'IKE
Academic Studies Division

Muapuka
Undergraduate Programs

Mulipuka
Graduate Programs

Kula Mauhi Ola
Laboratory Schools

Kahuwaiola
Indigenous Teacher Education Program

MOKUNA
HALE KUAMO'O
Hawaiian Language Center

Ho'oukaika Kumu
Hawaiian Medium Teacher Development

Ho'omohala Ha'awina
Lawelawe Pāpaho & Keleka'a'ike
Curriculum Development,
Media and Telecommunication Services

KE'ENA HO'OKELE KOLEKE
Administrative Office

200 W. KĀWILI STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720-4091
KELEPONA (Phone): (808) 932-7360
KELEPA'I (Fax): (808) 932-7651

KE KULA 'O
NĀWAHIOKALANI'ŌPU'U
Hawaiian Medium Laboratory School

16-120 'ŌPŪKAHA'IA ST, SUITE 1
KEA'AU, HAWAII 96749
KELEPONA (Phone): (808) 982-4260
KELEPA'I (Fax): (808) 966-7821

He Mea Hai Ma Ka Papaha
Kaulike Me Ke Pai Laemāuna

An Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action Institution

April 12, 2016

Senator Michelle Kidani
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228
415 S Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a. I am Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

I want to express support for Bruce Voss for the Board of Education. While I have not myself met Mr. Voss, I have heard very positive reports on him from fellow educators.

In reading over background information on Mr. Voss I have been impressed by his qualifications, especially is background in law and in the media. It is crucial that the Board of Education have expertise in these two areas.

As Director of a College that has a mandate to serve Hawaiian education I have been also impressed by the experience of Mr. Voss in issues involving Native Hawaiian issues and his attending our own Richardson School of Law where distinctive Native Hawaiian concerns are studied by all students.

I strongly support the nomination of Mr. Bruce Voss to the Hawai'i State Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Dr. Keiki Kawai'ae'a
College Director
Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani (College of Hawaiian Language)
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Testimony of Gary M. Slovin

DATE: April 13, 2016

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani
Chair, Committee on Education
Submitted Via EDUTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **GM 836 – Consideration and Confirmation to the Board Of Education,
Gubernatorial Nominee, BRUCE VOSS**
Hearing Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room: 229

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I submit this testimony in **support** of the nomination of Bruce Voss to the Board of Education. I have known Bruce and his work for a long time, including his time in the news business and in his time as a lawyer. Unlike many lawyers, Bruce's background has given him a good base of knowledge of issues in the community and not just issues in his practice. From my own experience with Bruce, I know that he cares a great deal about public education. He possesses the strength of character that will enable him to take stances on difficult issues, a quality too rare but badly needed.

Finally, I have found Bruce to be a good listener and not someone so committed to his own views of things that he is unable to learn.

For these reasons I enthusiastically support the nomination of Bruce Voss to a position on the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.

Gary M. Slovin
Mihoko E. Ito
C. Mike Kido
Tiffany N. Yajima

999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 539-0840

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: glenn.sexton@xerox.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM836 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 4:27:09 PM

GM836

Submitted on: 4/12/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
glenn sexton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am the Vice -president and General Manager of Xerox Hawaii and wholeheartedly support the appointment of Bruce Voss to our Board of Education. Throughout his professional life, Bruce has exemplified excellence and the highest ethics. He and members of his family have personally demonstrated the value of public education in Hawaii combined with a drive for professional achievement. I can think of no one better to contribute insight and expertise to the board. Bruce is personally committed to making a positive difference in this vital arena and I sincerely hope our state takes advantage of the opportunity to benefit from Bruce's intellect and desire to serve. Glenn Sexton

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: qwavesjoe@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM836 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 11:30:34 AM

GM836

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Wilson	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Senate Education Committee, Over the past several years, the Hawaii State Department of Education has been reluctant to establish and/or promulgate a policy to ensure that all students are safe, respected, and included in school regardless of their gender identity or expression, not to mention protected from bullying and discrimination. This inability of the DOE to fulfill its most basic of obligations has left countless transgender and gender nonconforming students and their families at-risk, as has been documented in recent news stories about such problems in our schools, while DOE spokespeople repeat the tiresome mantra that “we’re working on it.” There are obviously many issues to be addressed when considering the nominations of Bruce Voss, Patricia Bergin, and/or any other candidates to the Board of Education, but, I implore you to press the candidates for information and clarity on these concerns and to express support for them only if they articulate a commitment to moving the BOE and DOE forward expeditiously as relates to the urgent need for this policy and its implementation. Thank you, Joe Wilson Haleiwa, HI

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

April 12, 2016

My name is John Dean, Executive Chair of Central Pacific Bank, and I would like to express my strong support for the appointment of Mr. Bruce Voss to the Board of Education (BOE).

Bruce is an experienced and dynamic business and community leader, currently serving as partner for the law firm of Bays Lung Rose & Holma. In addition to 21 years of experience as an attorney, Bruce possesses an acute understanding and sensitivity to the needs and opinions of Hawaii residents, which he acquired through eight (8) years of working as a news reporter for KHON-TV and Pacific Business News. He has specifically covered educational issues at the BOE as a reporter.

The BOE plays a critical role in ensuring the quality of our public education system for the future generations of Hawaii. Bruce is an exemplary product of Hawaii's public school system as a graduate of Kalaheo High School. His wife, Liane Voss, has been an English teacher at Moanalua High School since 1988, and currently serves as the head of its English Department. Both of their children attended Moanalua High School, their son as a current student and their daughter as a recent graduate. I believe that Bruce's commitment, proven leadership, and passion for our public educational system, can be tremendous assets to the mission of the BOE and to the benefit of the students enrolled in Hawaii's public schools.

Thank you very much for your consideration of Mr. Bruce Voss for the BOE.

John C. Dean
Executive Chair
Central Pacific Financial Corp. and Central Pacific Bank

**BAYS
LUNG
ROSE
HOLMA**

Attorneys at Law

Topa Financial Center
700 Bishop Street, Suite 900
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

P.O. Box 1760
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96806

Tel: (808) 523-9000
Fax: (808) 533-4184
E-mail: mail@legahawaii.com
www.legahawaii.com

Harvey J. Lung
Crystal K. Rose
Karin L. Holma
Bruce D. Voss
Craig P. Wagnild
Ryan H. Engle
Michael C. Carroll
Adrian L. Lavarias
Sarah M. Love
Bart W. Howk
Matthew C. Shannon

A Partnership of
Law Corporations

Sharon E. Har
Christian D. Chambers
David R. Major
Kristin A. Shinkawa
Jordyn S. Toba
John D. Ferry III
Leinaala L. Ley
Michael R. Kirgan
Grant E. Allison

Of Counsel:
A. Bernard Bays
Phillip L. Deaver
Jean K. Campbell

Jason N. Baba
(1957-2001)

April 12, 2016

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 836 – Nomination of Bruce D. Voss to Board of Education
Hearing: April 15, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

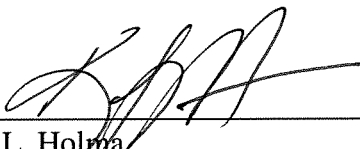
I am writing in **strong support** of the nomination of **Bruce D. Voss** to the Board of Education. Mr. Voss is my law partner -- we have worked together for more than 20 years. Bruce is extremely hard working and intelligent, and has a long commitment to public school education in Hawaii. He graduated from public school, his wife teaches at Moanalua High School, and his father taught math in the public school system. Bruce is passionate about education and would be a valuable asset to the Board of Education.

I respectfully request the Committee to **confirm** the nomination of Mr. Voss.
Thank you.

Very truly yours,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By: _____


Karin L. Holma
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner

KLH:mml

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: klagareta@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM836 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Thursday, April 14, 2016 7:01:40 AM

GM836

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kitty Lagareta	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I have known Bruce Voss since he was reporter at Pacific Business News many years ago. Bruce has always been someone I've greatly respected because of his integrity, intelligence, hard work and commitment to whatever he chooses to do. He will be an excellent member of the Board of Education in every way and I strongly support his nomination.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: mshannon@legalthawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM836 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 12:19:39 PM

GM836

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Shannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Matthew Shannon. I am Mr. Voss' law partner, and I have worked with him for almost 10 years. I strongly believe Mr. Voss will make an excellent addition to the Board of Education. He is extremely intelligent and cares deeply about improving public education in Hawaii. I support Mr. Voss' nomination without any reservations.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

**BAYS
LUNG
ROSE
HOLMA**

Attorneys at Law

Topa Financial Center
700 Bishop Street, Suite 900
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

P.O. Box 1760
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96806

Tel: (808) 523-9000
Fax: (808) 533-4184
E-mail: mail@legalhawaii.com
www.legalhawaii.com

A. Bernard Bays
Harvey J. Lung
Crystal K. Rose
Karin L. Holma
Bruce D. Voss
Craig P. Wagnild
Ryan H. Engle
Michael C. Carroll
Adrian L. Lavarias
Sarah M. Love
Bart W. Howk

A Partnership of
Law Corporations

Sharon E. Har
Matthew C. Shannon
Christian D. Chambers
David R. Major
Kristin A. Shinkawa
Jordyn S. Toba
John D. Ferry III
Leinaala L. Ley
Michael R. Kirgan
Grant F. Allison

Of Counsel:
Phillip L. Deaver
Jean K. Campbell

Jason N. Baba
(1957-2001)

April 12, 2016

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 836 – Nomination of Bruce D. Voss to Board of Education
Hearing: April 15, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

I am writing in **strong support** of the nomination of **Bruce D. Voss** to the Board of Education. I have known Mr. Voss for 13 years. He was one of my supervisors as an associate attorney, and currently one of my partners. I have the highest respect for Mr. Voss and believe that he would be an exceptional addition to serve as a member of the Board of Education. Mr. Voss has a long commitment to public school education in Hawaii. He is passionate about improving public school education and I believe he would be an invaluable asset to the Board of Education.

I respectfully request the Committee to **confirm** the nomination of Mr. Voss.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By: 

Michael C. Carroll
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner

MCC

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM836 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM*
Date: Saturday, April 09, 2016 3:34:56 PM

GM836

Submitted on: 4/9/2016

Testimony for EDU on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF HAWAII

April 14, 2016

On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii, we are pleased to support the appointment of **Mr. Bruce Voss, Esq.** to the Board of Education of Hawaii. Not only is Mr. Voss a successful graduate of the Hawaii public school system (he is an alumnus of Kalaheo High School in Kailua), he is also a founding board member of the Kalaheo High School Foundation which raises funds to support teachers with necessary supplies and resources in the classroom. Mr. Voss' daughter is a graduate of Moanalua High School (Class of 2014) and his son is currently a freshman at the school. In addition, his wife Liane Voss serves as a teacher and currently heads the English Department at Moanalua High School. With strong family roots in the public school system, Mr. Voss has a deep understanding of the value and importance of offering a quality education to Hawaii's keiki. He is dedicated to helping improve Hawaii's public school facilities, improving teacher retention and growth, and supporting teachers in the classroom.

Administrative Office
345 Queen St, Ste 900
Honolulu HI 96813
Tel 808-949-4203
Fax 808-955-4496
www.bgch.com

Board of Directors

Bruce Nakaoka
Chairman of the Board

Danielle Aiu
Ray Ancheta
Todd Apo
Kristine Averill
Anne Barnes
Philana Bouvier
Colton Ching
Forest Frizzell
Larry Gilbert
Art Gladstone
Walter Guild
Paul Hallin
Chip Hammond
David Hudson
Michael Jones
Zona Jones
Marshall Joy
John Katahira
Marie Kumabe
Robert Kurisu
Ralph Mesick
Vicki Nakata
Todd Nohara
Nancy Pace
Steve Rodolfich
Crystal Rose
Cindy Sakai
Dan Schaberg
Marcia Taira
Michael Town
Donna Yano
August Yee
Brian Yoshii

Board of Advisors

Robbie Alm
H. Mitchell D'Olier
Cathy George
Richard Gushman II
Mary Lou Lewis
Ron Schmid
Ronald Ward

Founder

Charles C. Spalding

President & CEO

Tim Motts



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Testimony on Governor's Message No. 836
Nomination of Bruce Voss to the Board of Education

Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee

It is my pleasure to submit testimony in support of Bruce Voss' nomination to serve on the Board of Education.

I have known Bruce since his days as a journalist and have always found him to be smart, committed, articulate, ethical, and courageous. All of these traits will serve him well on the school board. He was a great journalist who not only reported well; he also did the research and background work necessary to understand the full story before he chose to share part of it with us. I have watched as he switched to the law and brought the same careful and professional manner to the practice of law. He is not afraid to stand for what he believes, especially since by the time he takes that stand, he has done his homework and knows of what he speaks.

He has a personal passion for public education. Their family is a proud public school family and when we have talked he has been very clear in his support for creating the best possible student experience and really listening to students to see what that is; in his support for teachers standing behind what they do every day in the classroom; and in his support for facilities that demonstrate our real support for the schools.

We are very fortunate as a community that he has stepped forward to accept this great task and I strongly urge you to approve this nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

Robbie Alm



April 11, 2016

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair
Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM836 – Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee
Bruce Voss to the Board of Education
Hearing: Friday, April 15, 2016 at 1:15pm
in Conference Room 229, State Capitol

Dear Senator Kidani, Senator Harimoto and Members of the Committee on Education:

The purpose of this letter is to express my strong and unequivocal support of Bruce Voss to serve on the Board of Education.

I have known Mr. Voss on a professional basis for many years. I have observed him in many different contexts.

Mr. Voss is very intelligent, ethical, organized and knowledgeable. While he is serious and always professional, he also has a sense of humor and an approachable demeanor. Perhaps the strongest quality that he possesses, though, in terms of qualifying him for confirmation to the Board of Education, is his unfailing integrity. I never once had occasion to question his good judgment and his honesty.

I respectfully urge the Senate to confirm Bruce Voss's appointment to Board of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to present my views.

Very truly yours,

ROSEMARY T. FAZIO

RTF:lms

1788387v1

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 131 / Honolulu, HI 96810

STREET ADDRESS

First Hawaiian Center / 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400 / Honolulu, HI 96813
T 808.539.0400 / F 808.533.4945 / E atty@awlaw.com / www.ashfordwrison.com

April 12, 2016

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Chair
Senate Committee of Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 836 – Nomination of Bruce D. Voss to Board of Education
Hearing: April 15, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.


Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

I am writing in **strong support** of the nomination of **Bruce D. Voss** to the Board of Education. I have worked with Mr. Voss for fifteen years, both as his employee and law partner. He is an exceptional product of Hawaii's public schools and is passionately committed to advancing the state educational system. I do not know a more intelligent and hard-working individual. He will be an exceptional addition to the Board and a tireless advocate for Hawaii's children.

I respectfully request that the committee **confirm** his nomination.

Best regards,

BAYS LUNG ROSE & HOLMA

By: 
Ryan H. Engle
Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation
Its General Partner

RHE:tsm



April 14, 2016

re: **EDU April 15, 2016 Hearing @ 1:15pm**
GM 836 and GM 837 – Nominations for Appointees to Board of Education

Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Education Committee – EDU

Aloha EDU Chair and Members of the State of Hawai‘i Senate Education Committee,

I am a former Department of Education Teacher and an advocate for systemic improvements in our state public education system. Since 2012, I have been a regular attendee at Board of Education meetings. I have testified dozens of times before the Board in the past four years both orally and in writing on various issues, usually related to systemic improvements. Last year, I began recording Board of Education meetings and making them available to the public via my web site here: www.freespeech4us.com/boe/videos. I have quite a bit of experience with and knowledge of how the Board of Education operates, and it is always disconcerting to witness how little the teachers’ perspective is represented.

Therefore, I oppose the Governor’s nominations of Patricia Bergin *and* Bruce Voss simultaneously because neither one seems to have experience as a post-NCLB DOE teacher.

I do not know enough to oppose or support either candidate individually. However, it is clear to me that the Board of Education currently lacks diversity in perspective, and neither of these nominees seems to fill a huge gaping hole in perspective – that of a post-NCLB teacher. A post-NCLB teacher is someone who has had experience as a certified Hawai‘i DOE classroom teacher for several years since the No Child Left Behind Act was passed in 2001.

When I received my NCATE-certified teacher education from the University of California, East Bay in 2005, one of my professors told the students that teaching is not like it used to be. There was this new thing called No Child Left Behind that we were going to have to deal with, it wasn’t fun, and teachers just had to accept that the profession was going to be drastically different than it had been in our nation’s past. She was right.

From my experience as a post-NCLB DOE teacher, and as a full-time advocate for positive changes in the State of Hawai‘i Department of Education since leaving the DOE, I know that the Board of Education is largely uninformed of our teachers’ challenges. Teachers are education’s lifeblood, yet our public teachers’ perspective, their voice, is not a part of the professional experience of *any* of the current Board of Education members or these two new nominees. I do not think a post-NCLB experienced teacher has *ever* been appointed to the BOE since Governors began appointing them in 2011.

Therefore I request that the EDU Committee:

- Not approve one of these nominations so that a candidate with experience as a post-NCLB teacher can be found to serve on the BOE;
- Ask the Governor to nominate a candidate that has had experience as a full-time classroom teacher for at least three years since 2001;
- Ask the Governor to consult with the Hawai'i State Teachers Association on an appropriate nominee that can represent the perspective of a post-NCLB DOE teacher.

I think it's just common sense that to have a truly exceptional Board of Education, the teacher voice *must* be a part of that. A teacher who retired in the last 10 years with excellent communication skills would be the best candidate for the position. I have a few people in mind.

I know very little about Patricia Bergin or Bruce Voss. It would be helpful to see their resumes in the hearing notice documents. From what I've been able to piece together, it seems that Bergin has much more experience in the field of Education than Voss. For that reason, I think it makes sense for the EDU committee to not support Voss's appointment to the BOE so that a post-NCLB former teacher may sit on the Board.

In short, I strongly urge the EDU to use its power and authority to do what's best for the people of Hawai'i. At least one Board of Education member with public school classroom teaching experience in the last 15 years is what's best for Hawai'i. Please insist on this qualification for at least one of the BOE positions.

Mahalo,



Vanessa Ott