

# GM837

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

Report Title: Board Of Education

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: EDU

Introducer(s):



**GM837**  
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF**  
**EDUCATION, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PATRICIA BERGIN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE**  
**to expire 06-30-2019**  
Senate Committee on Education

April 15, 2016

1:15 p.m.

Room 229

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend to the Board of Trustees a position of **SUPPORT** on GM837, which would confirm Patricia Bergin as a member of the State Board of Education. OHA believes that Mrs. Bergin's extensive range of personal and professional experience, combined with her dedication to community service, makes her highly qualified to serve on the State Board of Education (Board) as it continues its efforts to oversee and address the needs of Department of Education schools and public charter schools, as well as the State Public Library System. Significantly, Mrs. Bergin's background in Preschool through Grade 12 education will bring valuable and practical perspectives to the Board, as it oversees the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015.

Raised in the Hawaiian Homes community of Keaukaha, Mrs. Bergin is a proud graduate of Hilo High School, who went on to receive her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education from Kansas State University. Mrs. Bergin returned to Hawai'i to "give back" to her community, and began her career in the State Department of Education (DOE) as a classroom teacher, before serving as a Vice-Principal and Principal at three different Hawai'i Island District schools. She subsequently served both as the Hawai'i District Deputy Superintendent, and as the Hawai'i District Superintendent reporting directly to the DOE Superintendent, among other duties. Most recently, Mrs. Bergin has directed her considerable skills to help advance the Hawai'i charter school movement in grades Preschool through Grade 12, at the Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ohana (KALO) educational non-profit. Mrs. Bergin currently serves as KALO's Mālamapōki'i Preschool Administrator and PK-12 Accreditation Coordinator, as well as an Adjunct Instructor in Chaminade University's Education Leadership for Charter School Administrators M.Ed. Program. OHA believes that Mrs. Bergin's long and distinguished career in public education will allow her to contribute significantly to the Board as it fulfills its critical responsibilities.

Notably, Mrs. Bergin's extracurricular community work also demonstrates her strong commitment and dedication to public service. This includes her service on the North Hawai'i Community Hospital Board of Directors, the Parker Ranch Foundation Trust Distribution Committee, and the Mauna Kea Management Board.

Therefore, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM837. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



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

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

**Ka Papa Alaka'i**  
**Board of Directors**

Kauanoë Kamanā,  
Pelekikena

'Alohilani Rogers,  
Kākau 'Ōlelo

Ka'iu Kimura,  
Pu'ukū

Larry Kimura

William H. Wilson

Ki'ope Raymond

Hulliau Wilson

Keawe Lopes

**Ka Luna Ho'okele**  
**Executive Director**

M. 'Ekekela 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*

GM837: **Letter of Strong Support** for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, **PATRICIA BERGIN**, for a term to expire 06-30-2019.

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

My name is Dr. Kauanoë Kamanā, Pelekikena, 'Aha Pūnana Leo.

It is with great pleasure that the 'Aha Pūnana Leo writes this letter in support of Mrs. Patricia Bergin's nomination to the Hawai'i State Board of Education. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo has a long standing working relationship with Mrs. Bergin and can attest to her many skills and qualifications.

Mrs. Bergin's exemplary leadership as Hawai'i District Superintendent during the early years of Hawaiian language immersion helped navigate this cutting-edge educational pathway in the movement to revitalize the Hawaiian language. Through the many trials and challenges, Mrs. Bergin never failed to demonstrate professionalism of the highest nature balanced with genuine human caring. Mrs. Bergin worked tirelessly for all of Hawai'i's students.

Mrs. Bergin continues to serve as a role model and mentor to those administrators new to Hawai'i's public school system. Her desire and ability to take on kuleana – responsibility – is not only invaluable, it is rare. Because of this, Mrs. Bergin has earned the respect of all who know her.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is confident that Mrs. Patricia Bergin will be a wonderful asset to the Board of Education and is in strong support of her nomination.

Mahalo nui,

Dr. Kauanoë Kamanā, Pelekikena



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 837** – Patricia Bergin

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 Ms. Bergin'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 Ms. Bergin 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



## WAIMEA MIDDLE SCHOOL

*"Empowering all students with the skills, values and cultural understanding to successfully navigate high school and beyond."*

**A WASC-Accredited Public Conversion Charter School – 2014-2020**

67-1229 MAMALAOHA HIGHWAY \* KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743

PHONE: (808) 887-6090 Ext. 222

April 14, 2016

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
The Honorable Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair  
And Members of the State Senate Committee On Education

RE: GM 837 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education of  
Gubernatorial Nominee Patricia Bergin

Aloha from Waimea Middle School:

I am writing on behalf of our 276 students and families, and 40 teachers and staff to ask your confirmation of Mrs. Patricia Bergin to the Board of Education.

Mrs. Bergin began her career as a public school teacher and administrator at this school when it was still a K-9 that was bursting at the seams as this rural upcountry community began to grow and change. Much has changed since her arrival as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher here, including relocating 9<sup>th</sup> grade to Honoka'a High, Waikoloa School expanding to retain its 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and this school becoming the state's first public conversion charter under Act 2/2002. Concurrently, there have been significant changes in our community's economics and demographics.

Our faculty and staff have worked with Mrs. Bergin through many of these changes as well as changes in public education standards and requirements, most recently as member of the Initial Visiting Committee to our school when we decided to pursue Accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in 2012. The school was undergoing tremendous turmoil due to a change in leadership but we believed that Accreditation could help us come together and set a clear course for continuous improvement that would serve our children well.

As a member of the Initial Visiting Committee, Mrs. Bergin effectively sorted through the many challenges and concerns, and helped us achieve 6-year Accreditation in May 2014. This was no small feat and we know that the guidance provided by the visiting committee inspired teachers, staff and community to collaboratively identify strengths and challenges and develop meaningful Action Plans to move forward.

This collaboration is continuing and is serving our students well. We are seeing academic progress for nearly all students. We know this is but a fraction of the contribution Mrs. Bergin has made to public education and our community, but it reflects her wisdom, commitment to all children progressing, and ability to work through very difficult issues.

Thank you for your time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Kendziorski".

**Amy Kendziorski**  
Interim Principal

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [deanhamer@aol.com](mailto:deanhamer@aol.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM837 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 11:06:53 AM

---

**GM837**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dean hamer	Individual	Comments Only	Yes

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 Patricia Bergen 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 Ms. Bergen 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](mailto: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  
PAPAHAŌNA KĀLAI'IKE  
Academic Studies Division

Muapuka  
Undergraduate Programs

Muhupuka  
Graduate Programs

Kula Mauli Ola  
Laboratory Schools

Kahuawaiola  
Indigenous Teacher Education Program

MOKUNA  
HALE KUAMO'O  
Hawaiian Language Center

Ho'oiikaika 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  
NĀWAHIŌKALANI'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  
Hawaii'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 strong support for the nomination of Patricia Bergin for the  
Board of Education.

Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani is legislatively designated to provide curriculum  
materials and other support for schools in the Hawaiian language. This includes  
the immersion schools, charter schools, and standard public schools. We also  
operate a P-12 Hawaiian language laboratory school program and train the  
majority of Hawaiian immersion certified teachers in the state.

Patricia Bergin is highly familiar with our work through her long experience  
working both with the Department of Education and with charter schools. She  
served in a variety of levels from classroom teacher to District Superintendent  
and beyond. She was the District Superintendent when our College and its  
laboratory school program was mandated by the Legislature and played a part in  
establishing it.

We have found Patricia Bergin to be highly knowledgeable, of exemplary  
character, hard working and devoted to the people of Hawai'i. Ka Haka 'Ula O  
Ke'elikōlani College highly recommends her for appointment to the 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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pono@ponoholo.com](mailto:pono@ponoholo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM837 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 9:51:34 AM

---

**GM837**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harry von Holt	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair Education Committee: GM 837 Dear Chair Kidani: Pertaining to GM 837, I support the appointment of Pat Bergin to State of Hawaii Board of Education. Pat has spent 40 years in the education arena as a teacher, principal, and administrator for the public and charter schools of Hawaii. She has tremendous experience to lend to the Board of Education. I have served on the Board of Directors of the North Hawaii Community Hospital and the Paniolo Preservation Society with Pat. She works well with people including staff and other board members. She has been a leader that gets things done. She will be an asset to the State of Hawaii and will serve the Board of Education well. Again, I support Pat for a position on the State of Hawaii Board of Education. Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely, Harry M. von Holt

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



I am writing in support of Patricia Bergin, who has been nominated to the Board of Education.

I have known Pat for at least 30 years. During that time we both have resided in the small cowboy community of Waimea, where you always meet people you know at the store, at the post office, and in the old days, at The Deli on the highway.

I am retired now as a deputy prosecuting attorney for the county of Hawaii. I was a DPA for nearly three decades, the last 20 in Waimea. As a prosecutor, I had broad contact with the community, including educators (for school nonattendance hearings), probation officers, police officers, and, of course, many others who found themselves in the courtroom.

Based on that experience, I can confidently say that Pat has a reputation within her community as a strong, positive and knowledgeable educator with a multi-dimensional background.

During the last few years, I have served with Pat on the board of the Paniolo Preservation Society, where she has served in executive positions, including president. I am the current president. Pat was on the board when I arrived, her tenure is longer than mine.

I have had a chance, therefore, to personally see Pat as a leader, as a contributing member of a committee, and as a solid voice who has both useful ideas and abundant problem-solving skills. She also has a wicked sense of humor, which is always a good thing.

Pat is well-organized, as you would expect from someone who has achieved her level in her career. She brings to the table both an attention to details as well as an ability to step back and look at the big picture. Also, which I particularly like as an attorney, she is not afraid to speak her opinion when she thinks something is wrong.

It is for these reasons, that I urge the Education Committee to approve this nomination unanimously.

Thank you.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kau423@gmail.com](mailto:kau423@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM837 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2016 1:34:40 PM

---

**GM837**

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janlyn Ryusaki-Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments: With her wealth of knowledge and experience, I believe she will be a great addition.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [qwavesjoe@yahoo.com](mailto:qwavesjoe@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM837 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 11:30:04 AM

---

**GM837**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
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 specific 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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**From:** [Karen Au](#)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support testimony for Pat Bergin's placement on the Board of Education GM 837 and Senator Kidani's Committee  
**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 12:45:05 PM

---

MEMO

TO: Senator Kidani Board of Education Committee

FROM: Kathleen Kiss Damon, Ed.D.

SUBJECT: Support Testimony to recommend  
**Patricia Cockett Bergin**  
for the Board of Education **GM 837**

**I am writing testimony in support of Patricia C. Bergin's placement on the Board of Education for the State of Hawaii**

I am submitting this via e mail because my home computer has been hacked; therefore, I am using the library/learning center at Hawaii Community College and University Center at Palamanui Campus in Kona where I have retired as the Director of this UH location to send this e mail.

I have over thirty years in the UH system as a tenured faculty member at Windward Community College, Dean of Student Services at both Leeward and Honolulu Community Colleges, and as Director of the West Hawaii Palamanui location until my retirement. In addition, I have taught at public and private schools at the high school level here in Hawaii and on the mainland and served on boards of trustees for both private and public schools in Hawaii.

I have known Ms. Bergin for approximately twenty years, professionally from my work here at Hawaii Community College on Hawaii Island and personally as a resident of Kamuela as well. It is with this background and highest professional regard that I submit my recommendation on her behalf. **I think the state educational system would be well served by her membership on this critical and significant board and its work enriched by her collaborative participation.**

**Bullet statements highlight Ms. Bergin's strengths as a recommended member for the BOE.**

- **Seasoned DOE administrator with over forty years in the State of Hawaii system**
- **Possesses professional knowledge, expertise, and experience in education both in Hawaii at the district and state level as well as the Region applicable to her role as board member.**
- **Is familiar with not only traditional public education within the school system but also the uniquely emerging public school charter school movement and the needs and challenges it present s.**
- 
- **Has served on the professional Regional Accreditation teams for Hawaii and the locations in our island system schools to include Guam, Marshall Islands, etc. Her resume should note where she was the designated leader of those review committees.**

**Is knowledgeable about the needs and concerns of neighbor islands in the state educational system as well as the unique overall statewide island system.**

- **Is well aware of the need/demand for and access to and availability of higher education opportunities for students and adult learners alike on neighbor islands.**
- **Is an advocate for the development and quality maintenance of UH community college, four year university, and center programs on Hawaii Island to provide continued educational opportunities for neighbor island residents that is realistically accessible.**
- **Has professional leadership experience in the development and provision of educational services for migrant students accessing the state K-12 educational system. As an aside, HawCC applied for a federal grant with the DOE to meet this migrant student need and to provide transition to the community college/higher education opportunities; although the federal funding was unfortunately cut for this program, this experience allowed for us as a college to examine how successful transition could occur via the cooperation of our systems.**

If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808 895 9045. Thank you for the opportunity to send this e mail.

-

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [duke@sandwichisles.net](mailto:duke@sandwichisles.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM837 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Thursday, April 14, 2016 10:47:49 AM

---

**GM837**

Submitted on: 4/14/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marion K A Kapuniai	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Ms. Bergin will be an outstanding addition to the Board of Education. She will complement the board with her unmatched experience, breadth of knowledge, professionalism, and sincere concern for all students, na pua 'o Hawaii nei! M Kapuniai

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



# PATTI COOK

P.O. Box 6960 \* Kamuela, HI 96743 - Cell: 808-937-2833

April 13, 2016

**The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani  
and Members of the State Senate Committee on Education**

**RE: GM 837 – Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Education of  
Gubernatorial Nominee Patricia Bergin for a term to expire 06-30-2019**

**Hearing: Fri., April 15, 2016 – 1:15 p.m. – Conf. Room 229**

**Aloha Senators from Waimea, Hawai'i Island:**

**Thank you for this opportunity to convey support for Governor David Ige's nomination of  
Patricia Bergin to the BOE.**

**Patricia has been a friend and colleague for more than 40 years. Throughout these  
decades, she has been a dedicated, thoughtful educator serving public school children and  
families of Hawai'i Island, and later, the entire state through growing the Migrant Education  
Program, where she significantly increased both the number of students served and the  
federal funding available to support these children.**

**She is highly qualified to contribute to the continuous improvement of public education for  
all children as a member of the Board of Education as she brings a wealth of experience  
coupled with deep knowledge about best practices applicable to our state's multi-cultural  
and economically disparate student population. She also has first-hand experience with the  
P-20 continuum, has served on numbers WASC Accreditation teams, and believes in cradle-  
to-grave lifetime learning.**

**I have worked with Mrs. Bergin on many projects, both related to public schools and also  
community service including her many years as a volunteer with Hawai'i High School  
Rodeo Association. Yes, she and her family are rooted in our paniolo culture, but as  
important, she views high school rodeo as a means to an end – a way to both perpetuate  
our state's ranching industry and also engage students in school. I can think of literally  
dozens of Hawai'i youth who have gone on to college and careers because of their  
involvement in high school rodeo that she has helped run and strengthen.**

**Mrs. Bergin has also served as a volunteer on several very challenging community boards  
and commissions so is experienced with listening to and thoughtfully addressing a wide  
diversity of needs, opinions and values. At least one of these boards was dealing with  
serious financial and legal issues and challenges, and another with widely divergent  
cultural and scientific beliefs and practices. Mrs. Bergin did her homework, read and  
listened to all carefully and strived to be fair and respectful – a significant contribution that  
benefited our island and state.**

**Please confirm her appointment and mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Patti Cook**  
cookshi@aol.com



Testimony in Support

GM 837

Confirmation of Patricia Bergin  
Board of Education

Senate Committee on Education  
April 14, 2015

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto and members of the Education Committee:

I am pleased to submit my strong support for the confirmation of Patricia Bergin to the Board of Education. Ms. Bergin served nine years on the Maunakea Management Board (MKMB) of which six of those years she held the position as First Vice Chair. The MKMB is comprised of seven individuals appointed by the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to represent various sectors of the Hawaii Island Community. Ms. Bergin was appointed to represent the education community. She brought to the MKMB a wealth of experience and perspectives stemming from her years as teacher, District Educational Specialist, Hawaii District Superintendent, and State Educational Specialist.

Ms. Bergin's appointment to the Board of Education will be an invaluable addition not only because of her 30 years with the Department of Education, but the quality and diverse areas of experience she brings including: teaching; curriculum development; operational support and development; strategic planning; administrative development and oversight; mentoring; training; professional development for principals and content area coaches; as well as overseeing preschool and early childhood education program and administration of a Hawaiian language emersion school.

Her accomplishments and experience clearly makes here a superb candidate for a member of the Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephanie Nagata  
Director  
Office of Maunakea Management

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [ushakilpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:ushakilpatrick@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM837 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 2016 11:22:35 AM

---

**GM837**

Submitted on: 4/13/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Usha Kilpatrick Kotner	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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



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](http://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



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [EDU Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [will@kalo.org](mailto:will@kalo.org)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM837 on Apr 15, 2016 13:15PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2016 9:37:54 AM

---

**GM837**

Submitted on: 4/11/2016

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
William J Hancock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Pat Bergin because of her wide experience in the public education field will represent our student well. I have known Pat for over 40 years and over the years have served in together in organizations. She is knowledgeable ,open, and thoughtful. She brings to each organization that she serves a higher level of professionalism.

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](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)