

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
HEALTH RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION
FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BRANCH
741-A SUNSET AVENUE
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816

In reply, please refer to:
File.

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 228
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Kimberly Arakaki, Chief of the Maternal and Child Health Branch, Family Health Services Division at the Department of Health. Thank you for the opportunity to offer a letter in strong support of Governor's Message No. 726 in favor of nominee Ms. Edeluisa Baguio-Larena to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Ms. Baguio-Larena is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Maui Family Support Services (MFSS), Inc., a non-profit agency serving Maui County that administers 3 home visiting programs: Healthy Families America, Ka Pu'uwai O Na Keiki, and Early Head Start (EHS). Prior to becoming the CEO of MFSS, Ms. Baguio-Larena was the Program Director of the EHS Program from 2008 to 2014 and Home-Based Supervisor from 2002 to 2008.

With the respect and nomination by her peers from the Hawaii Home Visiting Network consisting of ten (10) agencies representing seventeen (17) evidence-based home visiting programs, Ms. Baguio-Larena has distinguished herself in her profession and is highly qualified to serve on the Early Learning Advisory Board.

I ask for your Committee's favorable consideration of Ms. Baguio-Larena's nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Arakaki
Chief, Maternal and Child Health Branch

April 10, 2017

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

Dear Senator Kidani:

Re: Nomination to the Early Learning Advisory Board – Edeluisa Baguio-Larena

I am submitting this testimony to enthusiastically support the nomination of Edel Baguio-Larena to the Early Learning Advisory Board as the Home Visiting representative.

In my years of association with Edel, I have know her to be a professional of great integrity, commitment and vision in her work to support vulnerable young children and their families in Hawaii. She has been a social worker with the Maui Department of Human Services/Child Welfare Services; a clinical supervisor with the Maui Family Support Services (MFSS) Healthy Start home visiting program; a program supervisor and program director with the MFSS Early Head Start Program; director of MFSS Early Childhood Education and Services, and currently, its Executive Director.

In her years with MFSS, Edel has supervised and supported staff providing home-based services to young children (birth to five) and their families in promoting a nurturing learning environment for children and in facilitating healthy child development. She has extensive knowledge and experience in the home visiting model of service delivery for young children and their families, and will bring a strong voice on behalf of this program option to ELAB as it deliberates issues impacting access and quality within our early childhood system.

Edel is a devoted mother of two young school-aged children who ground her in her personal and professional life. Her interest in becoming an ELAB member demonstrates her desire to increase her engagement in state-related issues that will positively impact the health, development and well-being of all young children in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Colin Momohara for Christine Jackson

Christine S. Jackson, Director
Head Start Collaboration Office