

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Education Committee

Re: GM 727: Confirmation to Early Learning Advisory Board, Gubernatorial
Nominee Maureen Rawlins for a term to expire 06-30-2018

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members:

As Chair of the Early Learning Advisory Board, I ask that you confirm Maureen Rawlins to a term on the Early Learning Advisory Board to expire 06-30-2018.

Maureen (Namaka) Rawlins has served as the Hawaiian medium representative on the ELAB since that position was included in statute. Her participation supports our efforts to address the needs of all *keiki* in Hawaii and their families. Namaka is our primary resource for Hawaiian immersion programs and her extensive knowledge and experience add significantly to our work. She has proven to be a dedicated, thoughtful and constructive member of the ELAB whose contributions are respected and helpful.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Maureen Rawlins' confirmation to the ELAB.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Advisory Board.



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Hilo, HI 96720
(808) 935-4304
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www.ahapunana.org

Ka Papa Alaka'i

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Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Loa

Pūnana Leo o Mānoa

Pūnana Leo o Ko'olau Poko

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Niuolahiki

Hawaiian Language Online

5 April 2017

Michelle N. Kidani, Chair Senate Committee on Education
Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair Senate Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha mai e Senator Kidani, Senator Kahele and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Kauanoë Kamanā, President of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo. The 'Aha Pūnana Leo strongly supports GM727 nomination of Ms. M. Nāmaka Rawlins to the Early Learning Advisory Board as representative of Hawaiian medium early learning providers.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo, established in 1983, is the sole statewide provider of Hawaiian medium early education. It is a constitutional mandate to protect, preserve and perpetuate the Hawaiian language, recognized as an official language of Hawai'i along with English.

Ms. Rawlins is uniquely qualified to represent Hawaiian medium early learning providers. She will be responsible for assuring the protection of the Traditional and Customary Right (State Constitution Article XII, Section 7) of family use of Hawaiian for parents raising children in the Hawaiian language. She will also ensure that others wanting an education through the medium of Hawaiian are provided access with support for increasing the number of Hawaiian speaking teachers which has been the number one barrier to expansion of programs. She has been a tremendous asset to our organization having led the organization for nearly 20 years as our Executive Director.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo is the national leader in indigenous American language early education. We have assisted many tribal organizations in creating Pūnana Leo models as a way to reverse language loss. We have been visited by Navajo, Ojibwe, Mohawk and Cherokee to name a few tribes. We have testified before Congress as expert panelists on Native American languages in education. The US Department of Health and Human Services issued an Information Memorandum in 2015 to clarify the support for teaching tribal languages in Head Start and Early Head Start.

Ms. Rawlins administers the Pūnana Leo's efforts to collaborate and establish working relationships with others around the world who seek to revitalize and support native languages in their homeland. Her skills, knowledge and disposition are distinct assets that make her very effective in establishing and maintaining our organization's initiatives.

E O I a K a ' Ō l e l o H a w a i ' i

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo has nearly 35 years of experience in providing Hawaiian medium early learning. Our graduates are returning as young parents now raising their 'ohana with Hawaiian as a home language. We have come full circle as an organization. I strongly urge you to select Ms. Rawlins as a member of the Early Learning Advisory Board, given her expertise in Hawaiian medium early learning, she will undoubtedly be a valuable contributor.

Mahalo nui,

Kauanoë Kamanā
President
Board of Directors

E O I a K a ' Ō I e l o H a w a i ' i



Native Hawaiian Education Council

April 10, 2017

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Ka`aialii Kahele, Vice Chair
State of Hawai'i Senate
Committee on Education

Via: Electronic Upload - EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: GM727 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAUREEN RAWLINS, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

Aloha 'olua mai,

The Native Hawaiian Education Council (NHEC or the Council) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** Gubernatorial Nominee, MAUREEN 'NAMAKA' RAWLINS to the Early Learning Advisory Board (ELAB).

Namaka will serve well on the ELAB: 1) Advising the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) on how best to meet the educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten; 2) Providing recommendations to EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early childhood care and education programs; 3) Promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and 4) Being an independent voice for children's health, safety, development, and learning.

More importantly, Namaka will serve the families and communities of Hawai'i well in strengthening our public education system. Her resume and the Council's personal knowledge of her leadership and work, to support families and communities, speak to an individual with skills, competencies, experiences and leadership at the local, national and international levels. She is a recognized expert on early education, native language schools and programs and policy, particularly at the Federal level. Her work in the early learning, Hawaiian medium immersion education and native language schools and programs communities will serve our State well.



Michelle N. Kidani
Ka`aiali`i Kahele
April 12, 2017
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The Council **strongly supports** Namaka's nomination aligned to:

- A. The Native Hawaiian Education Vision, Mission and Goals as detailed in Attachment A;
- B. NHEC's platform and priorities as articulated in Attachment B, particularly our desire to **Intensify Systems Engagement**, actions that intensify systems level action--- federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities; to engage in early learning planning and implementation work; and advancing two pathways of education.

The Council is mindful that Hawai'i operates in a unique context of having a single State Educational Agency (SEA) and Local Educational Agency (LEA); two official languages—English and Hawaiian—that are mediums of instruction in the State's public education system; and a public charter school system that is a blend of Hawaiian language immersion and Hawaiian culture based schools and in the midst of implementing the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)—the most pervasive federal policy change since No Child Left Behind in 2001, returning control to State's by Congressional intent; and working to integrate, holistically and systemically, early learning into our public education system.

The Native Hawaiian Education Council was established in 1994 under the federal Native Hawaiian Education Act. The Council is charged with coordinating, assessing and reporting and making recommendations on the effectiveness of existing education programs for Native Hawaiians, the state of present Native Hawaiian education efforts, and improvements that may be made to existing programs, policies, and procedures to improve the educational attainment of Native Hawaiians.

Please feel free to contact the Council's Executive Director, Dr. Sylvia Hussey, directly via e-mail (sylvia@nhec.org), office (808.523.6432) or mobile (808.221.5477) telephone with any questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lisa M. Watkins-Victorino, Chair

cc: Policy & Advocacy and Executive Committees and staff





KEAOMĀLAMALAMA

www.keaomalalama.org

Nu'ukia (Vision)

'O Hawai'i ke kahua o ka ho'ona'auao.

Hawai'i is the foundation of our learning.

Ala Nu'ukia (Mission)

I nā makahiki he 10 e hiki mai ana e 'ike 'ia ai nā hanauna i mana i ka 'ōlelo a me ka nohona Hawai'i no ka ho'omau 'ana i ke ola pono o ka maui Hawai'i.

In 10 years, kānaka will thrive through the foundation of Hawaiian language, values, practices and wisdom of our kūpuna and new 'ike to sustain abundant communities.

Pahuhopu (Goals)

In the next 10 years, our learning systems will . . .

Goal #1 — 'Ōlelo Hawai'i:

- **Advance 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Expectations**
Develop and implement a clear set of expectations for 'ōlelo Hawai'i that permeates all levels of education.
- **Actualize a Hawaiian Speaking Workforce**
Increase a prepared 'ōlelo Hawai'i workforce to ensure community and 'ohana access and support.
- **Amplify Access and Support**
Increase 'ōlelo Hawai'i context and programming to support the kaiāulu.
- **Achieve Normalization**
Pursue normalization of 'ōlelo Hawai'i.

Goal #2 — 'Ike Hawai'i:

- **Actualize 'Ike Hawai'i**
Increase use of knowledge from traditional and diverse sources.
- **Amplify Leo Hawai'i**
Increase 'ohana and kaiāulu learning and participation.
- **Advance Hana Hawai'i**
Increase resources to support practice and leadership.

Native Hawaiian Education Platform*

‘O Hawai‘i ke kahua o ka ho‘ona‘auao.
Hawai‘i is the foundation of our learning.

Perpetuate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

Actions on advancing ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i expectations; actualizing a Hawaiian speaking workforce; amplifying access and support; and achieve normalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i

Amplify Family and Community Voices

Recognizes parents and families as first educators; Actions that inform, illuminate, elevate and strengthen parent, family and community engagement in education

Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

Actions that promote further understanding, connecting, supporting and advancing ‘ike and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i: policy and pathways; teachers, leaders and communities; pedagogy and programs; curriculum, instruction, assessment and research practices; and evaluation and accreditation mechanisms.

Intensify Systems Engagement

Actions that intensify systems level action---federal, state, primary, secondary, tertiary, national and international, health, housing—to strengthen families and communities.

* Formal set of principal goals



**Native Hawaiian
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2017-2018 Native Hawaiian Education Priorities

Native Hawaiian Education Council

Perpetuate 'Ōlelo Hawai'i

- Support the Working Group recommendations re: the Expansion of Hawaiian Language Instruction Throughout the University of Hawai'i Systems.
- Support continuing work on Hawaiian language standards and assessments.

Amplify Family and Community Voices

- Advocate for the effective implementation of ESSA for the benefit of families and communities.
- Aggregate field data on family and community voices by island community.

Advance Hawaiian Culture Based Education

- Illuminate Models and Practices of Innovation.
- Elevate Accreditation Frameworks, Designations and Schools.
 - Create a Native Hawaiian research agenda.
 - Continue Native Hawaiian education meta-evaluation.
- Include CBE in Teacher Education and Preparation Programs and Professional Development

Intensify Systems Engagement

- Continue national advocacy work re: ESSA implementation and Native Control of Native Education.
- Engage in early learning planning and implementation work.
- Advance the implementation of Board of Education Policy E-3 Na Hopena A'o.
- Support the continuing 2-Pathways of Education Design and Development



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April 12, 2017

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Kidani, Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee,

This testimony is in support of GM727, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAUREEN 'NĀMAKA' RAWLINS, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

We are a group of advocates from Native Hawaiian, parent, disability, higher education, multilingual, social justice, and education reform communities who have come together to look at opportunities and risks for advancing equity and improving achievement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

We are committed to equity in education through either of the state's official languages, English and Hawaiian. We are concerned for specified groups that need particular attention - students with disabilities, students who do not speak the language of instruction, students with socio-economic challenges, and racial and ethnic groups that have historically not succeeded in our schools relative to others.

Ms. Rawlins is a recognized expert on early education, native language schools, programs and policy. She has actively participated in the development and leadership of Aha Pūnana Leo. She has also served as a State Advisory Council Member for the State Department of Labor Office of Language Access, which has given her experience with working with EL students and access rights for non-English speakers. Ms. Rawlins also served as Chair of the Native Hawaiian Education Council and also as a board member of the National Indian Education Association, which gives her perspective not only on the educational issues of Native Hawaiian children but also of minorities in general which includes those with disabilities and the homeless but from less visible populations.

We strongly encourage the Committee to approve her nomination.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Cheri Nakamura
Sylvia Hussey
Patricia Halagao
Brook Chapman DeSousa
Gavin Thornton
William Pila Wilson

GM 727

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wednesday, April 12, 2017, 2:45pm, State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Committee on Education

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Re: STRONG SUPPORT for GM727, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, MAUREEN RAWLINS, for a term to expire 06-30-2018.

E Kenekoa Kidani, Kenekoa Kahele a me nā lālā o nā kōmike ho'ona'auao,
Aloha 'oukou;

My name is Keiki Kawai'ae'a and I am the Director of Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani College at UH Hilo. Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikōlani asks to be recorded as in **strong support** for the nomination of Ms. Maureen Nāmaka Rawlins to the Early Learning Advisory Board.

Ms. Rawlins is not only highly familiar with early education through the Hawaiian language, she has a full understanding of how that integrates with K-12 education and then into teacher training and research at the tertiary level. Her expertise in education has been recognized in numerous leadership positions in our state and nationally. She is an excellent choice for ELAB.

Mahalo nui.



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