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

April 12, 2017

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members:

This testimony is submitted in support for GM772 and GM773, consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN DE LIMA, for terms to expire 06-30-2017 and 06-30-2020, respectively.

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations, which promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education. Our member list is attached.

One of HE'E Coalition's priorities is influencing policy that affects public education. Therefore, the Coalition staff attends Board of Education meetings on a regular basis. HE'E appreciates Mr. De Lima's consistent and strong advocacy for our high needs students. We admire his thoughtful and straightforward comments on the issues, always thinking of what is best for our students. Mr. De Lima has also been supportive of family and community engagement, another priority of the coalition, both in creating policy and as part of the Board of Education/Department of Education Strategic Plan.

We encourage the Committee to approve Mr. De Lima's nomination for re-appointment to the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Members and Participants

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
*Castle-Kahuku Principal and CAS
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First

McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

*Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*

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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 GM772 and GM773, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRIAN DE LIMA, for a term to expire 06-30-2017 and 06-03-2020, respectively.

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.

We appreciate Mr. De Lima for consistently being a strong advocate for children who have traditionally struggled in our system and in particular, children with special needs. We also like the experience Mr. De Lima brings to the Board of Education, serving as a member since 2010.

We strongly encourage the Committee to approve Mr. De Lima's nomination for re-appointment to the Board of Education.

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