



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education  
Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at 2:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol**

**RE: GOVERNOR'S MESSAGES 776 AND 777 SUBMITTING FOR  
CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NOLAN KAWANO**

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

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** the confirmation of Mr. Nolan Kawano to the Board of Education.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ 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.

Nolan Kawano is currently president of IC International, providing strategic leadership and overseeing day-to-day operation of this Honolulu-based insurance company. He is a seasoned veteran of the insurance industry, with 20-plus years of experience, including various management roles at Island Insurance, First Insurance Co. of Hawaii and the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund. He is a staunch supporter of public education in Hawaii, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation and spearheading efforts to develop business partnerships that not only help support teachers and students, but strengthen Hawaii's communities and ensure the overall health of the state's economy.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our support for this nomination.

841 Bishop St., Suite 301  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530  
Contact@HEECoalition.org

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 GM776 and GM777, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, NOLAN KAWANO, for a term 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 improving family and community engagement in our schools. We appreciate the fact that Mr. Kawano is active in the education community in his work with the Public Schools of Hawai'i Foundation, the New Teacher Center, Hawai'i 3R's and the Hawai'i Council on Economic Education. Mr. Kawano is a prominent member of the business community and we look forward to his help in strengthening the partnership between businesses and our schools.

We encourage the Committee to approve the nomination of Mr. Kawano 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.*

## TESTIMONY OF ALISON UEOKA

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kaiialiʻi Kahele, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 12, 2017  
2:45 p.m.

### GM 776 & GM 777

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee on Education, my name is Alison Ueoka and I am pleased to testify today in support of Nolan Kawano for the Board of Education, Governor's Message 776 for a term to expire June 30, 2017 and Governor's Message 777 for a term to expire June 30, 2020. I have known Nolan for 23 years since our paths crossed when he was working for the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund and I, as I am now, at Hawaii Insurers Council. I remain a close personal friend and professional colleague of his and have followed his esteemed career as he moved from the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund to HIH, then to First Insurance, Island Insurance and now to IC International.

Nolan is impressive on paper in his career accomplishments and in his volunteer work with the public schools and education in Hawaii. However, I want to focus on what is not evident in his resume. Nolan is a person whom I seek for counsel, especially when solutions elude me. I knew from the beginning that this man is not your average CPA, CFO, or insurance professional. Even 23 years ago, I saw someone who questioned traditional thinking, asked questions of others, like "Why not?" and took risks. He challenges himself and others. I know that Nolan tests himself regularly. "Is there a better way?" "Is this the best I/we can do?" "What would happen if...?" This is the way he thinks and analyzes issues and life. Nolan is confident in his abilities and is courageous in his decision making. These are unusual traits for someone with his background and for a local boy, but exactly why I see so much value in him. Through my years at Hawaii Insurers Council, Nolan is always there for me. He gave me valuable perspectives from someone who worked on the government side and then on the industry side. He is always objective, but more importantly, he is a creative

thinker . a round thinker, high level, not at all linear. Nolan served on the HIC Investment Committee and served our group well. He consistently challenged a conservative group to consider pushing our boundaries.

I am so proud of Nolan for his years of service to the public school system and programs in Hawaii and I admire his dedication. I know that when Nolan undertakes work such as this, it is not to gain status or individual recognition . it is to raise the bar. It is to make a difference, it is to encourage strong decision making, it is to contribute in a meaningful way.

I feel strongly that Hawaii and the Board of Education is fortunate to have such a candidate as Nolan and I encourage your confirmation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2017 4:59 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** Itakayama@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM776 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM

**GM776**

Submitted on: 4/6/2017

Testimony for EDU on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Chu Takayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Nolan has been a long-time advocate for public schools. With his strong background and expertise in financial matters, he would be an asset to the BoE.

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.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, April 7, 2017 1:40 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** monofrietti@islandinsurance.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM776 on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM\*

**GM776**

Submitted on: 4/7/2017

Testimony for EDU on Apr 12, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 229

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Onofrietti	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.

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**Senate Committee on Education**

Senator Michelle Kidani, Chairperson

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

2:45 p.m.

GM 776 & 777: Confirmation of Nolan Kawano: Board of Education

Dear Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of Mr. Nolan Kawano's nomination to the Board of Education.

During the past six years, I served with Nolan on the board of The Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation. While serving as President, Nolan was a visionary leader who placed a high value on preparing students for an increasingly complex and demanding 21<sup>st</sup> century work environment. As a result of his influence, many of our most innovative Foundation initiatives focus on preparing students for the day when artificial intelligence and robotics will either alter or replace many of the jobs that currently exists today.

For example, Nolan is one of the leaders behind Hawaii's Design Thinking movement. For the past six years, the Foundation has co-sponsored a Design Thinking summer bootcamp because it teaches educators and students how to use human-centered strategies to find creative solutions to wicked problems. In other words, Design Thinking develops human skills involving human empathy, creativity, intuition, collaboration and other human traits that machines do not possess and therefore cannot replace.

In addition, Nolan spearheaded the creation of the Waipahu High Biotechnology Science Scholars Program which is now entering its third year. This groundbreaking program involves a partnership between Rutgers University and Waipahu High School. This partnership allows Waipahu students the opportunity to study the DNA sequence of *Lemnoideae* (duckweed) and its possible medicinal benefits. Student results are published in a scientific journal providing students with the confidence to pursue science careers in medicine or research. It would not surprise me if one day a Waipahu Science Scholars graduate is credited with finding a cure for cancer, diabetes or Alzheimer's disease.

In summary, Nolan is both a visionary and dedicated leader who inspires those around him to do more. Nolan is highly qualified to serve on the Board of Education and I look forward to supporting his efforts in the future. I humbly ask that the committee look favorably upon his nomination.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Kenneth Hiraki