

TESTIMONY OF SIONE THOMPSON IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF CATHERINE PAYNE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (GM 694)

FOR: GM 694 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Chair of the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE PAYNE, for a term to expire 6-30-2021

DATE: April 11, 2018

TIME: 2:45 P.M.

COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Education

ROOM: Room 229

FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of Catherine Payne to the Chair of the Board of Education.

Catherine has served on the State Public Charter School Commission (Commission) since its inception in July 2012 and has served as chair of the Commission since February 2014.

Catherine's leadership of the Commission and its staff has served to strengthen and advance the charter school movement in Hawaii.

Catherine's long history as an educator in the state of Hawaii has carried out and assisted in numerous positive outcomes for students. As a former teacher, administrator, and community volunteer Catherine possesses the requisite experience and skills to lead Hawaii's education policy board to reach greater outcomes for our students.

Though the Commission staff and myself are saddened by her departure, we are equally excited for the possibilities and opportunities that will arise from Catherine's new role as Chair of the Board of Education. Her dedication and commitment to the public education system, both in the Department of Education and in public charter school system, allows Catherine to serve as advocate for all public school children in Hawaii.

I am honored to provide this testimony on her behalf and humbly request the committee approve her confirmation. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

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 11, 2018

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

This testimony is submitted in support for GM694, submitting for consideration and confirmation as Chair of the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, CATHERINE PAYNE, for a term to expire 06-30-2021.

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. We continue to advocate strongly on family and community engagement as well as equity in education in our public school system. HE'E welcomes Ms. Payne's wealth of experience as Hawai'i public school administrator and teacher. She also brings her experience as Chair of the Hawai'i Public School Charter System.

We encourage the Committee to approve the nomination of Ms. Payne as Chair of the Board of Education and we look forward to collaborating with her.

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
*HawaiiKIDSCan
*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.*

GM-694

Submitted on: 4/9/2018 11:06:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/11/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Piena	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I support this lady because I feel like if she can make a difference in the schools then she can make a difference on the board

GM-694

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 10:42:44 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/11/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Takabayashi	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Today I have the opportunity to testify in support of two exceptional individuals.

Happiness is using this time from my busy retirement schedule to testify in favor of the Governor's recommendation of Catherine Payne for the position as Hawaii State Board of Education Chair.

The senators at this hearing have the opportunity today to move forward the recommendation of a person that will improve the policies of the Department of Education for the benefit of the children of Hawaii.

I've had the privilege to work under Catherine's leadership as a teacher while she was Principal at Farrington High School and as a fellow commissioner on the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission. Under her leadership one thing is always at the forefront, it's all about the students!

Lastly, after 41 years as an educator you tell the climate of a school by the way its students behave. While at Farrington the manner in which students referred to Principal Payne in the hallways, I'll describe as respectful, caring and loving. Students know when people care about them.

It is without reservation that I support the nomination of Catherine Payne for the Chair of the Hawaii State Board of Education.

Mahalo.

Roger Takabayashi

Commissioner, State Public Charter School Commission (2012-present)

President, HSTA (2003-2009)



ALAN M. OSHIMA
President and
Chief Executive Officer

April 5, 2018

Senator Michelle Kidani
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM694 – Catherine Payne At-Large Member, Board of Education

Dear Senator Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing in strong support for the confirmation of Catherine Payne to serve as an At-Large Member of the Board of Education. Catherine served as the Principal of Farrington High School, among other significant achievements at the Department of Education, prior to her retirement. She has continued to support public education in many capacities, most recently in the charter school domain.

When she was at Farrington, she reached out to me for an alumnus' perspective of her school reorganization and modernization. As I observed her inclusive, collaborative leadership style, I was impressed by what she was able to achieve. Her faculty, staff, students and parents were aligned and working for a common goal: improving the Farrington community and outcomes. I appreciated her work then and I'm still a fan.

I think she will bring her love for Hawaii, public education and our students with her to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan M. Oshima
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 6, 2018

Office of Senator Michelle Kidani
Hawaii State Senate
Capitol Building, Rm 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Kidani,

I would like to submit this letter of support for Dr. Catherine Payne as an endorsement to being a member of the Hawaii Department of Education, Board of Education. The well-rounded array of experience and leadership positions she has held as a teacher, administrator, accreditation consultant, University of Hawaii doctoral program mentor, charter commissioner, and most recently complex area superintendent provides her with the array of experience necessary to provide first hand knowledge about Hawaii's educational context.

Moreover, Dr. Payne has been an advocate of innovation, empowerment, and ethical practice. She is universally respected as a thought leader and gracious person. I have had the privilege of interacting with her as a colleague while she was a principal as well as serving on various committees and have witnessed her ability to communicate effectively to support collaborative efforts.

I am excited to know that Dr. Payne is committing her time and expertise to our public schools. Her presence on the Board of Education will be an asset for Hawaii's keiki and citizens.

Should additional information be required, I can be reached at (808) 225-9080 or dale_castro@notes.k12.hi.us

Sincerely,

Dale K. Castro, Ed. D
Complex Academic Officer
Central District-North



Adult Friends for Youth

"Redirecting lives to stop Violence"

PRESIDENT AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun, M.S.W.

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Catherine Payne

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Sidney M. Rosen, M.S.W., Ph.D

**Past Chair of the Board*

Submitted to Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Submitted by: Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun
President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth

Wednesday, April 11, 2018
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and members of the Committee on Education. I am writing in support for Ms. Catherine Payne to serve on the Board of Education as the Chair. We have worked closely with Ms. Payne in two roles.

First in her capacity as the Principal of Farrington High School where she was a great advocate for all her students including the high risk youth AFY served on the campus. She has always believed that every youth no matter their circumstances could succeed given support and opportunities.

Secondly, for the past 22 years, Ms. Payne has served on the Board of Directors for Adult Friends for Youth and has provided valuable insight to carry out the mission of AFY. She served as Vice Chair of the Board and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Personnel Committee and a member of the Fund Development committee. Her leadership style has always been attentive to details, fair and inclusive. She commits to tasks that she believe she can provide quality time, attention and first-hand knowledge.

We, the staff of Adult Friends for Youth support her nomination to the Board of Education as the Chair and believes she will be a huge asset to Hawaii's educational system in this role.

The Honorable Michelle Kidani
Hawaii State Capital
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Kidani,

April 8, 2018

I am writing in my strongest support for the nomination of Ms. Catherine Payne to Chair the Board of Education. I have known Ms. Payne for at least a dozen years, starting when she was Principal at Farrington High School when I served as a robotics coach and science fair mentor. I observed her leadership style and methods of conflict resolution that always stressed mutual respect. I observed her nurturing ways and love of students, no matter what their level of abilities. She would always take the extra time to interact with the students as individuals and encourage any efforts they made. I have continued to interact with Ms. Payne since her retirement from the DOE because she is so active on so many fronts.

As a University of Hawaii professor in chemistry and biochemistry, I get the products of our public school system. Far too many of our public school graduates do not have the skills that introductory college students need to be successful in higher education. Counselors and administrators may encourage their students to go to college, but if they aren't prepared, there is failure. As a board member of the Education Institute of Hawaii, I have tried to convey this to our K-12 educators but it seems that the issue does not rise to the top of their list of concerns. Ms. Payne fully understands the concerns of those in higher education and understands the requirements for success in college. As Chair of the Board of Education, she will work towards the success of all of our students.

Another important component of my support for her nomination is respect. Catherine Payne is one of the most respected educators in the State. She is respected by classroom teachers and by the most important educational leaders in both the DOE and in academics. She is the definition of servant-leader. If anyone can motivate and facilitate improvement in public education, it will be Catherine Payne.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha, Harry



Harry B. Davis, Associate Clinical Professor
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TO: Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Wednesday, April 11, 2018; 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229

RE: GM694 TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CATHERINE PAYNE FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIR

We support Catherine Payne, gubernatorial nominee, for the position of Chair of the Board of Education. Catherine is an experienced educational leader who is highly qualified to serve our State as the Chair of the Board of Education. She is a multi-award-winning educator who has served formerly as the Principal of Farrington High School, the Chairwoman of the State's Public Charter School Commission and as a respected consultant and mentor in the education sector.

Catherine has served in virtually every capacity as an educator, school and community leader. Her impressive career as a teacher, vice principal, principal, board member and consultant has garnered her a great deal of respect from peers and the community alike. She has knowledge of the public, charter and university school systems in Hawaii and will bring a wealth of diverse experiences and knowledge to the table as the Chair of the Board of Education. In her previous roles, she has always led with honesty, integrity, clarity and a sincere mission of serving the students of Hawaii. We are confident that Catherine will work with all constituents to ensure the best for Hawaii's schools and our students.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of Catherine Payne**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro
Executive Director

April 11, 2018

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

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

HawaiiKidsCAN supports GMM 694, the nomination of Catherine Payne to serve as chair of the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE).

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. HawaiiKidsCAN is a branch of 50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now.

Ms. Payne is highly qualified to serve in this role, bringing valuable experience and perspective as an educator, administrator and systems leader. Given her experience as chair of the State Public Charter School Commission, she also understands the challenges our public schools face—both traditional Department of Education schools and charter schools. She is equipped to hear and empathize with the many diverse voices that comprise our education ecosystem.

Moving forward, HawaiiKidsCAN strongly encourages the BOE to collaborate with community groups to create opportunities for everyday students, parents and concerned citizens to meet Ms. Payne and other BOE members. In this process, communities would have the meaningful chance to share their feedback and hear board members' visions for serving on the BOE. In our grassroots conversations with community members, we often hear that folks are in the dark about the BOE: they don't know its members, how agenda items get selected or why meetings are so difficult to attend. By engaging more closely with communities, the BOE would establish more trust and understanding, while demonstrating the caliber of leadership in charge of these important decisions.

Ensuring Hawaii has great schools for all kids must start with stronger relationships between communities and policymakers.

Mahalo,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN



April 5, 2018

Senator Michelle Kidani
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii Sate Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Re: GM694 – Catherine Payne At Large Member, Board of Education.

Dear Senator Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education ,

I am writing in **whole-hearted support of the confirmation of Catherine Payne** to serve as an At-Large Member and Chair of the Board of Education. Catherine served as Principal of Olomana School prior to serving as principal for 14 years at Farrington High School. She has been a staunch advocate for all students creating the best opportunities for those in marginalized communities. In her retirement, she consults and coaches school leaders going through accreditation and serves as the Chair of the Charter School Commission expanding her legacy of improving education for all children of Hawaii.

I have known Catherine on a professional and personal level for over 20 years where she has been a mentor, sponsor, and friend to me and my family.

In 1997, I first got to know Catherine when I was the Director of Facilities for New Hope Oahu. Together, we developed a public – private partnership with the school to create a win-win situation by helping clean up and improve the facilities of Farrington High School for many years without the use of public funds. Over the course of 10 years, New Hope Oahu invested millions of dollars in equipment and sweat equity that improved the school and helped the kids at Farrington. It was Catherine’s “out of the box” thinking and collaborative nature that led to a great community partnership.

In 2007 after completing my graduate education I moved back to Hawaii. Catherine gave me the opportunity to work with her as a consultant and coach in developing a 10- year strategic-operating transformation plan for the school as they were put into “restructuring.” NCLB restructuring in those days meant gutting all electives and Math and Reading were doubled up to change test scores. For Catherine, this was a moral wrong that she believed would not help students in the long haul. At the time, she took an unconventional approach to restructure the school by empowering the school leaders to develop a plan that would serve the needs of all students. As a result, she developed a large school into 8 Smaller Learning Academies where each student could find their niche and develop a major in high school that would lead them to be ready for the work place and/or college



readiness. This prevented kids from falling through the cracks and received greater achievement scores in the long haul.

I can personally attest to her character, wisdom, vision, and compassion. I know beyond a doubt that Catherine will make an exceptional Board of Education Chair advocating for an innovative educational future for all of Hawaii's children.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Chong", written in a cursive style.

Craig Chong
President, Fresh Leadership

Randolph G. Moore
2445-A Makiki Heights Drive
Honolulu Hawaii 96822

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani
Chair, and members of the Committee on Education
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Senator Kidani and members of the Committee on Education:

Subject: GM 694 – nomination of Catherine Payne to the Board of Education as its chair

I encourage your confirmation of the appointment of Catherine Payne to the Board of Education as its chair.

I have known Ms. Payne since she was a highly effective and successful principal of Farrington High School. Her experiences have given her a thorough understanding of public education issues and the role and responsibilities of the Board of Education. She has the ability to articulate a vision and bring people together to work toward its achievement. She has the time, energy, understanding, and style to effectively lead the Board of Education.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Randolph G. Moore

TOM HUTTON
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April 10, 2018

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM694, Nomination of Catherine Payne to Hawaii State Board of Education

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Catherine Payne to serve as At-Large Member and Chair of the Hawaii State Board of Education. To this role Ms. Payne will bring the unique and varied experience of having served the children of Hawai'i through a career with the Department of Education (DOE) and as a private consultant, as a community activist and volunteer, and as a leader in charter school authorizing.

During my tenure as Executive Director of the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission, Ms. Payne played a critically important role as one of the first Commissioners, as chair of the Commission's standing Committee on Performance and Accountability, and then, simultaneously for a considerable time period, as Commission Chair. Respected and valued for her educational knowledge and experience, she helped lead the Commission through the initial tumult of advancing its difficult but vital mission. Subsequently, with quiet yet unapologetically steely resolve, she helped the Commission weather the political backlash that its mission entailed.

As a parent of children learning in both charter and DOE schools, I am grateful for Ms. Payne's willingness to share her deep understanding of our school system—and of the importance of charter schools in that system—by continuing her public service in this new and challenging capacity. Mahalo to the Committee for its consideration of this testimony and for its favorable consideration of this nomination.

Respectfully,



Tom Hutton

Ellen F. Schroeder
47-410 Waihee Road
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

March 20, 2017

Senator Michelle Kidani
Vice President of the Senate & Education Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Kidani:

In the sunset of my teaching career, I am honored to provide you with a personalized description of the skills, abilities and experiences that characterize Catherine Payne as the most distinguished candidate for the office of Board of Education Chair. I have taught at Olomana School since 1980, and was extremely lucky to have flourished under Catherine's leadership when she became principal in 1986. During this period, her administrative duties exploded with every successive year of her tenure. Initially, her oversight included the bulging population of incarcerated youth at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility in Kailua; students at the Olomana Youth Center, the Windward District's alternative school across the street; the Family Court's detained and sheltered youth at Hale Ho'omalua in downtown Honolulu; and the Adolescent Unit patients at the Hawaii State Hospital in Kaneohe. In subsequent years, she was also tasked with supervision of educational programs at additional state and private agencies: a partial day program at the Key Project in Kahaluu, a Girls Program for psychiatrically fragile high schoolers in Waimanalo, the adolescent psychiatric program at Castle Medical Center, the emerging Kailana/Marimed Program that addressed youth with substance abuse and related emotional problems in Kaneohe, and educational services for youth who had been waived to the Oahu and Women's Community Correctional Centers. She also collaborated in multi-agency discussions related to educational programming for the new Bobby Benson Center, a residential drug treatment program for adolescents. Providing the educational services for these variously challenged student groups meant communicating, collaborating, and cooperating with the administration and staffs of multiple agencies and departments, each with separate missions, priorities, policies and procedures.

Despite these increasing demands, Catherine emulated a strong conviction to serve these diverse populations. Full of unwavering hope that we could divert these youth and make a difference in their lives, she inspired all of us to do the impossible. From having incarcerated youth perform Shakespeare, to reciting historical oratory, to hosting Christmas parties for senior citizens in the locked facility; she held the bar high and expected that our students receive the same quality-driven educational programs as their peers in mainstream schools. A harbinger of the current Zeitgeist, she encouraged and supported innovation and interdisciplinary studies and crafted collaboration schedules to allow teachers time to develop

curricula and pursue innovation. All of this with severely limited resources in staffing and budget, yet inspiring and empowering us to develop programs to help our students.

She engendered in all of us a collective fidelity to this purpose and Olomana School flourished. The Art Team distinguished students by consistently winning Scholastic Art awards, science classes experienced hands-on dissections, English and Social Studies integrated their programs to provide real life experiences in resolving community problems, and the vocational arts programs expanded their reach in providing service to networks in the community. Mindful of the diverse needs of our students who had experienced disruptions in their education, she advocated and successfully installed Adult Basic Education diploma programs to provide expanded opportunities for them to complete their education. Finally, it was through her support that Olomana School was able to realize our first 4-year college graduates; one has her PhD in Hospital Administration and is an Assistant Professor in Physiology at Hawaii Pacific University!

On a personal level, Catherine has been my enduring inspiration in my growth as a teacher. To her credit, I have gained the confidence to take risks and pursue ideas to benefit my students. One that has endured has been her help and guidance in developing my skills as a grant writer. At a time when Olomana School received marginal funding to maintain staffing and programs, she encouraged me to apply for grants to enrich our programs. A hands-on leader and former English teacher, she worked with me to edit my writing and taught me to improve the clarity and focus of my proposals. Ultimately, I was able to write several grants to fund curricular innovation that generated more than \$300K to build interdisciplinary learning teams. Years later, the seeds of her guidance and beliefs were fundamental in inspiring me to write a federal grant that awarded nearly a million dollars for us to build a schoolwide curriculum based on native Hawaiian cultural competence.

Charitable by nature, Catherine always extended herself in her support of an after-school program where I worked with students on citizenship and credit recoupment. Her commitment was profound: helping wash cars, unloading recyclables, and helping to run a polling precinct as we fundraised. It was her unspoken message to me, my colleagues and the students, that her interest and support were genuine. She inspired and taught all of us to “dream big” and have courage to try. Her integrity in her role as principal contributed significantly to changing the belief systems of our students. For the first time, they actually began to believe that they could go to college. To a serious felony offender who could have been waived to adult prison, this belief transformed him into a voracious reader, writer, artist, and poet during his incarceration. Catherine took the time to attend his graduation and family celebration from Kahuku High School. This change in the belief system of our students, that they can be competitive in college, is now a part of the school culture.

Her unwavering faith in developing and inspiring staff has resulted in the attainment of many milestones during her principalship at Olomana. The school at the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility received annual recognition for the remarkable academic achievement that often exceeded two years of growth in reading and mathematics in Title I reports, and for their weekly Values Education program that was also integrated into the Halawa Correctional Facility’s education program. Their integrated science program also won a GTE grant to teach the incarcerated youth orchid cloning. The Detention Home school staff initiated a chess competition with the Family Court judges to provide the youth with more normalized

experiences with the judiciary, and she encouraged collaboration between the teachers and Youth Correctional Facility to assure a more seamless system of supports. To this end, she created and dedicated a Transition Teacher position to prepare youth exiting corrections with additional employment supports and academic links to ensure their success in the community. This teacher received the Hawaii Jefferson Humanitarian Award for outstanding public service for his unorthodox commitment to these incarcerated students, shackling himself like his clients as they went for interviews or applied to college in the community.

From Catherine's seminal work at Olomana School, her steadfast influence, her resolute belief in the power of people when their creativity and commitment are valued, remain in the internalized belief systems of those of us who were so fortunate to have grown through her leadership. Her unwavering belief in my abilities has grounded me throughout my teaching career. It was humbling that I was recognized as a 1997 Hawaii Milken Educator, the 1999 Hawaii State Teacher of the Year, and the Hawaii JC Penney Golden Rule awardee in 2000. In 1999, Olomana School received one of 10 national Points of Light honors at the White House. Clearly, if Catherine had not planted the seeds of possibility thinking, we would not have dared to begin to believe in ourselves and feel empowered to make a difference in educating our very special students.

Her impact on public education continues to resonate among educators in the State of Hawaii. The media has chronicled her tenacious resolve to transform Farrington High School's climate and her educational reforms have gained national recognition; her hallmark continues to be her fidelity to improve Hawaii education, evidenced in her support of community groups such as Adult Friends for Youth to redirect and restore delinquent youth, and her current focus as the Chair of the Charter School Commission to raise the quality of charter schools to ensure parity for these youngsters educationally.

That Catherine Payne has demonstrated over her lifetime a profound commitment to improve the educational programs for the children of Hawaii while engendering the collaboration of her constituents and colleagues underscores her selection as the incontrovertible candidate for the position of the DOE's State Schools Superintendent. She will work tirelessly to ensure that education in Hawaii moves forward, unfettered, and focused on creating effective systems that will produce career and college ready students for the 21st Century.

Dan Rather: "The dream begins, most of the time, with a teacher who believes in you, who tugs and pushes and leads you on to the next plateau, sometimes poking you with a sharp stick called truth."

Respectfully,

Ellen Schroeder
Student Services Coordinator
Olomana School

Cell: 561-2243

DR. WAYNE CORDEIRO
NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP O'AHU

April 5, 2018

TESTIMONY OF SUPPORT

To: Senator Michelle Kidani
Senate Committees

Re: **Catherine Payne**
98-715 Iho Place #1404
Aiea, HI 96701

Dear Senator Kidani:

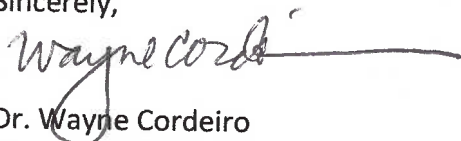
I am writing with support for the election of nominee, Catherine Payne to the Board of Education. I have known Catherine Payne for the past 17 years beginning when she served with Farrington High School.

The primary strengths she exudes are:

- **Ability to make wise decisions under pressure**
- **Attracting broad community support**
- **Excellence in people skills**
- **A rapport with students and faculty alike**
- **Organizational and adaptive leadership skills**
- **Virtuous and ethical lifestyle**
- **Leadership wisdom that extends beyond custodial management and policing policy.**
- **The courage to accept responsibility, rectify errors, and optimize systems.**

These qualities are critical to anyone in this level of leadership. Catherine Payne not only has these merits, she exceeds them. I firmly believe that Hawaii would be honored to have her as an officer with the Board of Education. Her presence has been long awaited.

Sincerely,



Dr. Wayne Cordeiro
New Hope Oahu

R: 4/9/18

Bebi Z. K. Davis, Ph.D.

2223 SeaView Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
(808) 220-9621

April 7, 2018

Office of Senator Michelle Kidani
Hawaii State Senate,
Capitol Building, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Kidani,

Re: Letter of Recommendation on Behalf of Catherine Payne - Nomination as Board of Education Chair

Catherine Payne is a dynamic, enthusiastic, and approachable educator and leader. As a Physics and Chemistry teacher at Farrington High School, I had a first-hand experience of what an empowering educational leader Ms. Payne is. I credited much of my success as a teacher to her leadership style and support; Ms. Payne has the knowledge, experience and insights of what it takes to transform educational programs to foster student success. The wealth of knowledge she has acquired in her experience as a school substitute teacher, teacher, vice-principal, principal, Interim Complex Area Superintendent, and chairwoman of the State Public Charter School Commission will definitely be beneficial for the Board of Education. Ms. Payne is a collaborator who engages in capacity building through developing people skills, recognizing and engaging their strengths, and making them feel that they are a part of “the ohana”; these are valuable techniques to build effective teams and a support system.

Ms. Payne earned numerous accolades for her work, including the prestigious National Milken Educator Award. As a servant leader, serving schools such as Nanakuli High School, Waianae High School, Olomana School, and Farrington High School has afforded Ms. Payne the philosophy and practices that ultimately enriches lives and builds/shapes better organizations. Her extensive work in education is evident that she exemplifies the Department of Education (DOE) mission “*to serve our community by developing the academic achievement, character and social-emotional well-being of our students to the fullest potential. We work with partners, families and communities to ensure that all students reach their aspirations, from early learning through college, career and citizenship.*” Ms. Payne is well-informed about policies and understands greater accountability. As public schools throughout America are undergoing tremendous changes and transformation under the initiative of the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA), her recent work as part of the Governor’s ESSA Team is another instrumental way of her leading innovative 21st century teaching and learning transformations that are aligned to the DOE Strategic Plan.

Amidst all her endeavors, after her retirement, she continued to collaborate with the Department of Education to be a positive change agent. As a Board of Education member, she will continue to empower the student voice and to sustain a constructive culture grounded in *HĀ* or the core *BREATH* that can be drawn on for strength and stability throughout school and beyond.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Catherine Payne as the Board of Education Chairperson where she can continue to contribute to moving public education forward.

Sincerely,

Bebi Davis

Bebi Davis, Ph.D
2005 National Milken Educator
2009 Hawaii State Teacher of the Year

From the Desk of Sandy Chong

April 5, 2018

Senator Michelle Kidani
Chair, Senate Education Committee
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM694- Catherine Payne, At Large Member, Board of Education

Dear Senator Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing in whole-hearted support of the confirmation of Catherine Payne to serve as an At-Large Member of the Board of Education. I first knew of Catherine through my husband Craig Chong. He had shared with me how he had developed a great partnership with her and Farrington High School through his position at New Hope Oahu and several years later as her coach and consultant.

It wasn't until Catherine retired from her principalship in 2010 that I got to know her personally and have come to have a deep admiration and respect for this incredible woman. Upon retiring, she dedicated a day in her week to helping me care for my 4 month old and 2 yrs old toddler. Having dedicated her life to public education and not having children of her own, Catherine enjoyed being with my little ones and I could see her passion for children. She took my daughters to Tutu and Me Traveling Preschool and was impressed by the early learning programs offered through this program. This was new to her as her experiences had mostly been with intermediate to high school kids. However, the time spent with my girls and going to these classes have provided her with greater knowledge and insights that now ranges from infants to high school/young adults.

My daughters love "Aunty Catherine" as she has been part of our family since then. She is a great aunty and role model for my girls from learning "big" words, reading classic books and joining their tea parties. She is a very hands-on aunty that gets right in and plays with my girls. Even in retirement, that "hands-on" approach is the same approach she has in every aspect of her work. As a consultant she helps schools prepare for accreditation. She visits with the schools and truly listens to the school leaders and teachers and is supportive of their needs in finding solutions to problems or challenges that come about.

As Chair of the Charter School Commission, she continues her dedication and commitment to improving and enhancing the quality of public education in Hawaii. She also serves on the board of Adult Friends for Youth whose mission is to enhance the potential of ALL youth to achieve a rewarding life and become productive members of society by reducing and eliminating substance abuse, violence, gang activities, and family dysfunction.

From the Desk of Sandy Chong

Her involvement in these organizations exemplifies Catherine's dedication and mission in the area of education. She truly cares about and has a passion for the children of Hawaii. She advocates for ALL children to have equal opportunities for a quality education so they can have a brighter future ahead of them.

Catherine is well-respected and admired in the education community and by her friends, colleagues and former students. Its not often that you see former students come up to a former principal to thank them and give them hugs as I often see when I'm with Catherine. It shows what a huge impact she's made with these students that extends beyond high school as they are now adults with their own families.

In my role as PTA president at Manoa Elementary, I am so honored to have a mentor in Catherine supporting and cheering me on in my vision to bring parents and families together in building a stronger school community. She has given me great insights on the educational system and about parents as we often have conversations about public education and my dreams for a better system for my kids and all kids in public schools.

In my years of knowing Catherine, our family is blessed to know her and have her become a part of our family. She is someone I admire as a woman of great character, strength, integrity, truth, passion, compassion, empathy, trustworthiness, reliability and responsibility. She is a confident leader, a collaborative team builder, encourager, progressive thinker and visionary. Her positive, "can-do" attitude inspires many around her to do their best and to shine.

It is because of these reasons that I firmly believe Catherine is THE most qualified person to be the Board of Education Chair championing for a better educational system that allows our children to thrive, have fun learning, get creative and to do their very best!

Sincerely,

Sandy Chong

EDU Testimony

From: Kidani2 - Danicia
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 9:40 AM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: FW: Support for Catherine Payne

From: Josh Reppun [mailto:josh@reppun.com]
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2018 10:35 PM
To: Kidani2 - Danicia <Kidani2@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Cc: Dintersmith Ted <tdintersmith@gmail.com>; Scott Fuji <s.fuji@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Support for Catherine Payne

Aloha Senator Kidani,

I write in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Catherine Payne to be the next Chair of our Board of Education. I also speak on behalf of Ted Dintersmith, the Executive Producer of the acclaimed documentary, "Most Likely to Succeed," and the author of a new book, "What School Could Be." Ted just concluded his 7th visit to Hawai'i and is now on a multi-state book tour. While in Hawaii he met with Governor Ige and First Lady Ige, Superintendent Kishimoto and Executive Director Thompson. He also conducted two workshops at the HAIS 2nd annual Leading Schools of the Future Conference. Ted enthusiastically supports Catherine's nomination.

We believe Catherine Payne is the perfect choice for this particular moment in Hawai'i's education history. She will be, we believe, that leader who knows what school could be, and what a 21st century school needs to look, sound and feel like in Hawai'i. Catherine has been up front and straight about her support for Superintendent Kishimoto, and her three pillars: student voice, teacher collaboration and school design. Ted and I believe that Dr. Kishimoto will be one of the best superintendents in our history, but we need to support her work, and Catherine will lead the way.

I first met Catherine when we were in graduate school together at UH Manoa CoE. I believe that was 1999. At the time I was working on my masters in education foundations. She was working on a PhD in education leadership. The one class we took together was Professor Hunter McEwen's "Philosophy of Education" seminar. In this course Catherine and I read and discussed the works of John Dewey, the iconic thinker who dug deeply into the merits of experiential education, and the need for education to address the great issues, the most relevant issues of democracy. I believe that Catherine has come to embody Dewey's thinking; she has made Dewey manifest and real through her jobs as school principal, through her position as a member of board of the Education Institute of Hawai'i, and through her position as Chair of the Hawaii Public Charter School Commission. She believes in a whole-child approach to teaching and learning where the students' interests are front and center.

While we were in graduate school together, Catherine shared many stories about her years as principal at Farrington High School. In the years since, I cannot count the number of people who have praised her work at Farrington, and expressed admiration for her deep knowledge of what school is, and what it could be.

Similarly, over the past two years many people have expressed admiration for her work as a board member for the Education Institute of Hawai'i. I had the opportunity to make a direct pitch to EIH to support the making of

my own education documentary, [Ka Helena A‘o: The Learning Walk](#). Catherine supported my efforts because she knew that education in Hawai‘i will meet the challenges of the 21st century, this Age of Acceleration and Innovation, through stories of affirmation and imagination, which is what my film does.

I am a co-writer of the successful application by [SEEQS.org](#) for a public charter. I studied our charter school movement under Professor Mary Anne Raywid at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. I have seen and experienced first hand the struggles of our charter schools to be what the law, and the re-written law intended them to be. Under Catherine’s leadership, which led directly to the hiring of Executive Director Sione Thompson, I have seen our charter schools on all islands come together, collaborate, cooperate, and innovate more than at any time in the past. Catherine, her board and Mr. Thompson have, it seems, found a way to balance compliance with the law and the need to nurture these diverse models of innovation. When just two years ago I heard (and read) only negativity about our charters, especially the “misbehaving” ones, now I hear awesome and soaring stories of accomplishment and achievement. I believe through Catherine’s leadership, our charters will enter into a new era of cooperation with our public schools. There are many issues to solve; Catherine is an especially good choice given her charter background.

Though this is hearsay, I recognize, I say with confidence that Catherine’s integrity, her curiosity DNA, her determination, her kindness and compassion, and most of all, her leadership qualities, make her the talk of the town in education circles. Though Chair Mizumoto has done great things - supporting our ESSA plan, the hiring of Dr. Kishimoto, the ratification of our Blueprint for Public Education - Catherine Payne, with her deep appreciation for the idea that Hawai‘i is at an inflection point, and that we can, as Ted has stated on every island, “out Finland, Finland” in five years or less, is the right choice to be our next Chair of the Board of Education. People on all islands know and admire Catherine, whose heart is education like no other.

I would like to close with a short anecdote. Last April, 2017, Catherine attended HAIS’s 1st annual Leading Schools of the Future Conference. I had the chance, as did Ted, to talk to her several times during those two days at the Ala Moana Hotel conference center. To see her is to know her, by which I mean, she was extremely energized by the keynotes, the choices of breakouts and the networking conversations in the hallways. Those two days ratified for me that she is a born education leader, an education geek, even!, a policy veteran, but most of all, someone who cares very, very deeply about our kids, public, independent and charter.

Catherine is one of our education treasures. Please confirm her nomination to the Board of Education.

Thank you,

Josh Reppun

Former teacher, now a specialist at Apple Ala Moana
MLTS Ambassador
Co-Producer of *Ka Helena A‘o: The Learning Walk* at kelseymatsu.com
@MLTSinHawaii, @joshreppun and @GTCBrain on Twitter
On Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MLTSHawaii/>
GSDTFK.weebly.com
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EDU Testimony

From: Kidani2 - Danicia
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 4:07 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Subject: FW: Support for Catherine Payne

From: Robert Landau [mailto:tworoadsed@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 4:05 PM
To: Kidani2 - Danicia <Kidani2@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Support for Catherine Payne

Aloha Senator Kidani,

It is my honor and privilege to write to you in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Catherine Payne to be the next Chair of the Board of Education.

First allow me to set the context for why I am writing this email to you.

After 40 years living and working overseas as an international school teacher, Principal, and Superintendent in Switzerland, Indonesia, Czech Republic, China, Cambodia, and Singapore - I relocated to Hawai'i in 2015 as the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools (HAIS). In August 2017, I left HAIS to form my own consulting LLC called Two Roads Education. I now focus on assisting public, private, and charter schools throughout Hawai'i, on the mainland, and overseas.

During my tenure with HAIS, I visited nearly all of our independent schools across the state. However, and most importantly, I began to witness the increasing rate of positive change in the public and charter sectors. As HAIS Executive Director, I was invited to many DOE and Charter events and celebrations. On my own, I began to visit charter and public schools to compare and contrast. I became increasingly aware that our public and charter teachers and school leaders were equally concerned about improving the education for all learners.

It was not long before I began to meet the State's educational change agents. As you may have guessed, eventually, I met Catherine Payne. One of my goals was to increase collaboration among public, private, and charter schools. I first met Sione Thompson who arranged a meeting with Catherine. Wow! Catherine had it all: poise, diplomacy, acute insight to challenges and opportunities, a willingness to collaborate, and a gracious persona. I met Catherine again when Sione Thompson asked me to facilitate a meeting among the Charter Commissioners, the Charter Staff, and Governor Ige. I was so impressed with Catherine's leadership qualities and laser focus on what's most important.

Since becoming an independent consultant I have landed several projects with DOE and charter schools. I see the huge potential for the State of Hawai'i to become a beacon for transformational education in the United States. We now have amazing leaders in Christina Kishimoto, Sione Thompson, and Phil Bossert. Also, having participated in several projects with Kamehameha Schools, they, too are raising the bar.

Now, the Board of Education has the opportunity to have an incredible Board Chair - someone with the experience, knowledge, passion, and determination to take the State to new levels of excellence.

It is my sincere hope that Catherine Payne becomes our next Chair of the DOE Board.

Mahalo for your time, concern, and service to Hawai'i.

Best regards,

Robert Landau



Robert Landau
Strategist

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference. (Robert Frost)

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Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/3938264570>

Testimonials: <https://tworoadsed.org/testimonials/>

To schedule a meeting, phone or Skype call, go to:
<https://tworoadsededucation.beta.doodle.com/tworoadsed>

Senator Kidani — I can only echo Josh Reppun’s enthusiasm for Catherine Payne in the role of Chair of the Board of Education. I’ve had several occasions to work with her, and have been consistently impressed with her expertise, collaborative skills, enthusiasm, and vision. She’d make a strong board chair, able to work with everyone involved, and leave everyone feeling great about the direction and decisions. The role of chair isn’t always easy, and she has that rare blend of characteristics that will enable her to solicit input and perspective from all involved, while working to build consensus on an inspiring course of action. Given the many, many strengths your state has in other roles — including your great leadership in the Senate — Catherine is just one more stunning addition to a group that brings such dedication and vision to advancing learning outcomes for all of Hawai’i’s keiki.

April 5, 2018

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Vice President of the Senate and Education Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Catherine Payne's Board of Education Nomination

Dear Senator Michelle Kidani,

As former Department of Education colleague of Catherine Payne for more than 33 years, I am submitting this testimony in support of her nomination to the Board of Education. Ms. Payne has a proven record of outstanding leadership as a teacher and administrator. She has received numerous awards for her years of service as an outstanding teacher, outstanding principal, a YWCA Honoree, including the prestigious Milken Award that recognizes top principals in the State of Hawai'i. In addition, she put Farrington High on the map; building many exemplary programs.

After her retirement from the Department of Education, she continued her leadership as chairwoman of the Public Charter School Commission. Assisted schools with the accreditation process and continued as a support to school principals to help with the major steps in becoming accredited. As an exemplary educator, Leslie Wilcox aired her on Long Story Short.

I cannot think of a more deserving candidate as a member of the Board of Education. She will bring to the board all her outstanding attributes, experiences and educational knowledge.

Yours Truly,

Judith Saranchock, Ed.D.

Estelle C. Wong
739 Ekekela Place
Honolulu, HI 96817

April 6, 2018

Senator Michelle N. Kidani
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Catherine Payne
Nomination to the Board of Education

Dear Senator Kidani:

From thirty-plus years of working with Catherine Payne, in a variety of capacities for a number of educational institutions and organizations, my great appreciation and admiration of her passion and commitment to the pursuit of excellence in education has continually grown. I can wholeheartedly support her nomination and appointment to the Board of Education.

There is no one more perfectly qualified to serve the students and lead the Board of Education of the State of Hawaii. She is intelligent, informed, interested, and invested. Her stellar integrity, dedication, ability, and experience have earned her great respect and high esteem. Throughout her commendable career, each responsibility that she has accepted has been executed to the greatest extent of excellence possible. The Board of Education appointment will be no different.

I strongly encourage the Senate's confirmation of Catherine's nomination.

Sincerely,

Estelle C. Wong