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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 in support for GM696, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, MARGARET COX, 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. We appreciate Board Member Cox's strong support in both these areas. We also welcome her breadth of experience as a public school administrator and teacher, and respect her fierce dedication to our schools and students.

We encourage the Committee to approve the nomination of Ms. Cox and look forward to collaborating with her for another term.

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.*



Kapaa High School  
4695 Maillihuna Road  
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

April 5, 2018

Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate Dist 18  
Chair, Senate Committee for Education  
Hawaii State Capital, Rm. 228

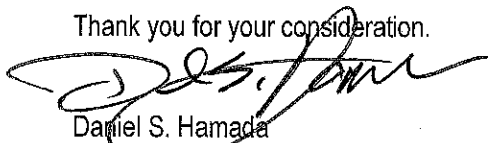
Dear Senator Kidani,

This is a letter of support for the reappointment for current Board of Education member Margret Cox for the County of Kauai seat. In her tenure as board member since 2014, I have seen her passion and dedicated work in supporting our students, teachers, schools, and community. Her passion is doing what's best for students remains strong and is reflected in her actions and accomplishments.

Ms. Cox's passion in helping to support our high school students to achieve both experience and success in being prepared for college, careers and citizenship clearly models that high level of public service. Board member Cox has helped our school to realize our vision where 99% of our students are passing their academic classes, 91% of our students graduating on time and 80% of our high school seniors attending either two or four post high school educational institutions.

Kapaa High School is proud to have Margret Cox representing and working with us as a board member. Her commitment in making that positive difference for our students is both inspirational and honorable.

Thank you for your consideration.



Daniel S. Hamada  
Principal

**Kapaa High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities.**



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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 696, the nomination of Margaret Cox to serve on 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. Cox is a respected voice from Kauai with strong experience at the school and system level. As a BOE member, she understands what Hawaii is trying to achieve in our educational system, most recently working on the BOE/DOE 2017-2020 Strategic Plan and Hawaii's Consolidated State Plan for ESSA. It is vital that she continues to keep the focus on student achievement and ensuring Hawaii's kids are able to meet the ambitious targets we have set forth.

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. Cox 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

**GM-696**

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 2:03:56 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Senate EDU Committee and Honorable Committee Members**

**I submit this brief testimony in support of the reappointment of Ms. Margaret Cox.**

**She will provide continuity with her institutional memory and considerable experience at the DOE, as staff and educator, together with her previous tenure on the BOE, both as an elected member as well as an appointed member.**

**She is worthy of commendation for her willingness to provide this civic service to both the community as well as the Statewide education system.**

**Recommend that she be confirmed at the earliest date possible.**

**Mahalo,**

**Arvid Tadao Youngquist**