



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

April 16, 2019

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: **Measure:** Governor's Message No. 687
Hearing Date: April 17, 2019
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Location: Room 329

Description: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, LEILANI AU, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL strongly supports the confirmation of Ms. Leilani Au to the Early Learning Board, for a term to expire June 30, 2020.

The Early Learning Board is EOEL's governing entity, and is tasked in statute with formulating statewide policy relating to early learning. We note that Ms. Au's confirmation would not be to the Early Learning Advisory Board, but the Early Learning Board, due to the statutory change made in 2017.

The input of center-based program providers is critical as EOEL works to carry out its statutory responsibility to develop Hawaii's early learning system, which shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality development and learning opportunities for children throughout the state, from prenatal care until the time they enter kindergarten, with priority given to underserved or at-risk children. Our community-based providers have been the mainstay of early learning programs and services for decades. EOEL's charge is coordinate, improve, and expand *all* existing early learning programs and services, whether publicly or privately run, which consist of a variety of early learning approaches, service deliveries, and settings – including center-based programs. As such, the center-based program provider representative on the Board carries an important role.

Ms. Au is director of the UH Manoa Children's Center that serves children ages two to five, and I attest to her reputation as an exemplary administrator. She also has rich background in other aspects of the early childhood field, including as an infant-toddler caregiver, preschool teacher, lecturer for early childhood education courses, and coach for numerous programs seeking accreditation. Her dedication and experience will be a great asset to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Au's confirmation.

April 39, 20198

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator ~~Kaiali'i Kahele~~[Donna Mercado Kim](#)-, Vice Chair
Senate Education Committee

From: Michael Fahey, Chair Nominations Committee,
Early Learning Board

Re: **GM ~~663-687~~ Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, ~~ANN TOM LEILANI AU~~, for a term to expire 06-30-2020**

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair ~~Kahele~~[Mercado Kim](#) and Committee Members:

It is my pleasure to ask that you reconfirm ~~Ann Tom~~[Leilani Au](#) to ~~a second~~[her first](#) term on the Early Learning ~~Advisory~~ Board to expire 06-30-2020.

Having known ~~Ann~~[Leilani](#) for over 3 decades, I am confident in her vast knowledge, experience and the unique perspective she brings to acting on behalf of young children and families, here in Hawaii. She is an educator whose understanding of children's development and care contributes greatly to our work on the Early Learning Board (ELB).

~~Ann has been a representative of the ELB for one term now~~[Leilani is the Director of the University of Hawaii Children's Center, a high quality Early Childhood Education Program serving children from 2 to 5 years of age. Lani has an exemplary reputation as an education coordinator, instructor, lecturer, facilitator, trainer, teacher and administrator.](#) She is highly respected among her peers and has a firm grasp of ELB's goals, strategies and issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of ~~Ann Tom's~~[Leilani's](#) confirmation to the ELB. [As the Representative of Center-Based Program Providers, you couldn't make a better choice than Leilani Au.](#)

Sincerely,
Michael C. Fahey

HEICC Representative, Chair Nominations Committee,
Early Learning Advisory Board