

April 9, 2019

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Senate Education Committee

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

Re: **GM 721 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, JUSTINA ACEVEDO-CROSS, for a term to expire 06-30-2020.**

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim and Committee Members:

It is with great satisfaction that I ask you to confirm Justina Acevedo-Cross for Representative of Philanthropic Organizations that Support Early Learning on the Early Learning Board to expire 06-30-2020.

Justina is the mother of two young boys—both under 4 years-old. Her work at Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) focuses heavily on early learning, education, community development, economic security, and workforce development issues. In her position at HCF, she specializes in strategy development, organization capacity growth, policy and systems change, and network design and implementation. She leads an initiative called Promising Minds that exists to strengthen healthy development all children (ages 0-5) and buffer against trauma for those that have experienced it in their short lives.

Justina spent seven years in California working to improve the professional development and workforce supports for early childhood educators—all through her role at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. She brings an understanding of the children's development and care workforce that will benefit to our mission on the Early Learning Board (ELB).

Justina participation in our ELB meetings will be of welcomed significance. We will look to her to guide and advise us on development of a strategic Early Learning System. She is highly respected among her peers and has a firm understanding of ELB's objectives, strategies and focuses.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of Justina Acevedo Cross confirmation to the ELB.

Sincerely,
Michael C. Fahey

HEICC Representative, Chair Nominations Committee,
Early Learning Board



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
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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. 721
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, JUSTINA ACEVEDO-CROSS, 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. Justina Acevedo-Cross 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. Acevedo-Cross' confirmation would not be to the Early Learning Advisory Board, but the Early Learning Board, due to the statutory change made in 2017.

The philanthropic community has been heavily supportive of early learning initiatives, for which we are grateful. The input of the philanthropic community 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. As such, the Board representative of philanthropic organizations that support early learning carries an important role.

Ms. Acevedo-Cross' work at Hawaii Community Foundation focuses on early learning, education, community development, economic security, and workforce development issues. In her position there, she specializes in strategy development, organization capacity growth, policy and systems change, and network design and implementation. She has years of experience in and a deep understanding of the children's development and care workforce, and is also a mother of two young children. I am confident that she will be a great asset to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of Ms. Acevedo-Cross' confirmation.