



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 24, 2021
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229

In consideration of
Governor's Message 553
Submitted for consideration and confirmation as a member of the School Facilities
Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Bettina Mehnert

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of Bettina Mehnert to serve as a member of the School Facilities Board.

Ms. Mehnert received her degrees in architecture and computer science from University of Trier, Germany, her Master of Computer Science from Kennedy Western University and Master of Business Administration from Hawai'i Pacific University.

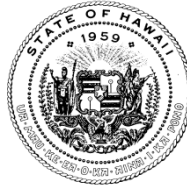
A president and chief executive officer of a 75 year old architect firm, Mehnert blends IT solutions, firm culture, client cultivation, and community service as inseparable filaments of professional leadership.

In 2016, the American Institute of Architecture named Mehnert a Fellow, a prestigious honor held only by 53 architects in Hawai'i since 1948. She was also named CEO of the year by Hawai'i Business Magazine in 2019.

I'm confident that Bettina Mehnert's breadth of education and experience will benefit the School Facilities Board as well as the students of Hawai'i.

This administration is committed to transforming the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.



TESTIMONY BY:

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DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
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LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
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February 24, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

G.M. 553

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the School Facilities Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, BETTINA MEHNERT, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.**

Senate Committee on Education

As the Administration's lead for setting up the School Facilities Agency (SFA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), Highways Division, **supports** the appointment of Bettina Mehnert as a Board member of the SFA.

Ms. Mehnert is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Architects Hawaii Limited, and is a respected visionary and leader in the evolution and innovation in Hawaii's architectural sector, and her expertise is valuable as an SFA Board member.

The SFA will provide the state a significant opportunity to support students and teachers with new facilities and resources. Ms. Mehnert's passion and experience will be tremendous assets to the board.

For these reasons, the DOT requests your favorable consideration for the nomination of Bettina Mehnert as an SFA Board member.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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Deirdre Stearns AIA, LEED AP

February 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Formation of Hawaii's new Schools Facilities Agency holds promise of a better life for Hawaii's youth and it is my pleasure to express enthusiastic support for Bettina Mehnert as Member of the Agency's Board.

As both a friend and colleague in AHL for over 30 years, I can attest to Bettina's deep experience and broad perspective. Passionate about education, Bettina applies her unique balance of architecture and technology with community values and aspirations, and her leadership presence in our firm has permeated both the bricks and mortar and the soul of our designs.

Bettina's unique knowledge base and experience relevant to the School Facilities Agency Board position includes:

1. Extensive experience in speaking engagements, public hearings, and community meetings.
2. Extensive experience working with private and public sectors on a wide range of design and construction projects and locations.
3. Member of the five-Member Honolulu Climate Change Commission.
4. Member of The Urban Land Institute's National Council on Responsible Property Investment & Advisory Services Panel.
5. Member, Hawai'i Green Growth's Sustainability Business Forum.
6. Member, Strategic Advisory Board of Hawai'i Energy.
7. Trustee of St. Andrew's Schools.
8. Unique architectural knowledge base combining IT, business, design, construction, and community interaction.

The success of Hawaii's future education will be determined by applying our resources and technology effectively and efficiently while maintaining our values and expectations of what can be accomplished in today's ever changing world. I believe Bettina Mehnert can play a meaningful role in your new Schools Facilities Agency Board and in closing once again express my sincere pleasure in supporting her proposed membership.

Sincerely,

David A. Miller, AIA, LEED AP
Chairman

February 19, 2021

To: Committee on Education
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 24, 2021
Place: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Subject: Nomination of Bettina Mehnert to the School Facilities Board, GM 553

Dear Chair Kidani and Committee on Education members.

I submit this testimony in strong support of Ms. Bettina Mehnert to the School Facilities Board.

I have known, and worked closely with, Ms. Mehnert for approximately ten years. She is bright, hardworking, creative, highly competent and always professional. Equally important, and impressive, are her personal attributes. Ms. Mehnert is ethical, passionate about her work, humble and gracious. Perhaps most important, Ms. Mehnert cares deeply about Hawaii and its people. She will make a terrific School Facilities Board member.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms. Mehnert has my unequivocal, and strongest, support for this position.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mahalo.



Michael Broderick
President & CEO

Testimony in Support of GM 553

Chairman Kidani and Vice Chair Kim, my name is Joan Lee Husted, retired Executive Director of the Hawaii State Teachers Association. I am testifying in support of Bettina Mehnert's appointment to the School Facilities Board.

I know Ms. Mehnert to be a creative thinker which is reflected in the structures she designs as well as an active member of this community. She followed me onto the PBS Hawaii Board of Directors where she is an active member. The YWCA awarded her their Leadership award for her outstanding contributions on behalf of women. In 2016, Ms. Mehnert won the prestige FAIA award from the American Institutes of Architects for notable contributions to architecture. Her imagination and interpersonal skills will serve the Facilities Board well. She is a member of a number of organizations which she can draw on in her work with the Facilities Board.

With her outstanding work in architecture and her strong commitment to the community, she will be a meritorious appointment to the School Facilities Committee. I whole heartly support Bettina Mehnert's appointment. Thank you for affording me this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF BETTINA MEHNERT'S APPOINTMENT TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES AGENCY BOARD from Piia M. Aarma

2.22.21

I have worked with Bettina Mehnert, president and chief executive officer of AHL, formerly known as Architects Hawaii, for more than a decade, and I encourage you to confirm her as a member of the School Facilities Agency. Ms. Mehnert is a diplomat guided by her values and a commitment to the betterment of the community.

She is not afraid to challenge the status quo but never does so without offering practical solutions that take into account stakeholder needs and priorities. As the leader of a firm that has been recognized for excellence in modern school design, she is certainly qualified to assess and help guide the development of state-of-the-art school facilities.

In addition to her expertise and diplomacy, Ms. Mehnert has two qualities that this new agency will require: dedication and a sense of humor. She understands the importance of this agency's mission and will give it the attention needed.