

April 5, 2021

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Morcado Kim , Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Education Committee

From: Robert G Peters, Chair,  
Early Learning Board

Re: **GM 629 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Cherilyn Shiinoki, for a term to expire 06-30-2022**

Wednesday, April 7, 2021, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference, 3:00 pm.

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Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and Committee Members:

I am offering this testimony in support of the confirmation of the Governor's nomination of Cherilyn Shiinoki to serve a term on the Early Learning Board (ELB) to expire on 06-30-2022.

I have known Cherilyn since she interned as a student teacher at Hanahau`oli School, where I served as Head of School for 30 years. Cherilyn has utilized her skill as an early education teacher, understanding of child development and respect for parent/families as a child's "first teachers" to inform her work as the Executive Director of the Family Hui Hawaii. Family Hui Hawaii is a peer-to-peer program supporting families to better understand child development and their roles as teachers. It has created networks of parents/families and given voice to those in local communities not often heard as she has expanded the reach and impact of the Hui.

Cherilyn joined the ELB to complete a term as parent representative and I strongly support her continuation in that role. Not only does she ensure that our decisions reflect parent/family interests and needs, she also has been a strong advocate for expanding the EOEL's system building role to service more infants and toddlers. As a co-convener of one of our subcommittees, Cherilyn has been an active participant in improving the Board's functioning in fulfilling its role as a policy-making Board and its oversight of the EOEL.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Cherilyn Shiinoki.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Board



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

April 6, 2021

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

**FROM:** Lauren Moriguchi, Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT: Measure:** G.M. 629 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, CHERILYN SHIINOKI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2022.  
**Hearing Date:** Wednesday April 7, 2021  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** videoconference

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support**

Good afternoon. I am Lauren Moriguchi, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the nomination and confirmation of Cherilyn Shiinoki to the Early Learning Board (ELB).

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development of the State's early childhood system that 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.

The Early Learning Board (ELB) was established as a governing board through Act 202, SLH 2017, and is responsible for directing the EOEL on how best to meet the developmental and educational needs of children, from prenatal care to entry into kindergarten; providing recommendations to EOEL on improving the quality, availability, and coordination of early learning programs; promoting collaboration across agencies and stakeholders serving young children; and appoint and evaluating the EOEL Director on an annual basis.

Ms. Shiinoki is seeking appointment to the ELB as a parent representative. She began her 17 years in early childhood education as a parent eager to learn more about child development. Ms. Shiinoki has worked previously in the Department of Education's Families for Resource for Early Access Learning program, a private center-based preschool, and is currently the Executive Director of Family Hui Hawaii, a non-profit organization that provides parenting support and early childhood development knowledge. With her diverse experience in the field, Ms. Shiinoki satisfies the requirement of §302 L-1.6 and would be an asset as a member to the ELB.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

*JoAnn Farnsworth, M.S.*

April 4, 2021

Senate Education Committee  
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 TIME: 3:00 PM  
RE: GM 629  
Conference Room 2

Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

I am submitting testimony for your consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHERILYN SHIINOKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2022. I'm sure you know all of Cherilyn's professional qualifications for this position, so I won't reiterate those here. I have worked in the early childhood field here in Hawaii for forty years, twenty of them on Hawaii Island where I first met Cherilyn's mother, Dr. Vivian Ing. Cherilyn's mother was developing the concept of school based Parent Child Neighborhood Centers and became my mentor in my work developing family support and family center programs in West Hawaii. The deep respect that Cherilyn's mother held for the importance of families and their ohana in child development was profound, so when I say often this work was in her bones it is very true.

I met Cherilyn ten years ago while I was working in Governor Abercrombie's Executive Office of Early Learning when she volunteered to be part of the Early Childhood Action Strategy state planning process for early childhood. I didn't know then that she was the daughter of one of my mentors, just that she did what she said, didn't miss a committee meeting, brought her young son with her if he wasn't feeling well and advocated every day that we don't forget as we go about our planning work that children, most especially our youngest, existing within the families and systems that are there to support them and foster their development...they are not free standing objects of our work.

Cherilyn developed with her teammates Family Engagement Policies that map out for early care and education settings the critical importance of engaging, supporting and listening to their "first teachers" their families. I work now with Cherilyn on many projects, but in each one she raises the question "have we connected with their families?" Do we understand, do we change our service delivery methodology to meet their needs, not ours.

I can think of no one more qualified to represent family voice than Cherilyn and don't forget all this is done while she and her husband raise three boys. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this special person and her family.

Sincerely,  
JoAnn Farnsworth, M.S.