

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 630 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Janice Kahoohanohano, for a term to expire 06-30-2022**

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

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 Janice Pualani Kaho`ohanohano to serve a term on the Early Learning Board (ELB) to expire on 06-30-2022.

Janice Pualani Kaho`ohanohano joined the ELB as an interim member in February following a January appointment by the Governor. She is well qualified to assume the Hawaiian Language Medium Provider seat on the Board with 25 years of professional experience in Hawaiian language medium early learning. Currently, Pualani is the Director of the `Aha Punana Leo statewide preschool programs, overseeing the licensing of all 12 sites across the Islands. In the few months she has been with the Board, Pualani has well-represented the Hawaiian medium language provider community offering information and observations about related legislation moving forward in this session.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Janice Pualani Kaho`ohanohano.

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. 630 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JANICE KAHOOHANO HANO, 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 Janice Kahoochanohano 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 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.

Mrs. Kahoochanohano is seeking appointment to the ELB as a representative of Hawaiian medium early learning programs. She is currently the Project Director of Preschools at 'Aha Pūnana Leo and has dedicated 27 years as a parent and employee to the organization and efforts to perpetuate the Hawaiian language and culture for our youngest learners and families. With her extensive experience administering Hawaiian-medium early learning programs, Mrs. Kahoochanohano 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.



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Testimony of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo to Senate Committee on
 Education

Date: April 7, 2021

Location: State Capitol, Room 229

GM 630: Relating to consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the Committee,

'O wau 'o Ka'iulani Laeha, ka Luna Ho'okele o ka 'Aha Pūnana Leo. My name is Ka'iulani Laeha, CEO, 'Aha Pūnana Leo.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo ('APL) is the sole statewide provider of early care and education in the medium of Hawaiian language. Established in 1983, the 'APL advocates for access to early learning opportunities for keiki and 'ohana in Hawaiian medium.

The 'Aha Pūnana Leo fully supports GM 630– the nomination of Janice Kaho'ohanohano to be a member of the Early Learning Board – as a representative of Hawaiian medium early learning provider. Please confirm Mrs. Kaho'ohanohano as a member of the Early Learning Board.

Mahalo,

Ka'iulani Laehā



Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani 'ōpu 'u

"No 'Ane 'i Ko Kākou Ola"

2 April 2021

Aloha pumehana kākou,

This is a letter of support for Janice Kaho'ohanohano as the best candidate for the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee. Throughout her career, Janice has accomplished and contributed to the revitalization of the Hawaiian language and the progress of education in the Native Hawaiian community.

Her efforts have enabled generations of young people in their quest to bring back a thriving Hawaiian language and culture in our homeland, Hawai'i. Her most significant contribution is the invaluable leadership she has provided in early childhood education as well as Hawaiian Medium education. Janice is also a highly respected professional who has elevated the Hawaiian Language and education of our native Hawaiian community statewide. The Hawaiian people and all of Hawai'i have benefited from her years of advocacy for Hawai'i. Her knowledge and experience continues to be an asset for the state of Hawai'i.

Janice Kaho'ohanohano is highly recommended as the candidate for the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee.

Mahalo,

Dr. T. Kēhaulani 'Aipia-Peters
Governing Board Chair
Ke Kula 'O Nāwahīokalani 'ōpu 'u Iki LPCS

April 3, 2021

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Re: GM 630 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, JANICE KAHOOHANOHANO, for a term to expire on 06-30-2022.

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Committee on Education,

It is with great pleasure that I submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM 630**, relating to the gubernatorial nomination of JANICE KAHOOHANOHANO to the Early Learning Board.

I have known Janice Pualani Kaho'ohanohano for nearly 30 years as a dedicated and committed member of Hawaiian medium education. From our beginning association in the Hawaiian medium education movement, I can say with confidence that Ms. Kaho'ohanohano has always been, and continues to be, an advocate for high quality early learning education for all of Hawai'i's keiki.

Ms. Kaho'ohanohano is particularly knowledgeable and proficient in early learning excellence delivered through the medium of the Hawaiian language at the Pūnana Leo preschools. As the Operations Manager of the 'Aha Pūnana Leo since 2008, Ms. Kaho'ohanohano is responsible for the effective and efficient operation of 11 statewide preschools. Her value with regard to the high quality of early learning throughout the Pūnana Leo preschools is immeasurable. Under her management, the Pūnana Leo preschools were awarded full accreditation in 2014.

Additionally, Ms. Kaho'ohanohano has a depth of experience in both the public and private sectors with further work experience as a volunteer in service to her community. Her work ethic and organizational skills at major events on the Big Island have earned Ms. Kaho'ohanohano the respect and admiration of a grateful community.

Ms. Kaho'ohanohano is an intelligent, professional, and versatile collaborator who will always give 110%. I am confident she will prove to be a wonderful asset to the Early Learning Board.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Janice Kaho'ohanohano's nomination to the Early Learning Board.

Nāko'olani Warrington

Kumu Kaiapuni Hawai'i (ret'd), State of Hawai'i Department of Education

GM-630

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 10:03:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/7/2021 3:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kauanoë Kamana | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support Pualani Kahoohanohano's serving in this position. She is a woman of integrity, hard work and energy. She comes with many years of experience and a background in Hawaiian language early learning. Mahalo!!