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April 6, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON GM 720**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service, gubernatorial nominee, JOY KONO, for a term to expire 06-30-2024

Conference Room 229  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice-Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports the nomination of Ms. Joy Kono to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

HFB believes that Ms. Kono's diverse experience and background in education at Kamehameha Schools will be of great value to the community in her role as a member of the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

As a former Vice-President and Treasurer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, Ms. Kono worked on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced by farmers across the State. She also previously served as the Chair and Board member of the Hawaii Agricultural Leadership Program and Co-Chair of the Hawaii State Farm Fair.

Ms. Kono's experience, education, and diverse background are complemented by a strong work ethic and dedication that will undoubtedly combine to provide positive leadership for the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of Ms. Joy Kono's appointment to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our unconditional support for Ms. Kono.

**GM-720**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 9:38:06 AM

Testimony for HRE on 4/6/2021 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathryn Kekaulike	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have had the privilege of working with Joy Kono as a colleague at Kamehameha schools for over ten years. I firmly believe that you would be hard pressed to find another individual who is so consistently passionate about students and the communities in which they live. While the capacity that I have worked with Joy has varied, her relentless care and concern, coupled with a strong analytic mind has not waivered.

I first met Joy when she started working with Kamehameha Financial Aid. She was kind, patient, and professional; willing to hear concerns from campus and learn how the decisions made downtown impact individual students and their families. With Joy at the helm, the communication between our divisions has never been better. The data sharing and reporting has increased, as we have worked more closely together to benefit the students that we share in common.

She has worked to understand the nuances of not only her work, but also the best practices that impact her work, so that she may consistently stay abreast and even ahead of challenges. It is rare that to encounter someone with her degree of logic and analytical skills who can also competently speak about holistic student support, and all of the variables that may impact student success. It is not enough just to know and recognize the challenges that today's students face, but rather Joy is at the forefront of helping to plan and proactively address them.

Joy's process-oriented mind devised a vetting process for one use that was so solid it could easily be adapted for multiple uses across our system.

When there was a concern with one of the groups whose work intersected with Joy's, she set up time to meet with students over the weekend, take them to lunch and sit with them and really listen to them. She was able to devise a plan and make recommendations so that the student's concerns were alleviated, and the integrity of the program was intact.

As a part of a cross-functional work team at Kamehameha Schools Joy's role ebbed and flowed from active participant, to leader, and back to participant as she stepped up to do whatever was needed by the group to accomplish the goals of the team.

Just one example of how Joy has gone above and beyond her daily work is when I had shared that we had some students who were unable to afford a dress for prom (pre-COVID). She enlisted another executive, and the two ladies took high school students dress shopping. While she helped to meet an actual need, she could have done so by simply writing a check. Perhaps more importantly, she took her time to invest in a young lady (also from her home island of Kauai), and in so doing, not only did she help to make dreams come true, she made a lasting impression.

It is truly an honor to submit this testimony for Joy Kono for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Commission for National and Community Service, I am confident that she will be an active and contributing member to the group dedicated to this important work.