



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 268  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

April 7, 2021

**TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**PERSON TESTIFYING:** Lynn Hammonds, HTSB Executive Director

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021

**TIME:** 3:00 PM

**LOCATION:** Conference Room 229, by videoconference

**REGARDING:** **GM 788:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, **DAVELYN HAN**, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

**GM 789:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, **GLEN MIYASATO**, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

**GM 790:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KATINA SOARES**, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.

**GM 791:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, **JONATHAN GILLENLINE**, for a term to expire 06-30-2023

**Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the Senate Education Committee on Education:**

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board (HSTB) **strongly supports GM 788, GM 789, GM 790, and GM 791**, for your consideration of the following individuals for confirmation as members of the HTSB.

**GM 788: Davelyn Lokelani Han** currently serves the HTSB as its Legislative Committee Chairperson. Ms. Han's multiple perspectives on charter schools, Hawaiian language immersion, and Neighbor Island classroom teaching have been valuable in consideration of HTSB policy and effect on these constituent groups.

**GM 791: Dr. Jonathan Gillentine**, is a highly respected Hawaii educator in the field of early childhood education and special education. Dr. Gillentine is recognized both statewide and on the national level and was a 2017 inductee into the National Teachers Hall of Fame. He has also served as an officer of the Hawaii State Teachers Association, on numerous teacher preparation program accreditation review teams, and previously as a member and chair of the HTSB. The HTSB and all Hawaii educators would benefit from Dr. Gillentine's service as a board member representing the public.

Two vacancies on the HTSB are in the area of school administrator representation. While I do not know these nominees personally, their resumes indicate that they would bring relevant and valuable training and experience to the board.

**GM 789: Glen Miyasato** brings experience as a classroom teacher, school administration at the elementary level, as well as experience at a Hawaiian Immersion school.

**GM 790: Dr. Katina Sores** has served as a school administrator and school counselor, bringing service as a Neighbor Island high school administrator.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these four individuals for your consideration for membership on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 3:18:38 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa DeLong	Testifying for Hawaii Teacher Standards Board	Support	No

Comments:

I support the nomination of Katina Soares to become a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/4/2021 12:34:43 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lydia Trinidad	Testifying for Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha -- I am in FULL SUPPORT of Dr. Katina Soares to serve on the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board. Dr. Soares has been a school counselor, worked on the community college level, served as a Vice-Principal at a rural charter school, and is currently the Principal at Molokai High School. Dr. Soares has experienced and is fully aware of the need to recruit qualified teachers at "hard to fill" schools. She is also well versed in articulating the issues surrounding teacher quality. Dr. Soares' is a mission-driven, detailed-oriented collaborator and problem solver. She will be an asset to the HTSB as a Boardmember to support public education.

Mahalo,

Lydia Trinidad

Principal

Kualapuu Public Conversion Charter School

Kualapuu, Molokai

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 1:16:51 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rebecca Winkie	Testifying for HIDOE HLLM Complex	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly advocate for the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Dr. Katina Soares, to the Hawaii Teacher's Standards Board. As an innovative and progressive school leader, Dr. Soares would be an excellent addition to the board and would be a strong voice representing the neighbor islands, particularly those in the HLLM (Canoe) Complex.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Winkie, PhD

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/1/2021 3:08:40 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeri Dean	Testifying for Dept. of Education	Support	No

Comments:

Katina Soares serves as an administrator in our Canoe Complex and I have had the privilege to work with her as a colleague. Katina Soares displays consistent and thorough knowledge in her profession as well as the processes and systems that surround her position. She would be extremely effective as a member of the HTSB and would be an asset to the initiatives and goals of the board. I believe Mrs. Soares would advocate for the needs of schools and administrators across the State. As a principal of a high school in Hawaii, it is my hope that Mrs. Soares would be considered for this position.

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 8:30:29 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Frances Clare Albino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern

I am writing in support of Dr. Katina Soares to be on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I support Dr. Soares as her leadership skills are excellent in that she looks to the future, listens to the present, and learns from the past. I am a new teacher here at the High school, having only recently received my credentials. However, my background consists of 30 plus years in planning, organizing, running a business and a non-profit organization working with youth.

I recognize exemplary leadership, and Molokai High school is the best working environment I have experienced in my years. I relate to how Dr. Soares works with her staff and appreciate the nurturing but challenging environment we have here at Molokai High. Molokai is a rural community, and the students face their fair share of challenges; Dr. Soares is determined to bring out the best in the students while working with the teachers and especially encouraging us new teachers to be the best we can be.

I believe that HTSB will benefit from the insight and values that Dr. Soares has to share and more so from a school that faces challenges through the ruralness that students face when it comes to education. However, Dr. Soares has found a way to bring the teachers together to embrace our student body and offer the students a stimulating learning experience while still addressing the challenges we face on Molokai's island.

Aloha

Clare S Albino

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 11:34:14 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Terence Gomez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

April 6, 2021

Aloha,

My name is Lieutenant Terence Gomez of the Maui Police Department's Juvenile Crime Prevention Division.

I am writing to recommend Ms. Katina Soares for a position with the Hawaii Teacher's Standards Board. I've had the opportunity to work with Ms. Soares for many years through our partnership with the Department of Education and our school resource officers.

Ms. Soares has established an outstanding rapport with our department's school resource officers on both Maui and Molokai. She is organized, hard-working, punctual, and respected among my colleagues as a leader who inspires and influences through communication and action.

I am confident that Ms. Soares possesses the qualities that your Board would find desirable. I would strongly recommend her for consideration. Her self-discipline, work ethic, and excellent leadership qualities would without a doubt make her an asset to your team and great candidate for a position on your board where leadership, management, communication, and discipline are valued. Please contact me for any further information.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Terence Gomez

Maui Police Department Juvenile Crime Prevention Division

55 Mahalani Street

Wailuku, HI 96793



**GM-790**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 4:33:49 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kimberly Puanani Johnston	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Dr. Katina Soares for confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I am retired from the Department of Education, but we worked together at Kualapuu School for many years. During our association I have witnessed Katina's dedication to education and student achievement and her commitment to excellence in all that she does. Thank you.

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 4:59:40 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Donna Gamiao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our Molokai High School principal, Dr. Katrina Soares, who understands the needs of the not only the students, parents, facility but the Molokai community in public education.

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 10:43:08 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Josh Reppun	Testifying for @MLTSinHawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Over the past three years I have had the pleasure of working with Molokai HS Principal, Katina Soares. We have partnered to bring innovation, creativity and imagination to her campus through WhatSchoolCouldBe.org and its WSCB Community app and WSCB "Innovation Playlist." Katina has been a galvanising leader on Molokai, helping all Molokai schools, and the entire Canoe Complex collaborate on student-driven, real world learning. She is HUGELY respected by her faculty and the teachers in the Canoe Complex. Over the past five years I have traveled all over the islands meeting with, and working with public school principals. Katina is easily the most innovative principal I know. She is gaining a national reputation as such. To that end, she is completely attuned to the kinds of skills, habits and dispositions needed by our teachers now 21 years in the 21st century. I believe she would be a valuable addition to our HIDEOE Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I am excited that Governor Ige has nominated her.

Yours,

Joshua E. Reppun, Josh Reppun Productions: Host of the What School Could be in Hawai'i Podcast: Evangelist, What School Could Be

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/2/2021 3:15:24 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathaniel Oswald	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Greetings from Molokai,

I am in support of Dr. Soares to the HTSB. She has shown a high standard of leadership in her role, and has our educational system's best interest in mind, as well as our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony.

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/5/2021 8:47:17 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Diane Mokuau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholeheartly recommend Katina Soares for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board as she will bring the small rural school and canoe complex (Hana, Lahaina, Lanai, Molokai) experiences as a former counselor, VP and now Principal of Molokai High School.

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 10:40:25 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brandon Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my personal written testimony in support of Katina Soares becoming a member of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I have known Katina for approximately 4 years now, from her time as the Vice Principal at Lahaina Intermediate School. When I met Katina, I was a School Resource Officer (SRO) from the Maui Police Department (MPD) and assigned to Lahaina Intermediate School.

Through my time working with Katina, I was impressed with her ability to connect with students, teachers and other staff at the school while also showing strong leadership skills. She has always been an individual that works well with other members of her team and never shies away from hard work and making difficult decisions. As I progressed to being an SRO supervisor with MPD, Katina has been invaluable to the department's partnership with the Department of Education. Katina is a trustworthy and intelligent individual who will be an asset to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. I strongly recommend and support her appointment.

Respectfully,

Brandon Phillips

**LATE**

**GM-790**

Submitted on: 4/6/2021 7:05:36 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard H. Ornellas	Testifying for Teacher, Molokai High School / Member, HTSB MCEE Task Force	Support	No

Comments:

Dr. Katina Soares is an ideal candidate for this HTSB position as she has demonstrated exceptional educational 21st Century vision as Molokai High School Principal as well as indepth understanding of our students' needs and challenges. She combines her empathy with considerable technological knowledge and expertise which leads the staff and students forward in a comprehensive and commanding way. Her future plans for our school and students are very exciting and I am thrilled to be a teacher-member of her team.