

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 796 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Mari Uehara, for a term to expire 06-30-2023**

Friday, April 9, 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 Mari Uehara to serve a term on the Early Learning Board (ELB) to expire on 06-30-2023.

Mari Uehara currently represents the Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics on the Early Learning Board. She is both a medical doctor and an assistant professor at UH Manoa John A. Burns School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics. Her specialty is developmental-behavioral pediatrics with a background in maternal and child health. Mari also has served on the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council.

Mari brings a special lens to our work on the Early Learning Board. Her medical expertise and work with underserved families helps inform our view of the system and its needs as we seek to look more holistically at children and their growth. She is a strong advocate for children and families as they transition to kindergarten and reminds us that we need to consider the overall "wellness" of both if school success is to be the outcome. Mari is a careful observer and listener who asks insightful questions that spark the Board's thinking.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Mari Uehara.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board



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

April 8, 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. 796 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, MARI UEHARA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023.
Hearing Date: Friday April 9, 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 Dr. Mari Uehara 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.

Dr. Uehara is seeking appointment to the ELB from the Hawai'i Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Dr. Uehara is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and has been with the AAP since 1997. She is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor for UH Medical School and Pediatric Residency Training Rotation Director for developmental-behavioral pediatrics. As a current member of the AAP and with her extensive experience working with young children with various needs, including infants and those in preschools and other group child care centers, Dr. Uehara 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.

Hawaii Chapter

OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Hawaii Chapter

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April 6, 2021

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

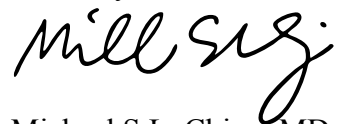
Re: GM796: Consideration and Confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee Mari Uehara to the Early Learning Board

Hearing: Friday, April 9, 2021 3:00 by videoconference

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

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i Chapter endorses the nomination of Mari Uehara, MD for a board position on the State of Hawai'i Early Learning Board. Dr. Uehara is among the state's most eminently qualified physicians for this position. She is a board certified developmental behavioral pediatrician, a specialty focused on the early development and education of children. She has decades of experience in this area and has led our AAP Hawai'i Chapter Early Childhood committee for many years. Dr. Uehara has been a board member of the Early Learning Board since 2017. We commend her service to the state and support her confirmation for another term to the Early Learning Board.

Sincerely,



Michael S.L. Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP
President