

**Support of Governor's Message 757**  
**Consideration and Confirmation to the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee**  
**MEGAN MCCORRISTON, for a term to expire 6-30-2024**

**LATE**

Testimony by Shannon Alivado before  
the Senate Committee on Education

Monday, April 11, 2022  
3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim and Committee members,

My name is Shannon Alivado and I am testifying **in support of Governor's Message 757**, in consideration and confirmation of Megan McCorriston to serve on the Early Learning Board for a term to expire June 30, 2024. Dr. McCorriston brings a wealth of experience especially in early childhood education as the Chief Executive Officer of Seagull Schools since 2018.

At Seagull Schools she oversees five campuses across Oahu serving two- to five-year-olds in their first educational experience. Even through the pandemic Seagull Schools served Honolulu's families with continued care in a safe and loving environment where the children were able to continue with a sense of normalcy; Dr. McCorriston was instrumental in making this happen. As a past Seagull Board President, I had the opportunity to work with Dr. McCorriston and she was always thoughtful, decisive, and collaborative. She leads her team strategically with the children's best interest in mind. She will be an impactful addition to the Board and will bring a practical and strategic approach to any issues, especially in directing the Executive Office on Early Learning.

Accordingly, I support Dr. McCorriston to serve on the Early Learning Board. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

April 8, 2022

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 757 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Megan McCorriston, for a term to expire 06-30-2024**

Monday, April 11, 2022, 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 strong support of the confirmation of the Governor's nomination of Megan McCorriston to serve a term on the Early Learning Board (ELB) to expire on 06-30-2024.

My association with Megan McCorriston goes back to 2011 when I served on the Ho`okako`o Board and Megan was the Executive Director of Ho`okako`o, Inc., which oversaw three charter schools: Kamaile Academy on Oahu, Kualapuu on Molokaii, and Waimea Middle School on Hawaii Island. Megan's commitment to quality public education and appreciation for underserved communities on our Islands were clearly visible as she led this public educational enterprise.

In her current position as Chief Executive Officer of Seagull Schools, Megan has demonstrated her skill leading a child-care center during one of the most challenging times for our early learning community. She collaborated across the sector and with the support of community partners was able to keep her five sites open to service community workers and their families. Seagull Schools was also able to retain its staffing, a challenge that has beset many of our early care settings. Megan is acutely aware of the value of quality early learning opportunities and will bring her experience in both the public and private sectors to bear on the ELB's deliberations. She is ideally situated to serve as the representative of the center-based providers in our State.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of Megan McCorriston to serve as an ELB Board member.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Board



April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Aloha Senator Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I'm writing in strong support of Megan McCorriston's appointment to the Early Learning Board. Over the last 10 years, Megan has been a trusted early care and learning partner. Not only does she have deep passion for our youngest keiki and a rich background in early childhood development, but she's a stellar business leader. Because 95% of our keiki in child care and preschool are served through community-based, nongovernment programs, Megan's voice and leadership are critical to the Early Learning Board, particularly in guiding the Executive Office on Early Learning in coordinating a mixed delivery system.

Megan is collaborative, professional and a strategic thinker, all skills that are needed to sit on the Early Learning Board. In addition, she is responsive and will commit the necessary time and energy in fulfilling her obligations as an active Board member.

Please approve Megan's nomination.

Respectfully,

Kerrie Urosevich, PhD  
Network Design and Innovation Lead, Early Childhood Action Strategy (ECAS)  
Chair, Hawai'i Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC)  
Board Member, Early Learning Board (ELB)



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

April 10, 2022

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

**FROM:** Coleen Momohara, Interim Director  
Executive Office on Early Learning

**SUBJECT: Measure:** G.M. 757 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND  
CONFIRMATION TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, MEGAN MCCORRISTON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2024.  
**Hearing Date:** Monday, April 11, 2022  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** videoconference & Room 229

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

Aloha. I am Coleen Momohara, Interim Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the nomination and confirmation of Megan Mccorrison 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 appointing and evaluating the EOEL Director on an annual basis.

Megan Mccorrison is seeking appointment to the ELB for the center-based provider representative seat. Megan Mccorrison has experience with an array of educational programs such as charter schools and early learning programs. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Seagull Schools, Inc. With her experience and knowledge, Mrs. Mccorrison 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.



To: Senator Kidani, Chair  
Senator Kim, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

Re: **GM 757- Megan McCorrison, Ph.D. confirmation to the Early Learning Board**  
3:00 PM, April 11, 2022

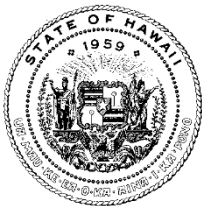
Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members,

On behalf of HCAN Speaks!, thank you for the opportunity to **testify in strong support of Dr. Megan McCorrison's nomination to the Early Learning Board.**

Dr. McCorrison will be an excellent representative on the Early Learning Board. Her background, education, and experience as a multi-site child care center director, will serve the board and our state well as we navigate the future of early care and learning. The ongoing impacts of the pandemic on children, their families, and the programs that serve them will require the Early Learning Board to become more visionary in the future. It will require thought partners that are rooted in community and understand what's happening on the ground. Dr. McCorrison has lived through the rapidly changing child care environment and under her leadership, Seagull Schools has successfully continued to serve children and families as best they can.

**For these reasons, HCAN Speaks! respectfully requests the Committee to support this nomination.**

Thank you,  
Kathleen Algire  
Director, Early Learning and Health Policy



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**Kualapu'u School**  
**Public Conversion Charter**

P O Box 260  
Kualapu'u, Molokai, Hawaii 96757  
Phone: (808) 567-6900, Fax: (808) 567-6906

April 8, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with my utmost support and enthusiasm that I am writing this letter of recommendation for Dr. Megan McCorrison to Early Learning Board.

Dr. McCorrison has proven herself to be thoughtful and action oriented when it comes to studying recommended policies that affect the quality of our children's education. She has the integrity to maintain her educational and personal values for quality, and at the same time she is able to adapt or recognize local circumstances that require specific and sometimes temporary solutions or policy.

Dr. McCorrison comes with a background as an executive director with Hawaii's only charter school management organization, experience in oversight with public charters school with early childhood programs, and is now as the executive director of a private early childhood organization. Her experience is rare in that she has BOTH public and private educational experience as an organizational leader.

I believe all of her experiences will add depth and breath to Early Childhood Board's discussions when making important decisions about our early learning educational system.

Please consider Dr. Megan McCorrison's membership on the Early Learning Board.

Sincerely,

Lydia Trinidad  
Principal



THE  
SAMUEL N.  
AND  
MARY CASTLE  
FOUNDATION  
and the  
HENRY & DOROTHY CASTLE  
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April 7, 2022

ALFRED L. CASTLE

Executive Director and Treasurer

Dear Senator Kidani and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I have known Megan McCorriston for over a dozen years. I am most pleased to recommend her to your committee for appointment to the Early Learning Board. I served almost six years as a member of the ELB representing philanthropy, and I know the kind of representation the center-based early learning representative takes.,

Megan McCorriston is Chief Executive Officer for the prominent Seagull School of Hawaii. As CEO, she has successfully led the organization during the difficult times of Covid. She has ensured that all instruction in the various sites is top-notch.

Megan McCorriston is highly educated and is an Oxford University graduate. Thoroughly educated in child development and social-emotional wellbeing, she will speak with conviction and authority on the ELB. I am especially impressed with the high quality of the school she directs. I have been delighted with her commitment to continuing education for her preschool teachers and her willingness to work with the Family Hui to connect early education to the supporting families. She has consistently been a voice for kindergarten readiness, quality instruction, and her understanding and promotion of a public-private comprehensive early learning system.

The Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation has long been a philanthropic contributor to Seagull Schools and has continued to make grants for tuition assistance and capital improvements to the school. We have complete confidence in the school under her guidance and direction.

Finally, the ELB is at the heart of a comprehensive, complementary Early Education System that will provide for choice, cultural sensitivity, excellence in instruction, and general child wellbeing. Center-based providers are crucial to good child outcomes and kindergarten readiness. A person of intellect, integrity, and determination to serve Hawaii's children in exemplary fashion, I endorse Governor Ige's nomination of Megan McCorriston to the ELB.

Thank you for considering her nomination.

With best wishes,

Alfred L. Castle  
Executive Director

**GM-757**

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 2:07:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenyon Tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I know Megan as a former colleague and as a current parent of a student at Seagull Schools. Megan is fair and intelligent with diverse experience in education, including the public, private, K-12, and early learning arenas. She would be an asset to the Early Learning Board, bringing systems thinking from multiple perspectives, particularly as nonprofit early learning provider.

I strongly encourage you to confirm Megan's appointment to the Early Learning Board.

Mahalo,

Kenyon Tam



**LATE**

**GM-757**

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 11:56:15 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/11/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Megan McCorriston, as CEO of Seagull Schools, will bring her knowledge and experience working in the early learning industry to the Early Learning Board. I support her nomination to the ELB where she will be able to help it achieve its goals of expanding public preschool education across the State for Hawaii's keiki.

Sincerely,

Kevin Costa