

April 11, 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 784 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, Kerrie Urosevich, for a term to expire 06-30-2025**

Wednesday, April 13, 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 Kerrie Urosevich to serve a term on the Early Learning Board (ELB) to expire on 06-30-2025.

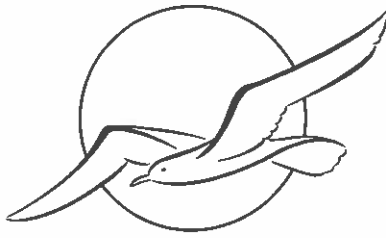
Kerrie Urosevich currently serves as the representative from the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC), established as required by state law (HRS 321-353) and federal law Part C of IDEA. Among its purposes is to advise and assist the Department of Education (DOE) regarding the transition of toddlers with special needs to preschool and other appropriate services. Her representation keeps the ELB informed about the efforts of DOH in ensuring services are available and accessible so those transitions can be made, and children and family needs are addressed as early as possible. She also makes sure that no matter the size of the population affected, we do not lose sight of the need to serve the early intervention community while putting it in perspective with our system-building.

Kerrie is the "Lead" for the Early Childhood Action Strategies, a statewide network of governmental and non-governmental practitioners and professionals working together to develop a comprehensive system that supports early childhood development and addresses obstacles to healthy births, successful school transitions, effective child development and family financial sustainability.

In both of these roles, Kerrie helps to inform our Board and shape our conversations as she shares relevant data collected and the strategies implemented by the six Action Strategy Teams. Kerrie has already served one term and is the "prime mover" of our Systems Mapping Subcommittee. She continues to ask tough questions, raise important issues and engage in thoughtful deliberation helping to keep us true to ELB's priorities and on track with the State Plan.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of Kerrie Urosevich's continuation as an ELB Board member.

Sincerely,  
Robert G. Peters, Chair  
Early Learning Board



# Seagull Schools

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April 10, 2022

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

I am writing in strong support of Kerrie Urosevich’s appointment to the Early Learning Board for another term. Kerrie is a trusted and experienced leader in the early education sector and social justice advocate whose career is dedicated to improving the delivery of essential health and education services to our most vulnerable populations.

Kerrie has demonstrated her deep commitment to finding solutions to the most pressing systemic issues and inequities facing Hawaii’s children and families. As the Lead for Network Design and Innovation at Early Childhood Action Strategy, she works collaboratively with other non-profits, agencies, and schools, to increase the quality and access to early childhood and health services in both public and private sectors. I have had the opportunity to serve with Kerrie on the Commit to Keiki initiative, a non-partisan education collaborative that was made possible by her leadership.

I hope that you will confirm Kerrie’s appointment to the Early Learning Board. I am certain that her passion and leadership experience will help the EOEL ensure that it meets its strategic goals.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan McCorriston  
Chief Executive Officer

**Board of Directors**

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**School Locations**

Kailua & Administrative Office - 261-8534  
Adult Day Center - 674-1160  
Kapolei & Food Service - 674-1444  
Ko Olina - 671-6999  
Ocean Pointe in Ewa - 689-6021  
The Early Education Center, Honolulu - 533-0004

**GM-784**

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 2:37:54 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit enthusiastic support for the nomination of Dr. Kerrie Urosevich to the Early Learning Board. I have known Dr. Urosevich for about two decades. She is very smart, innovative, and dedicated to her work and the community. She is an excellent choice for this important Board.

Elizabeth Kent



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

**FROM:** Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

**DATE/LOCATION:** April 13, 2022; 3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229/Video Conference

**RE: GM 784 TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF KERRIE UROSEVICH FOR THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD**

**We support Kerrie Urosevich, gubernatorial nominee, for the Early Learning Board.**

Kerrie is a community collaborator and champion for Early Learning in Hawaii. She currently serves as Lead of the Early Childhood Action Strategy Collaborative Leaders Network which worked to coordinate the implementation of Hawai'i's public-private early childhood system's integration plan involving the Department of Health, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i, the Judiciary and community-based organizations. She has also been actively involved in the work of the Executive Office Of Early Learning (EOEL) since its inception as the Action Strategy Coordinator, Governor's Early Childhood Coordinator and has previously served on the Advisory Board to EOEL and as a member of EOEL's strategic planning team.

As a systems' collaborator and networker, Kerrie appreciates and values bringing together community voices and differing perspectives in order to break down silos and move toward common goals. As a facilitator, she understands the responsibilities of having difficult conversations that lead to productive outcomes for all of Hawai'i's keiki and families. Kerrie has extensive experience locally in Hawaii, nationally and internationally serving as an educator and advocate for children, families, healthy communities and bridges across boundaries. Her knowledge and experience working in various settings and with various stakeholders equips her to serve as a competent, compassionate and committed member of the Early Learning Board.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawai'i's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 17,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 20 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs,

child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of Kerrie Urosevich**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org](mailto:rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



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

**LATE**

April 13, 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. 784 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KERRIE UROSEVICH, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025.  
**Hearing Date:** Wednesday, April 13, 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 Kerrie Urosevich 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.

Kerrie Urosevich currently services as the representative from the Hawaii Early Intervention Coordinating Council (HEICC) on the ELB. HEICC, established by HRS Chapter 321-353, advises and assists the HIDOE regarding the transition of toddlers with special needs to preschool and other appropriate services. With her experience and knowledge, Mrs. Urosevich 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.