

GM-804

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 1:11:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Board Member Voss is an active Board Member. His strong knowledge of Finance added substance to the Finance Committee meetings. In his capacity as Chairman of the Finance Committee, he adds insight into the Department's presentations on budget. For the Board to be accountable, there needs to be a robust Finance Committee led by a leader with integrity and standards. He openly listens, challenges when necessary, and adds clarity to the confusion. He actively participates at all meetings. Thank you for accepting an extension of your continuing service.

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Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

April 13, 2022

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

We support GM 804, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRUCE VOSS, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

We are thrilled to support Bruce Voss for another term on the Board of Education (BOE). Mr. Voss has been a strong advocate of equity in education. He was one of the architects of Board Policy 301-10, Equitable Allocation of Facilities Resources, which requires the Department of Education (DOE) to address the socioeconomic and academic needs of each school's student population when prioritizing Capital Improvement Program projects, a critical component that was sorely lacking. He continues to push the DOE on the implementation of this policy. As Finance and Infrastructure Committee Chair, he has insisted that the DOE present clear and coherent financial plans not only for the system, but also at the school level. We greatly appreciate Mr. Voss' experience and professionalism and look forward to working with him for another term.

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director



Academy 21
Alliance for Place Based Learning
American Civil Liberties Union
Atherton YMCA
*Castle Complex Community Council
Education Institute of Hawai'i
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawai'i
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*HawaiiKidsCAN
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Special Education Provider Alliance
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu
*Youth Service Hawai'i

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

April 13, 2022

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

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

HawaiiKidsCAN supports GM804, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRUCE VOSS, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

The Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) is a critical organization for public education in Hawaii, with significant responsibilities that include the selection of a new state superintendent for the Hawaii State Department of Education (DOE), the approval of a new strategic plan, and oversight of the DOE to ensure students are recovering from learning loss exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the magnitude of issues facing the public education system, BOE members should be able to critically review data presented by the DOE, set a policy agenda that the DOE, legislature, and community partners can rally around, and look holistically at how schools are preparing kids for great careers and lives in Hawaii.

We support the nomination of Bruce Voss, as he has proven that he is willing to be a voice for accountability, transparency, and reason. In this time on the BOE, he has been one of the most consistent voices calling for the DOE to provide more specificity and clarity on key topics such as learning loss, pandemic response protocols, and federal stimulus spending plans. Mr. Voss is the opposite of a rubber stamp, and he never hesitates to be the first voice speaking up for students and families.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN