

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 1:05:12 PM

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

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

Comments:

KEN KURAYA - Board of Education

Aloha and get ready for your opportunity to participate in making our public schools, great public schools for all of Hawaii's keiki. Be prepared for long hours. Prior to every meeting you will need to put aside some personal time to read the minutes and ALL written testimonies. During the meetings you will be actively listening to oral testimonies from your constituents. It is important to know that your Board membership comes with high expectations from the public. Part of this includes holding the Department of Education accountable. Be ready to ask questions for clarity from all presenters on the agenda. It is a very important job you are undertaking with its ups and downs. Thank you for accepting the nomination.

- Extensive DOE background and experience
- Budgetary strengths
- Ability to discuss and clarify aspects of the Department's budget and how it relates to students, teachers, complexes i.e. school level
- Budgetary focus should be at the student, teacher, complex level, respectively, i.e. school level

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 4:45:23 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Kuraya	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Thank you very much for your consideration in allowing me the opportunity to serve as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

After working in the Hawaii Department of Education for over 40 years, retiring on December 31, 2021. I have had the opportunity to work in various positions at various levels and have seen firsthand the challenges that the public schools and State offices have had to face on a daily basis. The Department of Education has provided me the foundation to learn and grow as an individual. The moment has arrived for me to contribute and use what I have learned to give back to the Department of Education by becoming a member on the Board of Education.

The challenges ahead are daunting, but my belief is that, "No task is too big when done together by all." I believe I have the ability to work with individuals, so that together we will be able to provide the educational, physical, and emotional needs of all public school students.

I thank you and am prepared to answer any questions you may have.

Ken Kuraya



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org
hawaiikidscan.org

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 GM805, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, KEN KURAYA, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

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 Ken Kuraya, as we believe his four decades of experience in the DOE is unquestionably impressive. In terms of understanding the minutiae of the DOE's financial operations, he brings a background that sets a high mark for BOE members in recent years.

Given his extensive service inside the DOE, we are curious to hear his perspective on what the DOE could be doing differently to improve student outcomes and

opportunities. What are some of the efficiencies and inefficiencies he has seen? As he has spent his career with one employer, how has he found ways to broaden his perspective on how the district operates, including discussions with leaders in the private sector and other school systems around the country?

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 2:29:40 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Tajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear People,

I am submitting testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Ken Kuraya, to be considered and confirmed to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I am submitting this on behalf of myself, based on my professional relationship with Mr. Kuraya. As a current Complex Area Superintendent for the Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area in the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE), I have worked with Mr. Kuraya in his capacity as Budget Execution Administrator. I can attest that Mr. Kuraya is very knowledgeable of the HIDOE budget process. He was very receptive to my complex areas needs and requests, yet was very fair and objective in maintaining his perspective in what was in the best interest of the entire HIDOE and all complex areas. I am confident in his knowledge of the HIDOE and his facilitation skills that would make him a valued member of the Board of Education. I hope that you consider and confirm him for this position.

Mahalo,

Sean Tajima, Campbell-Kapolei Complex Area Superintendent

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 1:39:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Wong	Testifying for DOE	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a principal in the DOE, I had the privilege of collaborating with and seeking assistance from Ken Kuraya when he worked in our Budget Office. He always had the best interest of students in mind and had the right mindset to support public schools.

With his recent nomination to the BOE, I believe Mr. Kuraya will continue to advocate for our public school students. I strongly support his nomination to serve on the BOE.

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 3:50:18 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherilyn Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Ken Kuraya's appointment to of the Board of Education (BOE). Ken's experience as a teacher, vice principal, budget specialist, budget director and a budget execution administrator makes him a great candidate for the position. Ken will be of great value to the BOE in clarifying the complexities of the budget process, while also understanding the needs of schools. Ken is diligent and committed to the students of the Department of Education and is able to make decisions accordingly. He is easy to talk to, trustworthy, and customer service oriented. For these reasons, and more, I support his recommendation to the BOE.

Thank you.

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 7:19:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the nomination of Mr. Ken Kuraya to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education. As an educator and state level administrator with over 40 years of experience prior to his recent retirement, Mr. Kuraya can share valuable institutional knowledge and experience with fellow board members. He is skilled at listening and understanding concerns brought before him, and recently has helped the Department navigate through unprecedented budget challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. I have no doubt that Mr. Kuraya will serve with the utmost integrity and will always have our students' best interests at heart when making decisions.

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/9/2022 4:10:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
S Hedani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern

Please accept my written testimony in support of Ken Kuraya (GM 805) as a nominee to the Hawaii Board of Education (BOE). Mr. Kuraya has many years of experience as a compassionate educator and dedicated leader to the department. His vast experiences at many levels within our public education system, high integrity, and willingness to help provide solutions to serve our students and staff will be a great asset to the BOE. Please accept my testimony in support of Mr. Kuraya and vote to confirm his appointment to the BOE. Thank you for your consideration.

April 8, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is written in strong support of Mr. Ken Kuraya as a nominee to the Hawaii Board of Education. Of my 39 years in the Department of Education (DOE/Department), I have known Mr. Kuraya for 20 years in my capacity as a DOE State Office Resource Teacher, Program Specialist, and Director. I've had the opportunity to witness his scrutiny with the department's budget and observe his strong commitment to ensuring that all students, administrators and school/state offices have the funds to improve student learning.

Making a positive difference and being transparent, Mr. Kuraya took pride in carefully preparing the Department's yearly budget. In my capacity as a State Office Director, Mr. Kuraya was always willing to share ideas and offer insight with improving the cumbersome supplemental and biannual budget process. For a administration newcomer, the budget process is a daunting task and very lengthy process. Always open and approachable, Mr. Kuraya offered suggestions and recommendations for writing budget requests and justifications as well as provided words of encouragement to ensure my branch receive the appropriate funding necessary to move forward.

As a former teacher, administrator and acting director, Mr. Kuraya has demonstrated a high degree of integrity and commitment in his many duties and responsibilities as an educator. He understands the issues and successes that surround all aspects of the Department including the Hawaii Board of Education policies, rules and procedures.

Mr. Ken Kuraya, will be an asset to the Hawaii Board of Education as he will use his educator and budget/finance knowledge to support all innovation and improvements providing the very best for the students of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Jan Fukada, Retired DOE Educator

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 9:34:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Nishioka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Mr. Ken Kuraya to serve as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education. As a longtime educator, Mr. Kuraya utilized his range of experiences as a former teacher and administrator to provide support for schools and students. These experiences combined with Mr. Kuraya's understanding of the Department of Education will be beneficial in his capacity as a member of the Board of Education.

In his over 40 years in the Department of Education, Mr. Kuraya has demonstrated integrity and commitment. He has always been willing to use his knowledge and experience to support schools and state offices. Mr. Kuraya's positive and willing attitude has helped others reach the best possible outcome to benefit all facets of the organization.

LATE

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 10:53:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cara Tanimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha:

It is an honor to submit this letter in support of Mr. Ken Kuraya to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education. I have worked with Mr. Kuraya for over 15 years and have been impressed with his collaborative leadership, humility, and integrity.

Mr. Kuraya has worked in a variety of positions throughout his career, but he always remembered to keep the best interest of students at the heart of every decision. I am confident that he will continue to serve as champion for public education.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Kuraya's appointment to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

LATE

GM-805

Submitted on: 4/13/2022 8:01:11 AM
Testimony for EDU on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jana Chang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I wholeheartedly support the nomination of Ken Kuraya to the Hawaii Board of Education. I have known Mr. Kuraya since I first started student teaching at Kalani in the early 90s. He was a supportive, patient, and knowledgeable administrator who was respected by students and teachers. I currently serve as a grant manager and have had the privilege of working with Mr. Kuraya again in his role as Budget Administrator. The BOE, as a policymaking body for the department can benefit from Mr. Kuraya's vast knowledge of the department's fiscal systems and budget process. He is truly someone who has "come up through the ranks" and will continue to serve with a genuine heart for what it's like to be at the school, district, and state office. His genuine interest in education, combined with his ongoing commitment to students and educators, make him an outstanding candidate to serve on the Board. Mahalo.