



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
2759 South King Street, Room C6
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96826

April 5, 2024

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

FROM: Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: Measure: G.M. No. 721 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHERYL CUDIAMAT, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2026.
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: Conference Room 229

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: Support

Aloha, I am Yuuko Arikawa-Cross, Director of the Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL). EOEL supports the nomination and confirmation of Cheryl Cudiamat to the Early Learning Board (ELB).

EOEL is statutorily responsible for the development and administration of the State's early learning system, which shall ensure a spectrum of high-quality early learning opportunities for children 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, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH), Regular Session 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 the 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.

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Ms. Cudiamat serves as the chief executive officer and director of Keiki Care Center of Hawai'i, Inc. Ms. Cudiamat satisfies the requirements of HRS § 302L-1.65, which provides, in relevant part, that the ELB nominees shall demonstrate integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical standards and be willing to hold fellow members to the same; commit to being a conscientious and attentive board member; have an understanding of best practices in early learning governance or be willing to be trained in best practices in early learning governance; and have a clear understanding of the board's role in developing and protecting a clear, long-term strategic vision for early learning.

Ms. Cudiamat possesses a wealth of experience in early learning program management and administration. Her experiences indicate a valuable ability to function among diverse colleagues as a member of an effective team and provides substantial support of her deep and abiding interest in early learning and the support of families and children across Hawai'i.

Ms. Cudiamat's experience will add great value to the Early Learning Board. Thank you for your consideration of Ms. Cudiamat's nomination and for the opportunity to testify in support.

Cheryl R. Cudiamat

Objective

Through our businesses, it is my hope to also give back to the community, by providing services that are needed. Through my gifts of strengths, abilities, and resources, I feel that it is important to build a positive foundation, to help build a future generation that will be able to continue to grow, and have longevity in Hawai'i and even around our globe.

Skills & Abilities

- Organization & Efficiency
- Fiscal Stability
- Leadership & Teamwork

References

BRANDON ELEFANTE

[REDACTED]

ERIC BARSATAN

[REDACTED]

STEPHEN CALLO

[REDACTED]

Experience

KEIKI CARE CENTER OF HAWAII, INC.

AUG. 2008 - PRESENT

CEO/Director

Oversees and manages daily operations for the preschool. Ensures consistency in the school's philosophy and curriculum in all classrooms. Manages licensing, enrollment, marketing and all fiscal responsibilities.

STRUCTURAL HAWAII, INC.

JUN. 2004 - PRESENT

President

Oversees financial and administrative operations of the engineering firm. Also ensure efficiency in the business system, from managing project workflows, to cashflow projections. Manages licensing, insurance, marketing and all fiscal responsibilities.

STRUCTURAL BUILDERS HAWAII, INC.

APR. 2011 - PRESENT

CEO

Oversees financial and administrative operations of the construction firm. Manages licensing, insurance, and all fiscal responsibilities.

PONO ENTERTAINMENT, LLC.

JAN. 2023 - PRESENT

General Manager

Oversees all daily operations, marketing, licensing, insurance and fiscal responsibilities.

Education

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Master's in Business Administration, with a Minor in Marketing -

Graduated with Honors, December 2001

Bachelor's in Business Administration, with a Minor in Speech -

Graduated with Honors, May 2000

High School Attended – Aiea High School (Class of 1996)

LATE

April 10, 2024

Eric Caceres Barsatan
94-500 Apii Street
Waipahu, HI, USA 96797

The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Education
Thirty-Second Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: Support for GM 721, Cheryl Cudiamat

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

I humbly request your Committee's approval of GM 721, and for the opportunity for Cheryl Cudiamat to serve on the Early Learning Board.

I have known Cheryl Cudiamat for over 2 decades through my involvement with community organizations, and I also had my children attend her preschool – Keiki Center of Hawaii.

Cheryl is very involved to better the community and to help mentor the new leaders of tomorrow. She is a former President of the Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce and during her year, she had many successful new initiatives that propelled the organization to become one of the top chapters that year. In terms of mentorship, she was able to help develop young leaders to also become successful leaders and eventually help them to have great careers and becoming entrepreneurs.

Cheryl is currently the director and owner of the successful Keiki Care Center of Hawaii. I had decided for my children to attend her preschool because of the high quality of their program and curriculum. I also knew of many parents that had their children go to her preschool and all of them were also very pleased of their experience and continue to strongly recommend her school.

Cheryl cares deeply about the keikis, making sure that they have quality education and a bright future. She believes it starts at home with parents' involvement and that the early years for children is critical in their development and finding the joy in learning. Cheryl has children of

her own and based on their successes, I can certainly say that she definitely knows and understand what works.

In the past, Cheryl has shared some of her thoughts and ideas on the opportunities to improve early learning and I think she is spot on. As a former manager of the State Boards and Commissions Office, I have extensive knowledge of what it takes to be a great board member. For Cheryl, I believe that her leadership, her creativity and vision, her knowledge and experience, as a mother, and being a successful business owner of a preschool, that she would be an exceptional member of the Early Learning Board. I have no doubt that her contributions will make significant difference that we all can be proud of.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric C. Barsatan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eric C. Barsatan

Healthcare Professional and Business Owner