

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 04/08/2024

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

**Bill Title:** GM 0520 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

**Purpose of Bill:**

**Department's Position:**

As the Superintendent of the Hawaii State Department of Education, I support Kaheleonolani Dukelow's confirmation to the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board). Her impressive work throughout her career, coupled with her commitment to promoting educational equity, Hawaiian education and Hawaiian language revitalization, make her an outstanding Board member.

During her tenure as an interim member of the Board of Education representing Maui County, Ms. Dukelow has been a critical partner in the Department's Maui disaster response and recovery. Ms. Dukelow's engagement on the Board is informed by her experiences as a Department of Education Kaiapuni kumu, University of Hawaii Maui College faculty member and administrator and 'Aha Kauleo chair. Her leadership and passion for educational excellence and equity will shape the future of education in our state for the better.

I appreciate the commitment that Ms. Dukelow has demonstrated as an interim Board member and her willingness to serve on the Board. I support Ms. Dukelow's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education and urge the State Senate to confirm her appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 520.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org  
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

April 8, 2024

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 GM520**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, Kahele Dukelow, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

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 including but not limited to formulating policy, ensuring oversight and accountability within the public education system, and monitoring progress on the State of Hawaii Public Education 2023-2029 Strategic Plan. Given the magnitude of issues facing the public education system, effective 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 urge all appointees consider the following questions:

- How will you find balance between supporting our public schools while holding leaders and schools accountable when students are suffering poor outcomes?
- How can the BOE better harness public charter schools and public libraries as part of our education system, given that the BOE also oversees the State Librarian and members of the State Public Charter School Commission?

- How can the BOE better engage families and community members?
- What is the ideal process for collaborative policymaking between the BOE, DOE, legislature, and community partners?
- How can the BOE and DOE better target supports to students to close achievement gaps and long-standing inequities?
- How can our education system better harness the abundant non-traditional learning opportunities in Hawaii offered by local non-profits, employers, and community organizations?

We support the nomination of Kahele Dukelow, as she has proven that she is an engaged board member who consistently speaks out in support of kids and families. We also pledge to be a partner as she and the rest of the BOE work to improve outcomes for students and our broader state.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro  
Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN



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

April 8, 2024

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

This testimony is submitted in support for GM520, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kahele Dukelow, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

As one of HE'E Coalition's priorities is influencing policy that affects public education, the Coalition staff attends Board of Education meetings on a regular basis. We continue to advocate strongly on family and community engagement as well as equity in education in our public school system.

HE'E appreciates MS. Dukelow's thoughtful questioning during BOE meetings, her steadfast advocacy for her constituents on Maui, and her experience in Hawaiian language education. We encourage the Committee to confirm her nomination.

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 for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

## Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Atherton YMCA  
Education Institute of Hawai'i  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawai'i  
\*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 Education Association  
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\* Hawai'i State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
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  
Special Education Provider Alliance  
\*Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education  
\* 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.*

April 6, 2024

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair Senate Committee on  
Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair Senate Committee on  
Education

Members Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Kate Stanley (retired)

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of confirming Governor's appointments to the Board of Education: GM 520, GM 710, GM 711, GM 712, GM 713, and GM 714

I am Kate Stanley testifying in my individual capacity in support of the confirmation of the Governor's appointments to the Board of Education (BOE).

I have retired once again and now volunteer to work on projects for the Department of Education and speak on other issues that effect the State of Hawaii. In past years I have worked as an analyst for the House Committee on Finance assigned to analyze the budget of the Department of Education and assigned to work with then Chair of the House Education Committee, Roy Takumi assisting in drafting Act 51 of the 2004 Session; and I have worked for Superintendents Pat Hamamoto, Kathy Matayoshi, and Keith Hayashi. I have assisted the superintendents with implementing Act 51, budget preparation, and working with the Legislature. In the course of these years I have had the opportunity to attend many BOE meetings including those of both an elected and appointed BOE.

Personally I have an undying commitment to public education. Public education and its improvement is an obligation we all have in order to secure the best possible Hawaii.

The reason that I am speaking for these particular appointments as a group is that I see them as a group bringing many diverse experiences and abilities to the BOE. They will create a strong Board that will move public education forward.

GM 520 Kahele Dukelow.

Kahele Dukelow brings continuity as she currently serves on BOE . Dukelow also brings the perspective of the island of Maui and concern for the Hawaiian community.

GM 710 Mary Hattori

Mary Hattori brings the perspective of the many Pacific Islander Communities whose children attend our public schools. Hattori's work with the East West Center and her other experiences as an author, poet, public speaker and philanthropist add to the diversity of experience that these new members bring to the BOE.

GM 711 Ken Kuraya

Ken Kuraya also brings continuity as he currently serves as an at-large member of the BOE. Kuraya brings his experience in working with the budget of the DOE. I have known Ken for many years having worked with him during my many years working full-time and part time with the DOE. His experience in administration makes his contribution to the BOE valuable.

#### GM 712 William Arakaki

Bill Arakaki brings; continuity as he currently serves on the BOE , a neighbor island perspective (Kauai), and the experience of a teacher, Principal and Complex Area superintendent. Bill also brings a certain grace and steadfastness to the meetings of the BOE. He is conscientious, thoughtful and kind.

#### GM 713 Wesley Lo

Wesley Lo brings his prior experience as a member of the BOE and his extensive experience in the health industry. As you know DOE serves students who have many physical and mental health challenges. I have known and worked with Wes since 2010 and know that he brings diligence, thoughtfulness, and persistence to everything he undertakes.

#### GM 714 Elynne Chung

Elynne Chung brings many years of experience; as a student in our public schools and at UH and as a Principal of Mililani Middle School. The BOE and the Superintendent have recognized that the middle school years are often the make or break point for many of the DOE students. Chung's experience with middle school will be of great value to the BOE and the DOE as they strive to improve the performance and experience of the DOE middle school student.

In conclusion I wholeheartedly urge that the Senate Committee on Education recommend to the full Senate confirmation of all the above appointments to the Board of Education.



**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 12:57:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laverne Moore	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Monday, April 8, 2024

Chairperson Kidani and Members of the Committee

It is with great pleasure that I, Laverne Fernandes Moore, support GM 520, relating to consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW, for a term to expire 6-30-2026.

Kahele is a product of public education and have been working in various capacities in our Hawaii public education and University system for nearly 30 years.

More importantly, while serving on the Aha Kaulo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools, Kahele was successful in advocating for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. This made Hawaii the first state to accomplish such a feat.

Kahele’s credentials and experiences in perpetuating our Hawaiian language for generations to come, it is her love of our people and children of Hawaii Nei and the determination to “Make Right, what is Wrong”, in our educational system addresses the rationale for her continuation on the Hawaii Board of Education.

I ask this committee to allow Kahele Dukelow to “leave a legacy of doing good for our people” by passing GM 520. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.gm520

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 2:11:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ernie K. Wilson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am testifying not as member of the UH Board of Regents, but as an individual whose goal in life is to be a part of the effort to ensure that the **educational** and **health needs** of the people of Hawaii are being fulfilled.

To that end, I believe that public education for our people in the State of Hawaii should be a Seamless journey from Pre-K through 20 and beyond. This journey's focus is the kuleana of the Department of Education System and the University of Hawaii System. Having individuals who have had experience both teaching and in leadership roles in both systems can bring us closer to achieving this goal of a "*seamless journey of Pre-K through 20 and beyond*". A current example of a person like this is Tami Oyadamori, currently serving as a DOE Deputy Superintendent, and who previously was Asst. VP within the University of Hawaii System. This brings me to the reason we are here today, and that is to consider confirming Vice Chancellor Kahele Dukelow's appointment who has been serving on the DOE Board since July of 2023 to be a member of the DOE Board.

Kahea Faria  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
[kaheaf@hawaii.edu](mailto:kaheaf@hawaii.edu)

April 4, 2024

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Education Members

From: Kahea Faria  
HIDOE Parent

RE: GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the Board of Education

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of **confirming** Gubernatorial Nominee, **Kahele Dukelow** to the Board of Education.

Kahele Dukelow has served the educational system of Hawaii for approximately 30-years! She has a wealth of educational experience working with our K-12 students, classroom teachers, and communities. She is knowledgeable about our educational system, and has a proven track record of affecting positive change.

I highly recommend the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kahele Dukelow to the Board of Education, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Mahalo!  
Kahea Faria

April 5, 2024

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FR: Manuwai Peters

RE: IN SUPPORT OF GM520 - CONFIRMATION OF KAHELE  
DUKELOW TO HAWAI'I BOARD OF EDUCATION

Aloha Senators,

I am in strong SUPPORT of GM520- the confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire on June 30, 2026.

I speak today on behalf of myself as a professional colleague of the nominee when we were both public school teachers at Ānunue from 1997-1999, and in a variety of other professional capacities ever since. Her leadership, commitment, and service to public education has been well established and demonstrated. She was worn many hats on this journey - as a public school student, as a public school teacher, a parent of public school students, college instructor, and in her current administrative capacity at UH Maui College- just to name a few- she continues to grow, and serve this community with selflessness and integrity. How she balances all of her various kuleana is frankly, nothing short of amazing but as they say, "if you need a job done, go ask a busy person." Dear Senators, this is the busy person we need to get this job done. We know from her record that she will deliver on the commitment and oath she has made to serve on the Board of Education.

Therefore, I humbly ask Senate President Kouchi and the honorable members of the Hawai'i State Senate to confirm the nomination of Kahele Dukelow to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Mahalo,

*Wilson M Peters*

Manuwai Peters

Kalamaula Molokai

Kailua O'ahu



**GM520**

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

April 8, 2024

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 229

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers its **SUPPORT of Kahele Dukelow** for consideration and confirmation as a member of the Board of Education.

It is not enough that Ms. Dukelow has spent her entire career committed to the education of Hawai‘i’s keiki. She has specifically dedicated her career to the revitalization of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and Hawaiian language speakers in the public school system. She has extensive experience at every level of the education system—from teacher to trainer to administrator and beyond—that gives her a solid foundation to serve the Board of Education well. It is critical too that Ms. Dukelow brings specialized expertise in Kula Kaiapuni. As enrollment grows in these Hawaiian language immersion schools, the Board of Education must include members who understand their unique needs. We are confident that Ms. Dukelow can provide this expertise and more.

We would also be remiss not to mention how important it is for Native Hawaiians to serve our state in leadership positions. Our state government deserves a diverse group of leaders and must include team members who can ensure the perspective of these islands’ first people are represented. Additionally, it is important for keiki to see other kānaka maoli in leadership positions. It helps them see a future for themselves here in Hawai‘i. With more Native Hawaiians now living outside of our state than within, this is especially pressing.

It is particularly vital that the Department and Board of Education have Hawaiian representation. The public school system is the largest educator of Native Hawaiian children. Our Hawaiian haumāna deserve to see themselves at every level of education—from teacher to administrator and up to leadership. We think it’s especially meaningful for Native Hawaiian keiki to see their education leadership include someone so invested in ensuring ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i thrives in Hawai‘i. The Office of Hawaiian Affairs looks forward to working together with Ms. Dukelow and the Board of Education to better the conditions of Native Hawaiians.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Dukelow as this committee considers her nomination.



Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS  
45-037 Kāne'ōhe Bay Dr. Kāne'ōhe. HI 96744  
Phone: (808) 235-9175; Fax: (808) 235-9173

“E mālama 'ia ana ka mauli ola o kākou mai kēlā hanauna a i kēia hanauna.”

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

**FROM:** I. Meahilahila Kelling, Ed.D.  
Director, Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, LPCS

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the  
BOE Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai e nā po'ō a me na lālā o ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo,

My name is Meahilahila Kelling and I am the Director at Ke Kula 'o Samuel M. Kamakau, Laboratory Public Charter School. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

For the last 13 years, Kahele has served on the 'Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During this time, the Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education were revised, the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education which continues to guide Kaiapuni education was created, and she successfully advocated for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. This made Hawai'i the first state to accomplish such a feat.

Additionally, Kahele is an experienced educator as a Hawaiian language professor at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, which has also crossed into the K-12 settings. She administered early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, obtained grants to support high school pathways and initiatives, and gave presentations on the history of Hawaiian language in education in Hawaii. Kahele has also developed and taught summer bridge programs for high school students, student support initiatives for Hawaiian students, and Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies field schools.

I urge the Committee on Education to **confirm** to the **Board of Education**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KAHELE DUKELOW** for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**



# Native Hawaiian Education Association

P.O. Box 1190 Wailuku, HI 96793 [www.nhea.net](http://www.nhea.net)

Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair

April 5, 2024

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

On behalf of the Native Hawaiian Education Association, we **support** GM 520, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, gubernatorial nominee, KAHELEONALANI (Kahele) DUKELOW for a term ending in 2026..

We are pleased that the Governor has nominated Kahele Dukelow for the Maui seat on the Board of Education (BOE). Ms. Dukelow has strongly advocated for equity in public education and is a well-respected community leader, particularly in Hawaiian education.

Here is a summary of Kahele's accomplishments as they relate to the role of serving on the BOE:

- She is a product of public education and has worked in various capacities in the Hawai'i public education and University system for nearly 30 years.
- For the last 13 years, Kahele served on the 'Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During this time, the council revised Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education, created the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education, which still guides Kaiapuni education today, and successfully advocated for developing and implementing a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. This made Hawai'i the first state to accomplish such a feat.
- Kahele has worked with many public schools as part of her job at the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC). She administers early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, grants to support high school pathways and initiatives, and gave presentations on the history of Hawaiian language in education in Hawai'i.
- In her prior capacity as a kumu of Hawaiian language at the UHMC, she developed and taught summer bridge programs for high school students, student support initiatives for Hawaiian students, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies field schools, and early college courses.

We enthusiastically support Kaheleonalani Dukelow's confirmation to the Board of Education. Her professional experience and support of public education make her an excellent choice to serve on this governing board.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

C. Ku'ulei Miranda, NHEA President

*The Native Hawaiian Education Association (NHEA) was established in 1998 and is a grassroots organization focused on supporting and furthering the work of those tasked with the responsibility of educating our Native Hawaiian children. As an association, NHEA advocates an educational philosophy which acknowledges a Native Hawaiian perspective to teaching and learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

**MOKU O MANOKALANIPŌ**  
**KAUA'I COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUBS**

PO Box 383 Hanapēpē, HI 96716

Date: April 5, 2024

To: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education  
Senate Committee on Education Members

From: Moku o Manokalanipō, Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs  
Malia Nobrega-Olivera, President  
malianob@gmail.com

Re: Re: GM 520 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

Aloha Chair Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair Donna Mercado Kim, and members of the Senate, Committee on Education:

We're writing in STRONG SUPPORT of GM 520 which calls for the confirmation to the Board of Education, Kahele Dukelow, for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Moku o Manokalanipō has worked with Ms Dukelow in different settings that range from general education in Hawai'i, Hawaiian language and culture based education, and other civic and social issues, etc. We have witnessed her leadership and commitment to promoting excellence and equity for our keiki and our community. Kahele has worked with many schools as a part of her job at the University of Hawai'i Maui College. She administered early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, obtained grants to support high school pathways and initiatives, and gave presentations on the history of Hawaiian language in education in Hawaii. Her experience as a leader in education will be of value to the work ahead for the Board of Education.

Therefore, Moku o Manokalanipō respectfully urges the Committee to SUPPORT the CONFIRMATION of Kahele Dukelow as stated in GM 520.

The Hawaiian civic club movement was founded in 1918 by Congressional Delegate Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole with the creation of the Hawaiian Civic Club; the Association was formally organized in 1959 and in 1968, the Hawaiian Civic Clubs on the island of Kaua'i organized Moku o Manokalanipō, the Kaua'i Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.





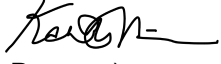
# 'AHA KAULEO

STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR KA PĀPĀHANA KAIAPUNI

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Date: April 4, 2024

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

From: Kananinohea Māka'imoku, Hope Luna Ho'omalū (Vice President)   
'Aha Kauleo, Pāpāhana Kaiapuni (Hawaiian Language Immersion Program)  
Advisory to the Office of Hawaiian Education

Aloha mai e nā lālā o ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo - Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members,

The 'Aha Kauleo (AKL) is a council of parents, teachers, and administrators dedicated to advocating for increased support and excellence in Kaiapuni or Hawaiian language immersion schools statewide. Our work involves close collaboration with school communities, the State Department of Education through the Office of Hawaiian Education, the Board of Education, and the University of Hawai'i's Hawaiian language, Hawaiian studies, and education programs.

We write to express our **STRONG SUPPORT** for the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, **Kahele Dukelow** to the Board of Education, for a term ending on June 30, 2026.

Kahele has been an invaluable member of the 'Aha Kauleo for the past 13 years. During her tenure, she played a pivotal role in revising Board of Education policies related to Hawaiian education, including the creation of the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education, which continues to guide our schools today. Kahele's leadership was instrumental in advocating for the development and implementation of a robust assessment system tailored for Hawaiian language schools, making Hawai'i the first state to achieve this milestone.

As a product of Hawai'i's public education system, Kahele has served in various educational capacities, including as a classroom teacher and faculty member at the University of Hawai'i. Her dedication, innovative ideas, and collaborative spirit have consistently benefited our communities and students.

Kahele embodies the qualities of a servant leader deeply committed to Hawai'i's educational pathways. Her unwavering support for Kaiapuni education ensures the well-being and success of our keiki. We urge your support for Kahele Dukelow's continued service on the Board of Education.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,  
Kananinohea Makaimoku, Hope Luna Hoomalu  
Aha Kauleo

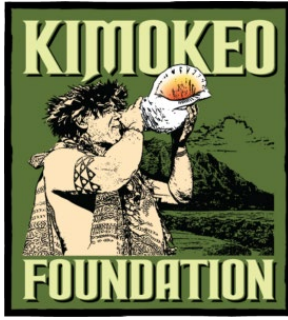
**Membership:** Alo Kehau o ka Aina Mauna (Honokaa High, 9-10), Ke Kula o Ehunuikaimalino (K-6), Ke Kula o Ehunuikaimalino (7-12), Ka Umeke Kaeo HI PCS (K-6), Ka Umeke Kaeo HI PCS (7-12), Ke Kula o Nawahikalaniopuu Iki PCS (K-8), Ke Kula o Nawahikalaniopuu (Hilo High, 9-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Hana (K-5), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahaina (6-8), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lahainaluna (9-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kalama (6-8), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kekaulike (9-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Paia (K-5), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nahienaena (K-5), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lanai (K-1), Kualapuu PCS (K-6), O Hina i ka Malama (Molokai Middle, 7-8), O Hina i ka Malama (Molokai High, 9-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Anuenue (K-6), Ke Kula Kaiapuni Anuenue (7-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Hauula (K-6), Ke Kula Kaiapuni Hawaii o Kahuku Academy (7-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua (9-10), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nanakuli (K-6), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Puohala (K-8), Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau PCS (K-6), Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau (7-12), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waiau (K-6), Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimanalo ma Blanche Pope (K-2), Kawaiikini PCS (K-6), Kawaiikini PCS (7-12), Ke Kula Niihau o Kekaha PCS (K-6), Ke Kula Niihau o Kekaha PCS (7-12), UH Hilo-Hale Kuamoo, UH-Hilo-Ka Haka Ula o Keelikolani, UH-Hilo Kahuawaiola, Brigham Young University, Aha Punana Leo, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, UH-Manoa COE, UH-Manoa Kamakakuokalani, UH-Manoa Kawaihuelani & UH-Maui E Hooulu Lahui.



# 'AHA KAULEO

STATEWIDE COUNCIL FOR KA PAPAHAHA KAIAPUNI

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## Kimokeo Foundation

95 Mahalani St., Ste. #12

Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

(808) 446-3030

[www.kimokeofoundation.org](http://www.kimokeofoundation.org)

[info@kimokeofoundation.org](mailto:info@kimokeofoundation.org)

April 4, 2024

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

RE: **IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the BOE Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai e nā po'o a me nā lālā o ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo,

On behalf of the Kimokeo Foundation, a Maui non-profit organization whose mission primarily supports the preservation and perpetuation of the Hawaiian culture, its traditions, practices and language, through education programs, I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

Kahele is a pillar in the Hawaiian language immersion community and if it were not for her, and other significant people, like Kili Namau'u, Kula Kaiapuni O Maui would not be the success that it is today. There are so many reasons why she should be elected into a second term. One major reason is that she has the utmost respect of the Kaiapuni community. She is not just a person of her word, but she demonstrates her commitment to perpetuating the Hawaiian language and culture through her actions. Unlike other possible candidates for this position, Kahele is a Native Hawaiian who does not just talk about the culture and language, she and her family are ultimate role models of what a successful Hawaiian family who lives and breathes the culture should be like.

In addition, Kahele is a product of public education and has been working in various capacities in our Hawai'i public education and University system for nearly 30-years. For the last 13 years, Kahele has served on the 'Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During this time, the Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education were revised, the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education which continues to guide Kaiapuni education was created, and she successfully advocated for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. This made Hawai'i the first state to accomplish such a feat.

Also, Kahele has worked with many schools as a part of her job at the University of Hawai'i Maui College. She administered early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, obtained grants to support high school pathways and initiatives, and gave presentations on the history of Hawaiian language in education in Hawai'i. As a Hawaiian language professor at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, Kahele has developed and taught summer bridge programs for high school students, student support initiatives for Hawaiian students, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies field schools and early college courses.

For these and many other reasons, I'm happy to voice Kimokeo Foundation's strong support to have Kahele Dukelow continue her great work in our community as a member of the Board of Education. Please join us in supporting an amazing individual whom we can all learn from.

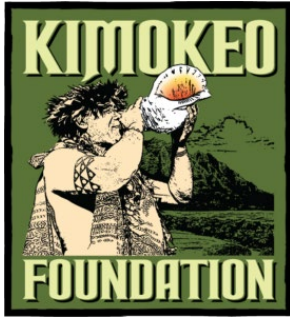
Aloha,

Joylynn Paman

Executive Director

*The mission of Kimokeo Foundation is to preserve and perpetuate the Native Hawaiian culture, its traditions, practices and language, Maui's environment and community's health through educational programs which benefit the people of Hawai'i.*

**2024 Board of Directors:** President Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Vice President Nāpua Aloy, Treasurer Michael Phillips  
(Secretary – Vacant), Director Nāmomi McCorrison, Director Brian Walsh and Director/Hawaiian Cultural Advisor Kahu Lyons Naone



## **Kimokeo Foundation**

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(808) 446-3030

[www.kimokeofoundation.org](http://www.kimokeofoundation.org)

[info@kimokeofoundation.org](mailto:info@kimokeofoundation.org)

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**2024 Board of Directors:** President Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Vice President Nāpua Aloy, Treasurer Michael Phillips (Secretary – Vacant), Director Nāmomi McCorriston, Director Brian Walsh and Director/Hawaiian Cultural Advisor Kahu Lyons Naone



April 5, 2024

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair, Committee on Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair, Committee on Education

Senate Committee on Education Members

FR: Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM520 - CONFIRMATION OF KAHELE  
DUKELOW TO HAWAI'I BOARD OF EDUCATION

Aloha Senators,

Kanaeokana, the Kula Hawai'i Network which includes membership of 107 Hawaiian education organizations including DOE Hawaiian Immersion and English medium schools, Hawaiian focused charter schools, and independent schools, is in strong SUPPORT of GM520- the confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire on June 30, 2026.

As a Hawaiian education network, Kanaeokana's mission is to collaboratively develop and strengthen a public education system built on a strong 'ōlelo Hawai'i and 'ike Hawai'i foundation on which all students can pursue educational excellence. Board member Dukelow has demonstrated this principle as a BOE member since her appointment in 2023.

We feel that Kahele Dukelow, with her extensive background and service to public education in Hawai'i, her deep operational knowledge of policy, programs, funding, and systemic challenges of our large statewide systems, makes her extremely well suited for

today's Board of Education. Her demonstrated commitment to Native Hawaiian student success in the public school system allows her to be an advocate for this critical student population within the Department of Education.

Therefore, we humbly ask Senate President Kouchi and the honorable members of the Hawai'i State Senate to confirm the nomination of Kahele Dukelow to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Me Ka 'Oia'i'o

Kanaeokana Kula Hawai'i Network

[advocacy@kanaeokana.net](mailto:advocacy@kanaeokana.net)



April 5, 2024

## Governor's Message 520 – Kahele Duklow

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

Please accept my testimony in strong support of the appointment of Kahele Duklow to the State Board of Education (BOE).

Since July 1, 2023, I have had the privilege of getting to know Kahele Duklow as the Maui representative. She brought decades of relevant educational experience in both the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii/Maui College.

When the tragic Lahaina wildfires occurred, she stepped up in a huge way. She became the Board's eyes and ears on the ground. Her family is from Lahaina, and she has numerous friends, family members, and associates in the area. Her guidance, counsel, advice, and caring were invaluable as we navigated through the myriad of decisions that had to be made to ensure that students, faculty, and staff were safe, they had the necessary items, and that the four Lahaina schools could reopen with a "safety-first" approach. The DOE succeeded because of her involvement and leadership.

As a Board member, she was always well prepared, and her questions, comments, and advice were relevant, thoughtful, and of benefit to the Department of Education (DOE) and to the Board. Her institutional knowledge was of great value.

Additionally, she served as the BOE's representative on the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board (HTSB) and did a great job representing the BOE and DOE's interests, desires, and concerns. She also served as a member of the investigative group which recommended a Charter School Commission member. She was giving of her time and her mana'o, in a humble and respectful manner.

I kindly ask for your strong support for her confirmation. The BOE, DOE, and Hawaii's students need her wisdom and balanced approach for the many critical issues that need to be addressed.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Warmest aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren".

Warren H. Haruki

2667 Tantalus Dr. Honolulu HI  
[warrenharuki@gmail.com](mailto:warrenharuki@gmail.com)  
808-534-7777



**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 10:43:02 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alethea Serna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aoha mai kakou,

I am writing to support Kahele Dukelow's confirmation to the Hawai'i Board of Education (BOE). Kahele is a highly competent individual who has experienced the breadth and depth of public education in the State of Hawai'i. As a student, she is a product of public education, working in various capacities in the Hawai'i public education and University system for nearly 30 years. Kahele is an active community member who is empathetic toward communities around the State and is passionate about improving the state of education around the State.

Kahele is also a progressive leader. She has served on the 'Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During her time 'Aha Kauleo, the BOE policies on Hawaiian education were revised, and the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education was created.

When I was a former director of the elementary education teacher licensure program at UH Mānoa, College of Education, Kahele was instrumental and worked in partnership with us to bolster our "2+2" (CC to UHM) programming for Hawaiian language immersion and Early Childhood Education teacher candidates. She continues to support bridge programs for high school students and working professionals to continue their college education. Kahele also serves as a member of our Teacher Education Committee for Hawaiian Language and Culture.

I believe that Kahele is more than qualified to fulfill her role as a BOE member. Therefore, I urge that her nomination be confirmed.

Sincerely,

Ku'ulei Serna, PhD.; Professor; School of Teacher Education, UH Mānoa

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

**FROM:** W. Kalae Akioka  
Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the BOE  
Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is W. Kalae Akioka and I am a kumu kaiapuni, parent of a Hawaiian immersion public school student, and teacher leader in the HSTA.

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - *The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.***

I have known Kahele Dukelow for more than thirty years. We were in college together and over the years, I have worked with her in different capacities, as a teacher, educational leader, and friend. In her years, very few others have shown the keen ability she has to build relationships and lead the campaign to advance Hawaiian education.

One way she has shown her dedication to the keiki o Hawai‘i is her thirteen year seat in the ‘Aha Kauleo, the state-wide consortium of Hawaiian language immersion schools. Some of the accomplishments she has helped spearhead are much needed Board of Education policies and changes to unjust testing practices, which could have resulted in legal issues for the Hawai‘i Department of Education if left unaddressed.

In conclusion Kahele Dukelow is one of the best candidates you could consider. I urge the Committee on Education to **confirm** to the **Board of Education**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KAHELE DUKELOW** for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

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

**FROM:** Sesame Shim

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the BOE  
Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Sesame Shim and I am the president of Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, a parent support group for Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia, Kalama and Kekaulike. I am also a teacher at Kekaulike High School. Both of my children are a part of the public school system at Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā‘ia, and Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Kalama. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - *The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.***

I first met Kumu Kahele Dukelow 9 years ago. She was a teacher at UH Maui College at the time, while I was in my search for a better understanding of our Kaiapuni schools. She has always been an advocate for public education in general and in particular extremely supportive of the development of our Hawaiian language immersion schools. Through critical discussions with Kumu Kahele, I have learned so much about the value of our public education for all keiki of Hawaii, the origin of our public education system, and spaces where support is most needed. Because of this knowledge and perspective, I have worked to support my keiki’s schools as a supporter of Nā Leo Kāko‘o o Maui, and I have also become a Hawaiian language immersion teacher myself since that meeting 9 years ago. Kumu Kahele is very clear and dedicated to her support for public education.

I have also witnessed how Kumu Kahele functions as a leader, particularly serving on the executive board of directors of ‘Aha Kauleo. She is clear, organized, informative, and also understands the importance of voice and fairness. A leader who truly understands our history of education and is willing to put in the time and work, is one who can strategically organize in the best way to move forward.

I am a product of many of the programs that Kumu Kahele has implemented in past years in her position at UH Maui College. The transfer program between UH Maui College and UH Mānoa allowed me to join the Masters of Education in Teaching program to get my teaching license while still living on Maui. I have also worked with Kumu Kahele on other programs to educate our Hawaiian language immersion community, and organize our annual Makahiki event for all Hawaiian language immersion schools of Maui.

In conclusion, the leadership values that Kumu Kahele carries have earned her much trust and respect from many of us teachers and parents of our public education system. I urge the Committee on Education to **confirm** to the **Board of Education**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KAHELE DUKELOW** for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:03:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Nakasone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly encourage all committee members to confirm Kāhele Dukelow as a Board of Education member. I see her as a staunch advocate for education for all and will be able to guide and enforce policies with all students in mind, and with the goal of benefitting all of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo!

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:30:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoki Faria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**FROM:** Keoki Faria

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the  
BOE Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Keoki Faria and I am a parent of a child in the Hawaii Language Immersion Program, and a Hawaiian language teacher. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

Kahele is a product of public education and have been working in various capacities in our Hawaii public education and University system for nearly 30-years. Throughout this time she has proven to be a trustworthy, knowledgeable, and compassionate teacher, and advocate for the fields of Hawaiian language, Hawaiian studies, and Hawaiian Immersion education. Her presence on the Board of Education has provided these areas of education a trusted advocate, and a unique perspective that provides the Board the needed information and expertise to make sound decisions that will benefit Hawaii's children. Needless to say that Kahele Dukelow brings with her years of experience and a high level of credibility shared by very few others involved in the previous mentioned arenas, as well as the wider community.

I would like to express my appreciation in advance to each of the members of this committee for their consideration of this testimony in support of Kahele Dukelow.

Me ka oiaio,

Keoki Faria

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:45:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Balutski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am thrilled to support the nomination of Kahele Dukelow. I have known Professor Dukelow since I began working at UH Mānoa in 2008, and have since been constantly impressed by her commitment to her work, passion, and brilliance. During this time, I have come to know her in several capacities, from her role as a mentor in our shared work in Hawaiian issues, to a colleague developing programs in support of Hawaiian student success, as well as in her community service and activism.

Over the last eight years, I have worked closely with Professor Dukelow implementing several projects for a few grant projects we serve as principal investigators for, strengthening the pipeline between UH Maui and UH Manoa. Our partnership work has included the development of over a half dozen innovative educational programs. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Kahele on these projects, as she brings so much to the partnership and has expanded my thinking about program development and ways to more intentionally and foundationally integrate community into our academic and co-curricular programs.

We are so lucky to have such a brilliant and compassionate scholar like Professor Dukelow in our academic and education community. She is an accomplished scholar, teacher, and activist, yet she is also hyper involved and will rarely turn down invitations to create new programs, speak at a community event, or work with students. Despite her very already busy schedule teaching and mentoring students, she is one of the most involved faculty with our different programming. Kahele is not only a brilliant and hard working scholar, but she also has an unwavering commitment to diversity, equity and justice. Before becoming a professor, her work and activism in Hawaiian education was already well-established and was grounded in important community networks. Our university community is lucky that she brings these networks, passion and pedagogy into her classroom and co-curricular program spaces. As a program facilitator and coordinator working alongside her in some of her teaching spaces, I am always impressed by her classroom pedagogy and the ways she weaves community engagement into our work and learning.

Another role I have seen Kahele in is some of her administrative and committee work, like seeing her engagement with Pūko‘a Council and other Hawaiian educational advisory committees. In such settings, Kahele provides important insight and feedback at the meetings. Her insight is always poignant yet humble, and therefore is a critical role for a sometimes difficult conversation and charge. Professor Dukelow is particularly successful in these roles, because she is a great partner to many around her, and is therefore highly respected by those who



share committee space with her. Also noteworthy about her collaboration style is her strong work ethic and timeliness of her commitments. She is a pleasure to work with because she is organized, smart and surrounds herself with strong teams.

I consider myself especially fortunate to call Professor Dukelow a colleague and partner. She truly is one of the most brilliant, humble, and incredible leaders I know. Her hard work and commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, freedom and justice is an inspiration to almost everyone around her. Your committee would make a wise decision confirming Professor Dukelow to the Board of Education, because her work, philosophy and overall approach helps us all reimagine what it means to advocate and strive for educational equality and justice.

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:46:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tiffany Nerveza-Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our very own Kahele Dukelow has successfully served her two-years in the Board of Education, and it is time for us to provide testimonies in support of her confirmation to continue to serve on the Board of Education. A confirmation hearing is scheduled for Monday (4/8/24) by the Senate Committee on Education. Having Kahele on the BOE has contributed for our tremendous growth.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

T. Leilani Nerveza-Clark

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

**FROM:** Gail Leilani Kamalani

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the BOE  
Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Gail Leilani Kamalani and I have been a teacher in the Papahana Kaiapuni (Hawaiian Immersion Program) for 29 years. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

I had the privilege of working with Kahele since she was doing her teaching internship at Waiiau Elementary in 1995 and then at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Ānuenuenu where she was one of our strongest teachers. Even though she was one of the newer teachers, she emerged as one of our leaders in matters of curriculum and instruction as well as Hawaiian culture and language. We were all sad to see her leave us to move back to Maui but she has continued to be a leader in Hawaiian education and for the Hawaiian people.

You won't find a more qualified nominee for the Hawaii Board of Education. Kahele understands the Hawai'i Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i system and more importantly, she understands how to make positive changes and create programs within those systems that benefit Hawai'i's students.

In conclusion,

I am asking the Committee on Education to please **confirm** to the **Board of Education**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KAHELE DUKELOW** for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

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

**FROM:** Ryan ‘Ōhai Daniels, PhD

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the BOE  
Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Dr. Ryan ‘Ōhai Daniels and like Kahele Dukelow, I am a product of Hawai‘i’s public education system, a Hawaiian immersion parent, former Aha Kauleo representative, colleague, student and supporter of Kahele Dukelow. I am submitting this written testimony to record my **STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

- In addition to her lifelong commitment extensive experience throughout our state education system, Kahele has been an ardent supporter and champion for Hawaiian immersion education. She has worked tirelessly to revise Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education, and successfully advocated for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools.
- Beyond her professional experience as a teacher at all classroom levels of Hawai‘i’s public education system, Kahele has also collaborated with many of Hawai‘i’s public schools to establish professional development courses for teachers, administer programs that support early college, and obtain grants to support high school pathways, initiatives, programs, and courses.
- As a Hawaiian language professor at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College, Kahele has developed and taught summer bridge programs for high school students, student support initiatives for Hawaiian students, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies field schools and early college courses, making the dream of post-secondary education a reality for many.

In conclusion, I have personally witnessed and collaborated with Kahele and can testify to her qualifications, ability, and dedication toward making a positive impact in the Hawai‘i Board of Education.

I strongly urge the Committee on Education to **confirm** to the **Board of Education**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KAHELE DUKELOW** for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**E OLA MAU KA ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I!!!**

**Sheri Daniels, EdD**  
363 Ohaa Street  
Kahului HI 96732

April 4, 2024

Aloha Chair Kidani and Senate Education Committee:

**RE: Letter of SUPPORT for Kaheleonalani Dukelow**

I am in full support of confirming Kaheleonalani Dukelow to serve as a member on the Board of Education.

Kahele is more than an educator, she is a motivator, a staunch advocate for our entire community. She does not back down from learning and better understanding the work needed to uplift and support education.

As not only a product of the public school system, having graduated on Maui, she is an educator, having taught students and families in the Kaiapuni program, and she herself is a parent of keiki who went through the kaiapuni system on Maui.

She has high work ethics and bring a tremendous amount of integrity to the relationships and interactions she has. She puts "whats the right thing to do" FIRST and does not lose sight of her community and where she came from. I appreciate her honesty and willingness to have open, honest conversations (even when hard) because including all-voices matter.

Kahele is about action and not just words. If she commits, she is all in. She works hard and doesn't give up which is demonstrated in her moving through the ranks at UHMC and in how she supports others to achieve and give 110% of their efforts! She is a mentor to many!

I STRONGLY encourage the committee to confirm Ms. Kaheleonalani Dukelow to the Board of Education because we need her voice for our communities.

Me Ka Ha'aha'a

*Sheri Daniels*

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

**FROM:** Antoinette Kanoelani Kealoha  
Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the BOE  
Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

My name is Antoinette Kanoelani Kealoha and I am a former kaiapuni parent and I am currently a kumu at Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Waimānalo and the school's representative on 'Aha Kauleo. I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - *The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.***

- Kahele is a product of public education and have been working in various capacities in our Hawaii public education and University system for nearly 30-years
- For the last 13 years, Kahele has served on the Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During this time, the Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education were revised, the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education which continues to guide Kaiapuni education was created, and she successfully advocated for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. This made Hawaii the first state to accomplish such a feat.
- Kahele has worked with many schools as a part of her job at the University of Hawaii Maui College. She administered early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, obtained grants to support high school pathways and initiatives, and gave presentations on the history of Hawaiian language in education in Hawaii.

In conclusion, I am in strong support of Kahele Dukelow's confirmation to the Board of Education. I fully urge the Committee on Education to **confirm** to the **Board of Education**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KAHELE DUKELOW** for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**E OLA MAU KA 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I!!!**

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 1:48:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Ka'aihili Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,**

**My name is Leimomi Ka'aihili Leong and I am a parent of two public school students, a DOE teacher, an active HSTA member, an active 'Aha Kauleo member and citizen. I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

Kahele Dukelow has a history of bring growth and improvement to any Board she is a part of. She is a community leader who is well respected. Kahele has a reputation for improving systematic changes in education and the Board of Education and Department of Education could use someone who is a community leader who is able to improve systems for the betterment of Hawai'i. Having Kahele as a BOE member brings a little more EQUITY to the views of the BOE so **I urge the Committee on Education to confirm to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 3:36:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lui Hokoana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the State Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Kahele Dukelow who is up for confirmation to the Board of Education. I believe Ms. Dukelow has demonstrated she is committed to do the work, has the ability to do the work, and is passionate about the work of the Board of Education.

Ms. Dukelow has been working as an interim board member since last year. She knows what the workload is like and has been able to meet her responsibilities here at Maui College and the Board of Education. Prior to coming to work at Maui College she spent many years as a Department of Education Hawaiian immersion teacher. I believe this experience makes her empathetic towards the needs of our teachers and unique programs within the Department of Education.

During the wildfires Ms. Dukelow was on the ground helping to respond to the needs of our Lahaina students. She continues to assist with meetings with immersion families and teachers to assist with the deliberations that are occurring due to the impact of the wildfires. I know that DOE administrators ask for her advice about how to deal with some of the issues that our schools are facing in Lahaina.

Lastly, Ms. Dukelow is committed to this work because she is a proud product of the Hawaii public school system. She is an education leader and is held in high esteem by her colleagues and peers. But, I know she does this work because of her desire to be a servant to her community and it brings her joy to serve in this capacity. I have known Ms. Dukelow since we were kindergarteners at Waihee elementary school and I am proud to support her confirmation to the Hawaii Board of Education.

With warm regards,

Lui K Hokoana, EdD



April 5, 2024

Antoinette L. Freitas  
99-1040 Pu'umakani Street  
'Aiea, HI 96701

Aloha Chair Kidani, and the members of the Senate Education Committee:

I write in **strong support of GM 520** which calls for the confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the Board of Education (BOE) for a term to expire June 30, 2026. I am Antoinette Freitas, a resident of Hālawauka on O'ahu island. I have known Kahele Dukelow for over 25 years, having first met her at the UH Mānoa campus as an undergraduate student. Throughout the years our paths have crossed through various professional, community, and cultural endeavors. Thus, I can attest to her steadfast dedication to advancing public education.

Kahele Dukelow characterizes the ideal candidate for a Board member, possessing two essential qualities: firsthand teaching experience in Hawai'i classrooms and a pragmatic understanding of policymaking within the local public education system. Her record speaks volumes to her capabilities and commitment.

Notably, Ms. Dukelow's tenure of 13 years on the 'Aha Kauleo underscores her proactive engagement in shaping BOE policies on Hawaiian education. Her role in advocating for a credible assessment framework for Hawaiian language schools is a testament to her effectiveness in prompting positive change. It is worth highlighting that her advocacy efforts led to Hawai'i achieving a significant milestone as the first state to implement such an assessment model.

Furthermore, in her capacity as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at UH Maui College, Dukelow brings a wealth of insights into student academic success. Her contributions range from developing and facilitating summer bridge programs for high school students to developing initiatives aimed at supporting Hawaiian students. Additionally, her involvement in Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies field schools, as well as early college courses, underscores a versatile approach toward enhancing educational pathways.

As we confront the impending challenges of our island society, including issues such as natural disasters, and political and social cohesion, the significance of decisive leadership within the BOE cannot be overstated. Kahele Dukelow embodies the qualities necessary to steer educational policy and

programming toward holistic solutions based on experience. It is for these reasons that I urge your committee to confirm Kahele Dukelow to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antoinette Freitas". The script is cursive and fluid.

Antoinette L. Freitas, Phd

Hālawauka, 'Ewa, O'ahu island

April 4, 2024

Aloha pumehana e nā Kenekoa / Greetings Members of the Senate,

I strongly support Dr. Kahele Dukelow's confirmation as a member of the Hawai'i Board of Education. Grounded in Hawaiian cultural values, Dr. Dukelow possesses a wealth of knowledge and decades of experience in Hawaiian education spanning from elementary to higher education. As an educational and community leader, her commitment is unwavering in assuring access to quality educational opportunities. As a Hawaiian language professor at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, she serves Hawai'i's communities through the development and implementation of summer bridge programs for high school students, including student support initiatives for Hawaiian students, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies field schools, and early college courses. As such, Dr. Dukelow will continue to contribute an essential voice for the Hawaiian community as a Board of Education member.

Me ka 'oia'i'o/Sincerely,

Dr. Makalapua Alencastre

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 8:16:48 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Irwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**FROM:** Robert Kai Irwin, M.Ed.

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the BOE**

Hearing April 8, 2024

Aloha mai e na poo a me na lala o ka Aha Olelo,

I am Robert Kai Irwin from Hilo where I graduated from Hilo High and subsequently attained degrees in English, Elementary Education, and a Master's degree in teacher education and curriculum studies from UH Manoa. I served for 13 years as a kaiapuni classroom teacher at Paia, Puohala, and Kamakau schools, and another 18 years as a curriculum and resource developer for Hawaiian language materials at the Hale Kuamoo Hawaiian Language Center at Ka Haka Ula o Keelikolani College of Hawaiian Language at UH Hilo.

I have known Kahele Dukelow for most of this time and have long admired the integrity and degree of her commitment to the perpetuation of Hawaiian language and culture through best practices in contemporary public education. I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - The confirmation to the Board of Education of Gubernatorial Nominee, Kahele Dukelow for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

I support Kahele's confirmation for the following reasons:

- She is a product of public education and has been working in various capacities in our Hawaii public education and University system for nearly 30-years
- For the last 13 years, Kahele has served on the Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During this time, the Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education were revised, the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education which continues to guide Kaiapuni education was created, and she successfully advocated for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. This made Hawaii the first state to

accomplish such a feat. As a community member of the ‘Aha Kauleo, I have observed Kahele’s hard work and well-informed leadership of this body

- Kahele has worked with many schools as a part of her job at the University of Hawaii Maui College. She administered early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, obtained grants to support high school pathways and initiatives, and gave presentations on the history of Hawaiian language in education in Hawaii.

In conclusion, please confirm Kahele to the BOE. I am certain she will provide a much-needed and wise voice to guide decisions regarding Hawaiian language and culture-based education in addition to the other agenda items of the Board.

I urge the Committee on Education to confirm to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kahele Dukelow for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**I ka ‘ōlelo nō ke ola!**

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

**FR:** Pōhai Kūkea Shultz  
Kaiapuni Assessment of Educational Outcomes (KĀ'EO), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**RE: IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM520 - Confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the BOE  
Hearing April 8, 2024**

Aloha mai kākou,

It is my great privilege to provide this testimony in support of **GM520** - The confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026. I am a former elementary school teacher on the Leeward Coast, I have helped to prepare Native Hawaiian teachers for our communities, have worked in student services to recruit Native Hawaiian students into teaching, and am currently the Principal Investigator of the Kaiapuni Assessment of Education Outcomes (KĀ'EO) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I have known Kahele for almost two decades and worked with her in both professional and personal capacities as university colleagues and Kaiapuni parents and advocates. In this work, I have found Kahele to be unwavering in her commitment to Kaiapuni schools, teachers and students; this tenacity, dedication and leadership is something she will continue to bring to her work on the Board for all students of Hawai'i.

For the last 13 years, Kahele has served on the Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During this time, the Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education were revised, the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education, which continues to guide Kaiapuni education was created, and she successfully advocated for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. It cannot be overstated what a significant accomplishment this is – Hawai'i is the first and only state in the nation to use native language assessments for state and federal accountability, a flexibility provided for in the final guidelines of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The development of KĀ'EO started in 2014, and as we mark ten years of appropriate, fair and valid assessments for our Kaiapuni students, it makes sense to recognize how we got here. Without a doubt, Kahele was instrumental in ensuring that the Department of Education revised and then followed the policy that required Hawaiian language assessments for our Kaiapuni students, but it is her steadfast commitment in continuing to hold the Department of Education accountable to Kaiapuni stakeholders, including in assessment, that is simply unparalleled. Kahele consistently ensures that everyone – from Department of Education leadership to Kaiapuni families – understand the history and significance of this assessment as a means for educational equity. I can think of no one better to be an advocate for all of Hawai'i's students on the Board of Education for our future generations.

I urge the Committee on Education to **confirm** to the **Board of Education**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **KAHELE DUKELOW** for a term to expire 06-30-2026. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support.

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 10:07:11 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am a cultural educator covering students of the P-20 sector and has had the pleasure of working with and under Kahele Dukelow both in the capacity as a Hawaiian Immersion kumu in my earlier years as well as a Hawaiian Studies lecturer at UH Maui College. I am writing in full support of her confirmation on the Board of Education.

ke aloha nui,

Kilia Purdy-Avelino, Moloka'i

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 2:43:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgette Nohea Stevens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I am Georgette Nohea Stevens, a resident of Nānākuli. I support the confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Within our Wai‘anae moku, we are working on having ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i spoken by everyone within 50 years. Having Kahele on the board will help not only our community but others to speak the official language of our state.

Mahalo piha,

Georgette Nohea Stevens



## Testimony to the Senate Confirmation Hearing Regarding GM 520

4/8/2024

**To:** Senate Committee on Education  
**From:** Dr. Margaret J. Maaka PhD and Dr. K. Laiana Wong PhD  
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa  
**Re:** Confirmation of Professor Kaheleonalani Dukelow’s Seat on the Board of Education in 2024

Aloha mai kākou e ke Kōmike,

Eia nō māua ke waiho aku nei i ko māua mana‘o kāko‘o piha i ke noi a kahi hoa pili, a Kaheleonalani Dukelow (Kahele) ho‘i e hāpai nei i mua o ‘oukou. ‘O ia ho‘i, ma hope mai o kona noho ‘ana ma ka papa alaka‘i o ka Papa Ho‘ona‘auao, mai ka MH 2023 mai a hiki i kēia manawa, ke ‘imi aku nei ‘o ia ala i kā ‘oukou ‘āpono ‘ana i kona noke aku ma loko o ia kūlana ho‘okahi nō. A no māua ho‘i, ua akāka wale nō kona mākaukau me ke akāka o Haleakalā i ka lā mālie! ‘A‘ohe wahi kānalua iki i ko ia ala mākaukau e ho‘okō ai i nā kuleana a pau o ia kūlana, a he kō aku ana nō ia ma ke kūlana he po‘okela a lohe mai ke a‘o. He ‘ekolu kekeke nō a ‘oi ka lō‘ihi o ko mākou kama‘āina ‘ana, a ua ‘ike ‘ia ko Kahele ‘ano ‘o ia ka hiapa‘i‘ole ma ka paio ‘ana no ka pono o nā keiki o Hawai‘i nei, a me ka pono ho‘i o ko lākou ho‘ona‘auao ‘ia ma o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. ‘A‘ohe lua e like ai! I loko o ia mau makahiki, he nui hewahewa nā paio ‘ana, a ma nā paio huliāmahi a pau, ke nānā aku i ka po‘e alaka‘i, ‘a‘ole nō e nele ka ‘ike ‘ia o Kahele i laila.

Eia nō kākou i kēia wā ke ‘ike nei i ka holomua ‘ana o ka Papahana Kaiapuni. Kainō ua lilo ia i mea e noho nani ai. ‘A‘ole kā! I loko nō o ke kū ‘ana o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i i ‘ōlelo kūhelu no ke aupuni e kū nei, a me ka ‘ae ‘ia o ko Hawai‘i mau pua e ho‘ona‘auao ‘ia ma o ia ‘ōlelo aloha o kākou, he mea maopopo iā Kahele ka nui o ka nele e mau nei. ‘A‘ole lawa nā kumu, ‘a‘ole lawa nā haumāna, ‘a‘ole lawa nā puke a me nā ha‘awina, ‘a‘ole lawa nā hale kula, ‘a‘ole lawa ke kāko‘o a ke aupuni, ‘a‘ole lawa ka ho‘opuka ‘ia o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i i waho o ke ākea, a me ia mea aku ia mea aku. He au nele ‘i‘o nō. A ma hope o nā ahi i ho‘oneo a ho‘opau aku ho‘i iā Lāhainā i kēlā makahiki aku nei, he mea ko‘iko‘i loa ka noho ‘ana o kekahi kanaka o Maui ma luna o ka Papa Ho‘ona‘auao nāna e nānā i ka pono o nā keiki o Lāhainā!

Eia nō ‘o Kahele ke noke nei i ka ‘imi ‘ana i ala e ho‘olako ai i ko Hawai‘i a puni i ia mau mea. Ma o ka heluhelu ‘ana aku i kona mo‘omō‘ali hana e ‘ike ‘ia ai ka loa a me ka laulā o kāna mau hana i lawelawe ai no ka pono o ka ho‘ona‘auao ‘ana i nā keiki a pau o Hawai‘i. A i loko nō o ka nui o kona paio ‘ana no ka pono o ko lākou ho‘ona‘auao ‘ia ma o ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, ua maopopo iā ia ka mana‘o o nā kūpuna, ‘o ia ho‘i, e hili hewa nō ka mana‘o ke ‘ole ke kūkākūkā. No laila, ma o ke kūkākūkā e ‘ike ai ‘o ia ala he pono ko nā kānaka a pau, a he mea kūpono ka nānā ‘ana i ke kanaka nui a me ke kanaka iki, a me ko lākou mau nu‘u like ‘ole e kūlia nei.

So, after having said all that, here we are reiterating, albeit in English, that the range of Kahele’s qualifications and experiences in the field of education, particularly in Hawaiian language medium education, is critical to the success of public education in Hawai‘i. There is much to be done to improve Hawaiian language medium education so that it can operate on par with its English counterpart, both of which are recognized as “official” languages under the laws of the state. We believe Kahele to be eminently qualified for the task, and as such, we offer her application our highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Margaret J. Maaka, UHM College of Education  
Dr. K. Laiana Wong, UHM Kawaihuelani Center for Hawaiian Language

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/6/2024 8:36:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Lei Ishikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly support GM520 and the appointment of Kahele Dukelow to the Board of Education and confirmation by the legislature in this 2024 session.

- Dukelow is a product of public education and have been working in various capacities in the Hawai‘i public education and University system for nearly 30 years.
- For the last 13 years, Dukelow have served on the ‘Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During this time, we have revised Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education, created the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education, which still guides Kaiapuni education today, and successfully advocated for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. This made Hawai‘i the first state to accomplish such a feat.
- Dukelow have worked with many schools as part of her job at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College. She administered early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, grants to support high school pathways and initiatives, and gave presentations on the history of Hawaiian language in education in Hawai‘i.
- She is a professor in Hawaiian language here at the University of Hawai‘i Maui College. Dukelow have developed and taught summer bridge programs for high school students, student support initiatives for Hawaiian students, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies field schools and early college courses.

I have known Kahele Dukelow for over thirty years as a parent, teacher, peer, and as a leader in the community. Her outstanding advocate for excellence in education is proven in her history in recent wildfires of Maui. Her leadership and quick response to the needs of the students and families in Lahaina by connecting resources directly to the survivors and families.

I greatly support the appointment of Kahele Dukelow to the Board of Education. Mahalo for your support.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lori Lei Ishikawa

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/6/2024 9:50:16 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie Kaomea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

I write in strong support of Kaheleonolani Dukelow's confirmation to the Board of Education. Kahele Dukelow is a product of Hawai'i's public education system and has worked in the Hawai'i Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i for the past 30 years.

She has served for over a decade on the statewide council for Hawaiian language schools and played an important role in the revision of the Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education, the creation of the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education, and the development and implementation of Hawaiian language immersion school assessment.

As a professor at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, she has administered early college programs in our public high schools, conducted professional development courses for teachers, and secured grants to support high school pathways and initiatives.

I support her confirmation most highly and without reservation.

Ke aloha,

Julie Kaomea

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/6/2024 10:00:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Curren Ohama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Curren Ohama , a father of a haumana who attends Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Maui definitely supports GM520. We need Dukelow in that seat on the Board of Education. A person with vision to see far and wide but also is wiling to put in the work as she's shown all these years in education.

All of Hawaii will benefit from her sitting in that seat.

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/6/2024 10:17:45 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask that you Support Kahele Dukelow as an essential member of the Board of Education. She is instrumental in the current thriving Hawaiian language, robust Hawaiian studies program at UHMC, wide scope education, advocacy, cultural preservation, inclusion, and genuine asset to Hawaii and the Board of education.

Please support her as an essential BOE member for 2 years.  
Blessings, Pahnelopi McKenzie

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 10:17:43 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shavonn Matsuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to serve on the Board of Education. With nearly three decades of dedication to education in Hawai‘i and a wealth of experience in various capacities within the Hawai‘i public education and university system, Kahele is exceptionally qualified to contribute to the important work of the Board of Education.

During Kahele's impressive tenure on the ‘Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools, significant advancements were made in Hawaiian education policies and practices. Through Kahele's leadership, the council revised Board of Education policies, developed the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education, and spearheaded the development and implementation of rigorous and robust assessment for Hawaiian language schools. These achievements not only demonstrate Kahele's deep commitment to advancing Hawaiian education but also highlight her ability, in collaboration with the community, to enact meaningful change within our education system.

At the University of Hawai‘i Maui College, Kahele has played a pivotal role in administering early college programs, providing professional development opportunities for DOE teachers, and securing grants to support high school pathways and initiatives. Her dedication to fostering partnerships between K-12 schools and the university has been instrumental in enhancing and expanding educational opportunities for both students and teachers across Maui Nui.

Kahele's fluency in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is a testament to her commitment to Hawaiian language revitalization, particularly within the educational landscape. Given that ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i holds the status of a state language, it is crucial that Board members possess proficiency in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Kahele's proficiency ensures effective communication within Hawaiian language immersion and charter schools, and serves as a catalyst for broader efforts to foster inclusivity and promote Hawaiian knowledge systems, which are integral to our educational objectives. Furthermore, Kahele's research and expertise in contemporary educational methodologies underscore her ability to navigate complex educational issues while remaining firmly grounded in both tradition and innovation, making her an invaluable asset to the Board of Education.

In conclusion, Kahele possesses the vision, experience, and dedication needed to serve effectively on the Board of Education. Her longstanding commitment to public education in Hawai‘i, coupled with her proven track record of leadership and ingenuity, make her an exceptional candidate for this important role. I urge you to confirm Kahele Dukelow to the Board

of Education, where she will undoubtedly continue to make significant contributions to the advancement of education for Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Shavonn Matsuda

Lehua M. Veincent, Ph.D.  
30 Pilipa'a Street  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

RE: GM520 - Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, KAHELE DUKELOW, for a term to expire 06-30-2026

Aloha Chair Michelle Kidani and Senate Education Committee:

I am in full support gubernatorial appointment of KAHELE DUKELOW to the Hawai'i Board of Education for a term to expire on June 30, 2026. Kahele is the right person to serve on the Board of Education for all of Hawai'i's keiki.

Although I am writing as an individual, I have been an educator (teacher and educator) from Grades K-12 for the past 38 years in the public (25 years) and private (13 years) school systems. In the public school system, I have served as a DOE teacher and administrator in Hawaiian Language Immersion programs and regular education programs. I have also served as a State of Hawai'i charter school teacher and administrator. I am currently serving as high school principal of Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i high school. I also serve as one of nine State Commissioners for the Hawai'i State Public Charter Schools office.

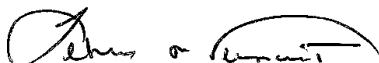
It is for the reasons below that I believe that Kahele Dukelow is the right person to continue her work on the Hawai'i State Board of Education:

- She is a product of public education and have been working in various capacities in the Hawai'i public education and University system for nearly 30 years.
- For the last 13 years, she has served on the 'Aha Kauleo, a statewide council for Hawaiian language schools. During this time under her leadership, they have revised Board of Education policies on Hawaiian education, created the Foundational and Administrative Framework for Kaiapuni Education, which still guides Kaiapuni education today, and successfully advocated for the development and implementation of a valid and reliable assessment for Hawaiian language schools. This made Hawai'i the first state to accomplish such a feat.
- She has worked with many schools as part of my job at the University of Hawai'i Maui College. She administered early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, grants to support high school pathways and initiatives, and gave presentations on the history of Hawaiian language in education in Hawai'i.
- As a professor in Hawaiian language at the University of Hawai'i Maui College, she has developed and taught summer bridge programs for high schools students, student support initiatives for Hawaiian students, Hawaiian language and Hawaiian Studies field schools and early college courses.

I humbly ask the Senate Education Committee to support our governor's nominee and confirm Kahele Dukelow to the Hawai'i State Board of Education.

I respectfully submit this testimony to the public record in full support of Kahele Dukelow to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Mahalo,



Lehua M. Veincent, Ph.D.  
Hilo, Hawai'i



April 8, 2024

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

RE: Submitting support of GM 520 for confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Kahele Dukelow

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and members of the Committee,

I am honored to submit this letter in support of GM 520 which calls for the confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the Board of Education. I have worked with Kahele for over 20 years at UH Maui College, first as instructional faculty and most recently as fellow administrators, with her leadership as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

Kahele's experience, knowledge, skills, and accomplishments make her uniquely qualified for this role. In addition to her excellent teaching which has been recognized by numerous awards, she has a record of integrity, a strong commitment to educational leadership, and a profound understanding of best practices in educational governance. While she has many qualifications relevant to this position, her ability to navigate educational governance is especially relevant.

During Kahele's leadership as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, the college has gone through the COVID 19 pandemic, resulting budget constraints, and the Maui wildfires. During these challenging policy and budget eras, she has consistently facilitated thorough and cooperative decision processes involving faculty and staff leadership rooted in shared governance principles. She establishes clear guidelines for discussion and ensures that faculty-generated data, student feedback, industry input, and community information are integrated. By conducting detailed analysis and encouraging broad participation, tough decisions are informed by a blend of quantitative and qualitative data, carefully balancing the needs of students, faculty, staff, and the community to ensure the institution's long-term viability and ability to fulfill its mission. Despite the numerous challenges the college has faced during the past couple of years, the college is most recently experiencing a rebound in enrollment and growth as a result of her leadership.

With nearly 30 years of experience in public education, Kahele's commitment to education is undeniable. With extensive experience in the UH system and DOE, along with her work with community, county, and state groups, she is in an ideal position to help the board fulfill its long-term vision for Hawaii's public education. Knowing the rules and responsibilities of each role and entity makes her even more effective. Having taught with the DOE and more recently contributing from UH Maui College to early college programs, professional development courses for teachers, and grants supporting high school initiatives, she exhibits a remarkable dedication. Her passion for education, coupled with her extensive background, underscores her commitment to the betterment of education at all levels across the state of Hawai'i. For these reasons, I support GM 520 which calls for the confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the Board of Education.

Laura Lees Nagle

Dean of Career and Technical Education

UH Maui College

Date: April 7, 2024

To: Senate, Committee on Education

From: Maluhia Low

Re: GM520, Kahele Dukelow, Board of Education

Aloha e Chair Kidani and Education Committee,

I am in strong support of GM520, the gubernatorial nomination of Kahele Dukelow to continue in the Board of Education for an additional two more years.

I am a former student of Kahele Dukelow at Maui College. Under her guidance, I pursued a BA in Hawaiian Studies, followed by an M.A. in Political Science. I am currently a Ph.D. student in Political Science, specializing in Indigenous Politics at the University of Hawai'i. In other words my academic mo'okū'auhau or genealogy is a direct result of her mentorship, support, and dedication to advancing not only my education but also that of the broader community. Today, I am honored to work under her supervision at Maui College as an academic support specialist for the Hoapili Teachers Pathway Program, which she spearheads. This experience allows me to offer a unique perspective as both a former student and colleague of Kahele Dukelow.

As a student, I have directly witnessed Kahele's unwavering commitment as an educator. She embodies what I consider to be an aloha 'āina pedagogy, deeply rooted in Hawai'i's ethos—a profound love and reverence for our lands and people, encompassing both the descendants of Hawai'i and those who call it home. This approach fosters an inside-out perspective, where teaching emanates from our inherent knowledge and experiences, rather than imposing external narratives onto us. By prioritizing this perspective, students not only acquire a breadth and depth of knowledge but also develop a profound understanding of identity and kuleana—the responsibility and privilege to care for our communities. Kahele instills in us the ethics of aloha 'āina, encouraging us to extend care and knowledge to our communities, encompassing people, places, and ecological systems, thereby safeguarding the stability and futurity of Hawai'i and all its facets. In essence, her educational philosophy and practice challenge students to be shaped by Hawai'i, with the understanding that in doing so, we, in turn, shape Hawai'i—a reciprocal relationship that ensures our collective growth and well-being.

As a member of her team, I am deeply inspired by how Kahele's passion for education permeates every aspect of her life. Not only does she possess remarkable intelligence in navigating complex situations, but she also demonstrates fearless determination when confronted with daunting challenges. Drawing from her extensive experience in both public and university education, Kahele adeptly devises strategies to ensure that educational opportunities are accessible to all, regardless of socio-economic status or time constraints. A prime example of her innovative approach is the Hoapili Teachers Pathway Program. This initiative is specifically designed to cater to educational assistants, long-term substitutes, emergency hires, as well as high school and college students aspiring to become teachers. Recognizing the economic realities in Hawai'i, where individuals may be unable to leave their full-time jobs or families to pursue higher education, Kahele has implemented flexible arrangements within the Hoapili Program. By offering online courses and scheduling sessions after work hours, she ensures that the program accommodates the diverse needs of our community members without demanding sacrifices to their livelihoods.

Kahele's unwavering dedication to making educational systems more inclusive and accommodating exemplifies her commitment to empowering all members of our community. Therefore, I am completely

confident Kahele will remain a strong advocate for students, teachers, and our community as an invaluable member of the Board of Education.

Mahalo nui,  
Maluhia Low

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 1:06:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monica Morris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Monica Morris, and I am in strong support of GM520, which nominates Kahele Dukelow to the State Board of Education to represent Maui County. Ms. Dukelow is a proud product of Hawaii's public education system, having attended Waihee Elementary and Baldwin High School on Maui, and received her B.A. in Hawaiian Studies and Master's degree in Education from the University of Hawai'i-Manoa. She is also currently the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs at the University of Hawai'i-Maui College. She will bring her immense personal experience in Hawai'i's public education system to her work on the State Board of Education representing Maui County. I join many in asking for your support of Kahele Dukelow to serve on this important Board. Maui County needs our help and support. Please vote in support of GM520. Mahalo Nui Loa. With Aloha, Monica Morris

**TO: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**  
**Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair**  
**Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair**

**FROM: Ho‘oleia Ka‘eo**

**RE: GM502 – Kahele Dukelow, Board of Education**

**Hearing on April 8th, 2024**

***IN STRONG SUPPORT of GM 502***

Welina ke aloha e Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim & Ka ‘Aha Kenekoa Kōmike  
Ho‘ona‘auao,

I am writing in full support of Kahele Dukelow’s confirmation to the Board of Education.

‘O Ho‘oleia Ka‘eo ko‘u inoa. I am Kahele’s daughter and a graduate student in Public Health Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I can personally attest to her dedication to education in her professional career and personal life.

She has been involved in various capacities as an educational and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i advocate for the past three decades, which she has continuously served in addition to her professional obligations. As a former Kula Kaiapuni teacher, she always carried the experience and lessons from the classroom to other roles in administration and higher education.

It is not only her professional background that is deserving of this appointment, it is also her integrity, work ethic, and leadership that precedes her. She is especially effective in bringing together stakeholders and community members to tackle pressing and complex issues, evident in the strides she has made in the past few months on the board.

She is driven by her kuleana to all students and a vision for a better future for Hawai‘i and will continue to work tirelessly towards this goal. I am certain that she will bring unique and critical perspectives as an asset to this board. Please support Kahele Dukelow’s appointment to the Board of Education.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Ho‘oleia Ka‘eo  
Mānoa, O‘ahu

**LATE**

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 10:48:26 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anela Iwane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kakoo piha.

**LATE**

**GM-520**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 11:03:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Tanigawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dana Tanigawa and I support the confirmation of Kahele Dukelow to the Board of Education for another term as board member. She has done a tremendous job at supporting public education and a key advocate for Maui schools, particularly our kaiapuni schools.

Mahalo,

Dana Tanigawa