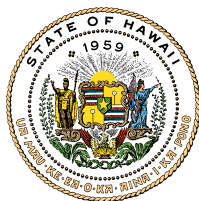


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

Hearing Date: April 3, 2024
Time: 3:01 PM
Location: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
Committee: Senate Education

Person Testifying: Teri Ushijima, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Hawaii'i State Department of Education
Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design

Measure Title: GM523

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, gubernatorial nominee, DONDRA OZAKI, for a term to expire 06-30-2026.

Position: Support

Aloha Chair and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Governor's recommendation of Dondra Ozaki for the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board (GM523). In my role as the Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design (OCID) at the Hawaii'i State Department of Education, I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Ozaki on several key initiatives as she served on our State Distance Learning Program (SDLP) team.

During Ms. Ozaki's time with OCID, she consistently demonstrated leadership and a commitment to mentoring and supporting her colleagues. She played a pivotal role in guiding new curriculum developers through the intricacies of crafting effective instructional materials. Her expertise proved invaluable in empowering teachers to create high-quality curricula for their assigned subjects.

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Ms. Ozaki's dedication to excellence extends beyond the classroom walls. She actively volunteered on the State Standards Board Committee tasked with revising online teacher certification standards. Her willingness to contribute to the betterment of online education demonstrates her commitment to setting high bars for all educators. Even after transitioning from a full-time role with SDLP, Ms. Ozaki remains a valuable asset to OCID. She continues to contribute as a curriculum writer and is instrumental in developing exceptional social studies materials for our elementary program. These resources have the potential to positively impact the teaching experience for countless educators across the state.

Dondra Ozaki embodies the leadership, expertise, and unwavering dedication to improving teacher quality that the Hawaii Teachers Standards Board seeks. Her appointment would be a significant asset to our education system. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Teri Ushijima', with a stylized flourish at the end.


Teri Ushijima, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
EWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
91-1280 RENTON ROAD
EWA, HAWAII 96706
PHONE: (808) 307-8200
FAX: (808) 681-8206

Date: April 2, 2024

To: Hawaii State Senate Education Committee

From: Stan Tamashiro 
Principal

Subject: Testimony in Support of Mrs. Dondra Ozaki (GM523)

Mrs. Dondra Ozaki has been nominated to serve on the Hawaii State Teachers Standards Board for a term that expires on June 30, 2026 and I am writing this letter of support for her nomination.

I have been Mrs. Ozaki's principal since she transferred to Ewa Elementary School in July 2006, except for one year when she was an Instructional Coach for our State Distance Learning Program. During these eighteen years of working with Mrs. Ozaki, she has served our students, colleagues and school in a variety of positions from General Education Classroom Teacher to an English Language Teacher to a Grade Level Instructional Support Teacher to Grade Level Support/Instructional Leadership Team Member/Instructional Coach and now as our Student Services Coordinator.

In each of her roles, Mrs. Ozaki demonstrated a very high level of professionalism, dedication and commitment to education. Whether as a classroom teacher or as a coach, Mrs. Ozaki shared many strategies and procedures with her colleagues after conducting her own research as well as after having discussions with our Instructional Leadership Team Members. Her range of experiences with varying degrees of responsibility has provided Mrs. Ozaki with a strong foundation and background to provide suggestions and guidance to teachers in her new role as one of our Student Services Coordinator.

As her resume indicates, Mrs. Ozaki has served in many leadership capacities and has also participated in a variety of training/conferences which provides her a well rounded background to serve as a member of the Hawaii State Teachers Standards Board. I am highly recommending Mrs. Ozaki for this position.

GM-523

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 1:07:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/3/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shari-Lyn Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to submit the nomination of Dondra Ozaki for consideration and confirmation by the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Dondra brings a wealth of experience, dedication, and passion for education that I believe will serve the board and the educational community of Hawai'i exceptionally well.

Dondra's experiences in the field have consisted of a variety of positions that have given her different perspectives that would serve well on the board. Her multiple perspectives as a classroom teacher of different grade levels along with being a curriculum/instructional lead to a student services coordinator have given her a multitude of experiences that would benefit the children of Hawaii.

As a classroom teacher, she not only possesses a unique ability to engage and inspire students of diverse backgrounds and learning styles but she has taught using innovative teaching methods with a genuine enthusiasm for the subject matter, creating an environment conducive to active learning and academic growth. I have seen firsthand how Dondra goes above and beyond to ensure that each of her students receives the support and encouragement they need to succeed.

As our school's lead in curriculum and instruction, Dondra possesses a unique blend of expertise in pedagogy, leadership, and mentorship that makes her an outstanding candidate. Her deep understanding of curriculum design, instructional strategies, and assessment techniques enables her to provide meaningful support and guidance to fellow educators. She consistently demonstrates a commitment to fostering a culture of continuous improvement and professional growth. She excels at identifying individual strengths and areas for development among teachers, and provides targeted, personalized coaching that empowers educators to enhance their practice and achieve their professional goals. Dondra is a natural leader and collaborator who excels at building positive relationships and fostering a sense of community among colleagues. Her excellent communication skills and genuine empathy make her a trusted mentor.

As a Student Service Coordinator, Dondra consistently demonstrates a commitment to advocating for the needs and interests of all students. She excels at building positive relationships with student representatives and fostering open dialogue to ensure that student voices are heard and valued within the decision-making process.

Dondra's commitment to fostering inclusive and equitable learning environments aligns perfectly with the mission and goals of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board. Her dedication and

commitment to provide every child with a quality education, her ability to promote professionalism and teaching excellence will be key to building public confidence in the teaching profession. I have full confidence in Dondra's ability to fulfill the responsibilities of this position with integrity, diligence, and a genuine concern for the well-being and success of Hawai'i's students, teachers, and educational institutions.

Thank you,

Shari Yamamoto

GM-523

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 8:56:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/3/2024 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracey Uchishiba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 2, 2024

Dear President Kouchi and Members of the Senate:

I support Dondra Ozaki's confirmation for the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board. Dondra was my child's third grade teacher who fostered student success and high standards. Her teaching excellence was demonstrated through strategies she used to meet the needs of various learners. I also had the privilege of working with her professionally. She was our Grade Level Chairperson (GLC) and part of the school's Instructional Leadership Team (ILT). She collaborated with grade level teachers to promote teacher excellence that ultimately benefited students, the school and the community.

Sincerely,

Tracey Uchishiba, parent and teacher