

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 0710 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARY HATTORI, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

**Purpose of Bill:**

**Department's Position:**

As the Hawaii State Department of Education Superintendent, I support Dr. Mary Hattori's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board). Dr. Hattori's professional experiences, commitment to education and deep knowledge of Hawaii's diverse Pacific Island cultures will provide invaluable insights for the Board.

Dr. Hattori's professional experience illustrates her leadership and expertise. As the Director of the Pacific Islands Development Professional Development Program at the East-West Center, she has provided strategic guidance for initiatives that promote collaboration and development across the Pacific region. She has also served as an Affiliate Graduate Faculty member at the University of Hawaii and Chaminade University. I am confident she will be a strong partner to advance our state's educational equity and excellence.

I appreciate Dr. Hattori's willingness to serve on the Board. I support Dr. Hattori'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 710.



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 strongly supports GM710**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mary Hattori, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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 strongly support the nomination of Mary Hattori, as our team has had the privilege of seeing her leadership firsthand over the course of many years. In particular, she has been a fierce and empathetic advocate for Pacific Islanders in Hawaii and around the world. We've participated in events she has organized, such as the Celebrate Micronesia Festival, and we've seen the pride and solidarity she has cultivated with kids and families who can often feel disrespected and invisible.

She brings multifaceted interests and perspectives, including the impact of technology, culture, and workforce development in education. She is a deep and reflective thinker, and we are confident she will tackle each issue she encounters on the BOE with nuance and care.

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 GM710, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mary Hattori, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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 Mr. Hattori's impressive work with Pacific Islanders and her experience as an educator and a prolific researcher. 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

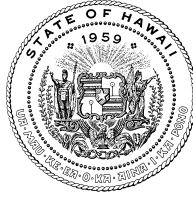
Wesley Lo brings his prior experience as a member of the BOE and his extensive experience in the health industry. As you know DOE serves students who have many physical and mental health challenges. I have known and worked with Wes since 2010 and know that he brings diligence, thoughtfulness, and persistence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





EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of  
**Josh Green, M.D.**  
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Education**

Monday, April 8, 2024  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Videoconference

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message No. 710**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 710, appointment of Dr. Mary Hattori to serve on the Board of Education.

Mary Hattori's is Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program. Before this, she was a Scholarship Program Specialist in the East-West Center's Education Program, Director of the Center for Teaching & Learning and Associate Professor of Education at Chaminade University; Outreach Director of the Center for Pacific Islands Studies at University of Hawai'i Manoa; and Associate Professor of Information Technology and Director of the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Technology at Kapi'olani Community College.

Mary is a community organizer and advocate for Pacific islanders in Hawai'i, co-organizer of cultural events such as the Annual Cultural Animation Film Festival, the Annual Celebrate Micronesia Festival, Micronesian Women's Summit, and Oceania on the Reel, and teacher/mentor of students in Pacific Studies, Learning Design & Technology, and the UHM & San Francisco State University Educational Doctorate programs which are part of the Carnegie Project on the Educational Doctorate. She is Affiliate Graduate Faculty of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the USC Rossier School of Education. Dr. Hattori is also an author, poet, public speaker, and philanthropist.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 2:25:13 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>
Suzanne Vares-Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the President of the East-West Center, I have had the privilege of witnessing Dr. Mary Hattori's remarkable dedication and transformative impact in the Pacific Islands Development Program and within the Pacific Islands Communities in Hawaii. Dr. Hattori's commitment to the holistic education of Pacific Islands students goes beyond conventional boundaries, as she tirelessly incorporates cultural nuances and familial contexts into her approach. As the Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program, she not only imparts knowledge, but fosters leadership development crucial for the Pacific Islands sustainable growth. Dr. Hattori's extensive expertise and understanding will bring a vital perspective to the Hawaii State Board of Education, ensuring that policies and decisions are informed by the diverse needs and aspirations of all students.



Date: April 5, 2024

To: Senate, Committee on Education

From: Micronesians United-Big Island (MU-BI)  
Masao D Ueda Jr, President  
David@mu-bi.org

Re: GM710. Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial nominee, MARY HATTORI, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

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

On behalf of Micronesians United-Big Island (MU-BI), I am writing in strong support of GM710 that calls for the confirmation to the Board of Education, Mary Hattori, for a term to expire 06-30-2027. MU-BI a non-profit advocating for and empowering Micronesians on Hawai'i Island has worked with Ms. Hattori in a variety of educational settings that range from identifying and workshopping the myriad challenges, barriers, and successes of Micronesian students navigating their educational journeys; exploring the possibilities of Micronesian language and culture-based education; developing and promoting K-12 outreach; and engaging in other civic and social issues that both impact and empower our Pacific Islander communities in Hawai'i. MU-BI leadership has witnessed her leadership and commitment to promoting equity of opportunity for our Micronesian youth and community in numerous ways, and we see her as a pillar in our Micronesian community. For instance, Ms. Hattori has provided the keynote address for the annual Remathau (Yapese) graduation ceremony at Wow Wow Park in Kona, participated in the annual Pacific Islander Youth Empowerment for Success (PacYES) conference at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UHH) campus that impacts hundreds of high school and college Pacific Islander students, and engaged in conversations at UHH and in the community about the various social issues facing COFA citizens. With an EdD on culturally responsive education and a suite of professional experiences and academic publications on issues relevant to advancing the educational pathways of Pacific Islanders in Hawai'i, Ms. Hattori would bring a wealth of knowledge and lived experiences to her role as member of the Board of Education.

I respectfully submit this testimony to the public record in full support of confirming Mary Hattori to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Mahalo,



Masao D Ueda Jr

President, Micronesians United-Big Island

**Recommendation for Mary Hattori**  
**Board of Education, State of Hawai'i**

If I were to describe Mary Hattori, adjectives such as dynamic, intuitive, brilliant, and advocate come to mind. I have had the honor of being one of Mary's professors—she is a member of the first graduating cohort for U.H. Mānoa College of Education's Professional Practice Doctorate in Education—and now as a teaching colleague at the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa's College of Education. Dr. Hattori has she blessed me with her incredible wisdom as a Native Chamorro from Guam and I am truly thankful to call her friend.

Mary certainly has a dynamic personality and when given the opportunity, can truly work with others to create and sustain incredibly dynamic teaching and learning experiences. Technology is one of her incredible crafts and I've watched her create places for the technologically challenged like me. She makes the most difficult and complex seem doable and understandable. In addition, her "can do" attitude encourages exploration and discovery, especially for students who are risk adverse. As an educator, I applaud the careful, intentional learning spaces she creates for all learners.

Moreover, she couples that incredible positive attitude with an intuitive nature that allows adult learners to see challenges as opportunities. Mary innately observes her students and creates course work that enables all to showcase their strengths. For example, watching her empower students to not only to problem-solve technology issues that appeared at a World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Education hosted on her campus was like watching a master teacher be supportive and instructive at the same time. Not only is Dr. Hattori the consummate educator but she is also a champion advocate for those who learn from her.

This commitment for and advocacy on behalf of students and in particular, Pacific Islander learners, has been part of her life's work. While recognizing the need for quality research—both quantitative and qualitative—she views academic study, exploration, teaching, and rigor with the lens of indigeneity, particularly when it comes to research in native communities. On more than one occasion, we have shared long discussions about how to teach native peoples as well as how to develop assessment tools that honor and respect their epistemologies, ontologies, and worldviews. I am so fortunate when Ms. Hattori speaks not only about her experiences growing up as a Chamorro woman in Guam but also as an indigenous scholar who continually advocates for creating safe spaces for the growth of students from the West Pacific and Hawai'i. Her experience in Washington D.C. and her in Hawai'i promoting the passage of funding bills to increase educational and health care supports for families transitioning from the West Pacific into the United States must be admired and applauded.

Dr. Hattori's tireless advocacy is matched with a positive, gentle disposition that allows her to work with colleagues to support her and other initiatives. Mary is truly an asset to any committee or board; she is fair, clearly competent and knowledgeable, open-minded and just. I am always amazed when sitting in a team meeting with her and observing her wonderful facilitation.

I am truly honored to write this recommendation for Dr. Mary Hattori. She is dynamic, intuitive, brilliant, a strong advocate, and a true friend. She will undoubtedly be a wonderful contributor to this state's Board of Education. I strong support her candidacy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Walter Kahumoku III  
Director,  
Professional Practice Doctorate in Education  
College of Education  
University of Hawai'i, Mānoa



04/06/2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic endorsement for Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori's nomination as a board member within the Hawaii Board of Education. Having had the distinct privilege of working alongside Dr. Hattori for several years, I can confidently attest to her exceptional dedication, expertise, and unwavering commitment to serving Pacific Island children.

Dr. Hattori is not merely passionate about this cause; it is ingrained in her very essence, shaped by her upbringing and deeply held values. Hailing from the island of Guam, she grew up amidst the vibrant yet often overlooked communities of the Pacific Islands, where she witnessed firsthand the myriad challenges faced by children in accessing quality education, healthcare, and other essential services. Rather than passively observing, Dr. Hattori was driven to action, fueled by a profound sense of responsibility to uplift those around her.

Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Hattori has consistently demonstrated exemplary leadership and innovation in addressing the multifaceted needs of Pacific Island children. Her professional journey, which spans roles in non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, and international development initiatives, reflects a diverse skill set and a deep understanding of the socio-economic and cultural dynamics unique to our region. From spearheading grassroots education initiatives to advocating for policy reforms at the highest levels, Dr. Hattori has left an indelible mark on our community, transforming countless lives in the process.

What truly distinguishes Dr. Hattori is not just her impressive professional credentials, but her unwavering compassion and empathy for those she serves. Whether working with local communities, collaborating with governmental agencies, or engaging with marginalized families, Dr. Hattori approaches her work with humility, respect, and cultural sensitivity. She understands that real change comes from within communities, and she tirelessly empowers Pacific Island children to become architects of their own futures, instilling in them a sense of agency, pride in their cultural heritage, and a belief in their own potential.

I have personally witnessed the transformative impact of Dr. Hattori's initiatives on the lives of Pacific Island children. Through her tireless efforts, children who once faced insurmountable barriers now have access to quality education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Moreover, Dr. Hattori remains steadfast in her commitment to fostering long-term, sustainable change, recognizing that true progress requires not just short-term interventions but systemic reforms that address the root causes of inequality and injustice.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori's candidacy for any role within the Hawaii Board of Education. Her expertise, dedication, and passion for serving underserved Pacific Island children make her an invaluable asset to any team. I am confident that she will continue to make significant contributions to our community and inspire others to join in the pursuit of educational equity and social justice.

Should you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Michael Q. Ceballos

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Q. Ceballos", with a horizontal line underneath.

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April 04, 2024

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

RE: Support for Confirmation to the Board of Education for Mary Hattori

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

I am writing to offer my strong support for the nomination of Mary Hattori as a Board Member for the Board of Education. Mary's appointment to this crucial position holds immense significance, particularly in the context of nurturing Micronesian students well-being and growth in education.

As someone deeply involved in our community and familiar with the challenges faced by Micronesian students in accessing quality education, I firmly believe that Mary Hattori's appointment to the Board of Education would be a transformative step forward. Her extensive experience coupled with her genuine dedication to educational equity make her exceptionally well-suited to address the unique needs of Micronesian students.

Micronesian students often encounter barriers to educational success stemming from cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic factors. Mary's appointment would provide a vital voice advocating for policies and initiatives that promote inclusivity, cultural sensitivity, and tailored support for these students. Her firsthand knowledge and understanding of the challenges facing Micronesian communities would ensure that their voices are heard and their needs prioritized within the education system.

Moreover, Mary's leadership qualities are precisely what is needed to effect positive change for Micronesian students in Hawaii. Her collaborative approach, inclusive decision-making style, and commitment to transparency would foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, including educators, parents, community leaders, and policymakers. By bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise, Mary would help develop comprehensive strategies to address the multifaceted needs of Micronesian students and ensure they have access to the resources and support necessary to thrive academically and socially.

In summary, Mary Hattori's appointment to the Board of Education under GM710 is a pivotal opportunity to advance educational equity and empower Micronesian students in Hawaii. Her advocacy, leadership, and dedication to serving our community make her an exceptional candidate for this important role. I urge you to consider her nomination with utmost seriousness and confidence in her ability to make a meaningful difference in the lives of Micronesian students and our broader educational community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Philios Uruman  
Micronesian Health Advisory Coalition, Philios

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 8:41:53 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>
Zachary Espino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Zachary Espino, and I am writing to express my strong support for Dr. Mary Hattori's nomination to serve as a member of the Hawai'i State Board of Education.

I have the privilege of working with Dr. Hattori in her capacity as the Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program at the East-West Center. In her role, she oversees a department dedicated to a diverse array of initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of communities across the Pacific islands. The founding mission of PIDP, under her guidance, is to empower Pacific Islands' leaders in their pursuit of equitable social and economic development.

Throughout my tenure working alongside Dr. Hattori, I have witnessed her steadfast commitment to advancing the educational and leadership opportunities available to Pacific Islanders. Her unwavering dedication to excellence in all facets of Pacific islands regionalism has been instrumental in enabling numerous leaders to thrive and succeed.

The Hawai'i State Board of Education would benefit very much from her experience and commitment to public education. Mahalo for your kind consideration.



# Vidalino Raatior, Ed.D

Pacific-focused advocate,  
international educator,  
consultant &  
social entrepreneur

## Join

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## Contact

831.200.4265  
[vidraatior@gmail.com](mailto:vidraatior@gmail.com)

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APRIL 5, 2024

Senator Michelle N. Kidani  
Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
32nd Legislature, Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: GM710 - Supporting the consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, MARY HATTORI, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.**

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado, and Committee Members,

It is an honor to write this letter of support for Dr. Mary Hattori for this important role in the State of Hawaii. My support for Dr. Hattori is grounded in my experience as a graduate of UH Manoa's College of Education in which Dr. Hattori served on my doctoral dissertation committee, as the former Director of the Pacific Islander Student Center at UH Hilo in which I collaborated with Dr. Hattori through her previous roles at UH Manoa's Center for Pacific Islands Studies and Chaminade University's Professional Development Program. I've also had the honor to serve with Dr. Hattori on a number of Micronesia-focused programs through our mutual involvement with the Pacific Leadership Assistance Network (PLAN) and the Pacific FocusEd initiatives aimed at supporting the success of Pacific Islanders in the US.

In all of my years of working alongside Dr. Hattori, I have been inspired by her intellect, strong advocate for educational equity, compassionate services in education, and conscientious leadership for the Micronesia community in the State of Hawaii and the entire Pacific region. Dr. Hattori is a fearless warrior for social justice and a proponent of culturally-responsive educational support services. I believe all of her personal and professional qualities will serve her and the Board of Education well in policy-making and other oversight duties.

Our Micronesia community in Hawaii needs Dr. Hattori to continue the legacy of the outgoing BOE member, Shanty Asher in this important role of ensuring the continued support for policies that support equitable and innovative approaches to ensuring the success of all in Hawaii's public school system.

Mahalo nui! Killisou Chapur! Kulo! Kammagar! Mesulang! Kommol tata! Kalahngan! Si Yu'us Ma'ase!.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vidalino Staley Raatior, Ed.D

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:04:16 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>
Lisa DeLong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is with great enthusiasm that I endorse Dr. Mary Hattori for a Board of Education term. With a distinguished career in academia and a demonstrated commitment to community engagement, she brings invaluable insights and sensitivity to the needs of indigenous students. Dr. Hattori has consistently shown a dedication to fostering inclusive educational environments, advocating for culturally responsive teaching practices, and amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities. Her collaborative approach, cultural competence, and passion for equitable education make her an exceptional candidate for this role, poised to contribute significantly to the advancement of educational policies that prioritize the success and well-being of all students, particularly those from indigenous backgrounds.

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:03:49 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>
Jocelyn Romero Demirbag	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mary Hattori would be a gift to the BOE; she is extremely knowledgeable and has the highest integrity in all she does. She is gracious, articulate, and considers all points of view. Hawaii will be well represented by her presence.

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:30:21 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>
Lorna M Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support for consideration and confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee MARY HATTORI to the Board of Education. I have known Ms. Hattori since 2011, as we both were cohort members in the inaugural class of the doctoral EdD program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Ms. Hattori is a strong advocate of all people who are disenfranchised in our community. She works tirelessly to better lives. She is a voice that is needed on the Board of Education because she will work hard to further education for all. She is a person of integrity, compassion, intelligence, and grit. She is a leader who is willing to serve on the Board of Education. I 100% endorse and support her.

Yours Truly,

Dr. Lorna Gomes

April 4, 2024

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

I strongly support Dr. Mary Hattori's nomination as a member of the Hawai'i Board of Education. Grounded in Pacific Island cultural values, Dr. Hattori possesses a wealth of knowledge as an educator and scholar. As an educational and community leader, she is committed to education as she engages in work that empowers underserved and diverse individuals and communities locally and throughout the Pacific. Dr. Hattori possesses a broad base of professional expertise that includes, but is not limited to, teaching, program administration, curriculum development, and educational technology. Additionally, she is skillful in promoting shared understandings of complex issues. As such, Dr. Hattori will contribute a much needed voice and expertise as a Board of Education member.

Me ka 'oia'i'o/Sincerely,

Dr. Makalapua Alencastre

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 4:24:22 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>
Cathy Ikeda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Dr. Mary Hattori's confirmation to the Board of Education. Her extensive work with Pacifica students both in higher education and in K-12 is well known. Her actions in community education, teacher education and government policy shows her dedication to the students that come into our system from our other Oceania neighbors/families. This is a voice that is needed on the Board of Education to represent these underrepresented students.

Mahalo nui,

Dr. Cathy Ikeda

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Members of the Education Committee

From: Dr. Natalie Nimmer

Date: April 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Support of Dr. Mary Hattori's nomination to the Board of Education (GM 710)

Aloha to the members of the Education Committee! Thank you for accepting this testimony in **strong support of Dr. Mary Hattori's nomination to the Board of Education**. I have known Dr. Hattori for 10 years in several capacities: graduate student, community partner, researcher, and friend.

She was—by far—one of the most effective and transformative faculty members I studied with at the University of Hawai'i, where I earned both a master's and doctoral degree. Dr. Hattori's approach to equity and justice in education inspired me to rethink my own career plans and set me on a path that has been both fulfilling and meaningful in ways I could not have imaged before I met her. She showed extreme care and thoughtfulness to extend the support I needed to thrive, even while I battled Stage 3 cancer—including hosting a class session in my living room so I could participate in a group project while I was confined to the couch. This demonstrated her commitment to **provide an equitable learning environment so all students could succeed**.

For years, Dr. Hattori has supported community-based organizations of which I have been a part, including Marshallese Education Day. She has provided expertise, volunteer hours (including asking her family members to show up on early Saturday mornings to help!), in-kind and financial donations, and served as an inspiring keynote speaker. Her keynote speech still sticks with me years later; she delivered an address on "**From Longing to Belonging**", which perfectly expressed the hope for so many students across the Hawaiian Islands. **Her lived experiences reflect the reality of Hawai'i's students**.

Dr. Hattori has a special skill to **identify specific areas of research that can have a meaningful impact on community resilience and student success**. Dr. Hattori engaged in her own research about Indigenous women in leadership, which has served as inspiration for so many young women. She has also helped budding researchers to identify topics that could produce useful results, including a study about Micronesian parents' experiences with the HIDOE and their hopes and dreams for their children's futures, and a study to document an Indigenous learning framework for Marshallese learners and how it overlapped with the Hawaiian Indigenous Learning Framework, the Nā Honua Maui Ola.

In short, Dr. Mary Hattori has a strong drive to ensure equitable learning opportunities so all children can learn and grow, based on her lived experiences as well as her research interests. She would be an ideal candidate for the Board of Education—as an educator, community partner, and researcher.

Mahalo nui loa for considering this perspective as you make the important decision about the make-up of the Board of Education.



*KOKUA KALIHI VALLEY COMPREHENSIVE FAMILY SERVICES*

2239 N. SCHOOL STREET ♦ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819 ♦ TEL: 808-791-9400 ♦ FAX:  
808-848-0979 ♦ [www.kkv.net](http://www.kkv.net)

Testimony on **GM 710**

Submitted by David Derauf MD MPH  
Kokua Kalihi Valley

March 7, 2024

Dear Members of the Committees on Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Dr Mary Hattori. to serve on the Early Learning Board. I have known Dr. Hattori in several capacities but most recently we worked together during the pandemic to support our Pacific Island Communities.

Dr. Hattori has a deep knowledge of and strong working relationship with our Pacific Island Communities in Hawaii and this seems crucial for early education in Hawaii right now. She brings a mature informed perspective and leads with kindness and aloha in all of her work. Her voice will be an essential one to fully inform our states efforts to see young children thrive in school here in Hawaii. I recommend her Wholeheartedly.

Sincerely

David D Derauf MD MPH



April 6, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate, Committee on Education:

It's my honor to support GM 710 - Dr. Marry Hattora's confirmation to the Board of Education. I've known Mary since 2015 when she worked at Kapiolani Community College. That year we were selected to be in the inaugural members of the Wo Global Learning Champions.

In March 2015 Mary and I joined the group and traveled together to Aotearoa and visited Te Wananga O Awanuiarangi and Waiariki Institute of Technology (WIT). Studying how they have aligned pedagogy with indigenous epistemology in the educational programs, we came back with renewed interest and commitment in incorporating place based learning into our curriculum.

As a colleague, I have witnessed Mary's dedication and leadership on indigenous learning and inclusion of Pacific voices. Over the years, Mary has devoted her energy to expanding opportunities and resources for the underserved Pacific islander student population. For example, her work as director and interim director of Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) at East-West Center has equipped her with needed skills and leadership in policy formation and advocacy for the Pacific islanders. I strongly feel that Mary's background and experience with Pacific island development will be of value to the work ahead for the Board of Education. In addition, her expertise on educational informative technology will make her an invaluable asset to the Committee.

I wholeheartedly support Mary's confirmation. Her example will continue to inspire our community.

Yours sincerely,



Liping Liu, Ph.D. CHE  
Professor & Program Coordinator  
Hospitality and Tourism  
University of Hawaii Maui College  
Phone: (808) 984-3328  
[LipingL@hawaii.edu](mailto:LipingL@hawaii.edu)



Pueo Consulting, LLC  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744  
[pueoconsultingllc@gmail.com](mailto:pueoconsultingllc@gmail.com)

April 6, 2024

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

Via Upload for Hearing on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Re: **GM 710 – Board of Education**, Gubernatorial Nominee, **MARY HATTORI**, for a term to expire 06-30-20247 – **STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Dr. Sylvia M. Hussey and I'm the owner of Pueo Consulting, LLC, an education, business and event support consulting professional services provider, that brings 40 years of experiences in business, education and governance to **providing strong support for: Dr. Mary Hattori, Board of Education ("BOE") Nominee.**

I've known Dr. Hattori for over a decade and affirm her expansive and extensive curriculum vitae (CV) experiences, spanning **professional experiences, publications, grants, community leadership, teaching, educational technology computer and information technology, leadership development, speaking engagements, conference presentations, campus talks and performances, and professional development provider.**

In addition to Dr. Hattori's technical and professional experiences, she would bring to the Board of Education **the needed policy, systems and governance perspective and experiences** towards guiding the K-12 public education system towards the realization of overarching Ends Policy: 1 – Philosophy of Education; Ends Policy: 2 – Mission, Vision and Values; and Ends Policy 3: Nā Hopena A'o. In addition she would work collaboratively with other Board members, the Legislature, the Governor's Office, the Department Superintendent and leadership team, the State Public Charter Commission, and the State Librarian, for the benefit of Hawai'i's public education system, particularly collaborating more closely with community and higher education systems---she has the "head" for the work.

State of Hawaii  
Senate Committee on Education  
GM710 – Board of Education Nominee – Mary Hattori  
April 6, 2024  
Page 2

Last, but certainly not least, in these times of: international challenges among countries, particularly here in our Pacific Rim circle; national challenges to teaching, learning, culture-based education, parental and community voice, safety in our schools; and Hawai'i's unique educational context with two official languages, Dr. Hattori recognizes greater supports here in Hawai'i are needed for Hawaiian language medium education; place, project and culture-based education; valuing home, family and community cultural assets; and addressing needs of marginalized students, families and communities. Dr. Hattori would bring "the heart and hands" for the hard, often unpopular, policy, systems and governance work of a BOE member.

In summary I submit written testimony to **convey my strong support for: Dr. Mary Hattori, Board of Education ("BOE") Nominee.**

Me ka oi`a i`o (Sincerely),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia M. Hussey', written in a cursive style.

Sylvia M. Hussey, Ed.D.  
Owner

April 7, 2024

To: Chair Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair Donna Mercado Kim  
And Members of the Senate, committee on Education

Fr: Dimpna L. Figuracion, Community Citizen  
1456 St. Louis Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96816

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for both my colleague and friend, Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori's nomination, (GM710), to the Hawai'i Board of Education. I have had the pleasure to know Dr. Hattori both personally and professionally for over 20 years.

Service, Community, and Connection defines who Mary Hattori is as both an individual and leader. She is passionate about *student success*, and has worked closely with and mentored many students and teachers over the years, providing encouragement, leading by example, as well as dedicating her time outside her work responsibilities to bring awareness and support for our *Pacific Island Community*.

Having had the opportunity to work closely with students representing diverse ethnic communities, Dr. Hattori recognized a significant need for more cultural awareness in the classroom. For example, she collaborated and developed curriculum for teachers titled: *Culturally Responsive Teaching within a Micronesian Context*, and has personally provided workshops throughout the state in an effort to provide teachers with a better understanding of the different cultures representing our students here in Hawai'i. Since 2018, she has coordinated the annual *Celebrate Micronesia Festival* which is a day long community event for families, students and educators.

From her years of teaching, along with leadership roles at various organizaion, Dr. Hattori has continually demonstrated her passion and commitment for the success of ALL students regardless of their ethnicity and backgrounds and having experienced various roles in education, administration and community service, I feel that her knowledge and experience would help serve a valuable role as a member of the Hawai'i Board of Education.

I respectfully request that your committee support the nomination of Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

My thanks in advance for your consideration,

Dimpna L. Figuracion

April 6, 2024

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

Re: Support for GM 710; Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Mary Hattori

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

I am writing to express my strongest support for Dr. Mary Hattori. I had the pleasure of collaborating with Dr. Hattori for several years and was always impressed by her dedication to educational equity and her innovative approach to teaching.

In 2015, Dr. Hattori and I traveled to New Zealand as part of a University of Hawaii Community College (UHCC) initiative to learn about the successful integration of biculturalism into all areas of higher education. Dr. Hattori's leadership during this trip was invaluable and it culminated in a highly successful Conference on Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into Educational Practice in October 2017. This conference, where Dr. Hattori served on the planning team, attracted a wide audience from the UHCCs and directly demonstrated how to infuse indigenous culture into everyday practices.

Dr. Hattori possesses extensive experience in Culturally Responsive Educational Technology (CRET) and she has developed culturally relevant learning materials, integrated technology to bridge cultural gaps, and fostered digital equity for underserved communities. This expertise directly translates to creating inclusive educational policies that leverage technology to empower all students.

Dr. Hattori is an advocate for the Pacific Island community. Her passion is evident in her numerous publications, leadership roles within the community, the courses she teaches, and her ongoing outreach efforts. The Board's decisions significantly impact these students and Dr. Hattori's experience would ensure their voices are heard at the policy level.

The State Board of Education holds immense power in shaping educational policies for our state. Dr. Hattori embodies the spirit of educational leadership. She brings a wealth of expertise in CRET, unwavering advocacy for the Pacific Islander community, and a strong vision for a comprehensive education. I am confident that Dr. Hattori would be an invaluable asset to the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Professor of Mathematics  
Science and Mathematics Division Chair; University of Hawai'i , Kaua'i Community College

April 6, 2024

Senator Michelle N. Kidani  
Chair of the Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha e Senator Kidani,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my whole-hearted support to Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori, as the Gubernatorial candidate to the Board of Education. As the Professional Development Coordinator and Professor at the University of Hawai'i Maui College (UHMC) and Wo Learning Champions Program participant and present convener, I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Hattori when she served as an associate professor of information technology at Kapiolani Community College and in the subsequent years at Chaminade and presently at the East West Center and UH Mānoa's graduate programs.


As a native Guamanian and committed proponent of increased awareness of culturally appropriate efforts for Pacific Islanders and all students, Dr. Hattori is uniquely qualified to understand the needs of our diverse population of students, its systemic challenges and issues and how the Board of Education can respond to and support student success for all of Hawai'i's students.

Of significant note is Dr. Hattori's active participation in community professional development activities to increase awareness of the specific needs and culture of Pacific Islanders. I believe that Dr. Hattori is acutely aware of the benefits of forging collaborative relationships that benefit productive work and congenially and that serves the best interest of our students and the people of Hawai'i.

Dr. Hattori's commitment to our community and the Board's Vision, "...where students are engaged in inspiring, personalized, and culturally responsive education that fosters creative and critical thinkers ..." is evidenced by her dedicated community efforts in providing many "Carrying Culture: Micronesia" and "Culturally Sustaining Education for Micronesians" workshops for Hawaii's DOE employees, UH Maui College faculty and staff and others.

I applaud and champion Dr. Hattori's nomination to serve as a member on the Board of Education. She has been a dynamic force in supporting students in our community. Mahalo for your kind consideration of Dr. Mary Therese Perez Hattori.

My best regards,

  
Joyce Yamada, EdD  
Professor, Professional Development Coordinator  
University of Hawai'i Maui College  
Convener, Wo Learning Champions

Dina Shek  
Honolulu, HI 96822

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

Hearing Date: Monday, April 8, 2024

**RE: Support for the Nomination of Mary Hattori, EdD  
to the Hawai‘i Board of Education (GM 710)**

Dear Committee Members,

I am pleased to share my enthusiastic support for Mary Hattori, EdD to serve on the Hawai‘i Board of Education. I have known Dr. Hattori for many years as a leader in education, community, and creative and cultural arts spheres. Through my work as Legal Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai‘i, I had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Hattori during the pandemic to address the pressing needs of Micronesian and other underserved children and families in Hawai‘i. I experienced firsthand that Dr. Hattori has the requisite qualifications, leadership, and unwavering commitment to Hawaii’s public schools and the families it serves. **I strongly support Governor Green’s nomination of Dr. Mary Hattori to serve on the Hawai‘i Board of Education.**

Dr. Mary Hattori is uniquely qualified to serve on the Board of Education, including meeting the minimum and recommended qualifications enumerated in Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §302A-126. In short, Dr. Hattori has a long and distinguished professional career in education, including as a teacher, consultant, and administrator. She has directed large, complex institutions, most recently as the Director of the Pacific Islands Development Program of the East-West Center (University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa). She is a leader of great integrity who always performs at the highest ethical standards. Dr. Hattori also brings great innovation to her work. She incorporates technology and computer science, creative arts and poetry, and cultural connections into her educational approaches. Dr. Hattori’s “collaborative leadership ability” and “deep and abiding” commitment to public education is exemplified in her extensive work with students, families, teachers, and administrators from pre-K through graduate school level.<sup>1</sup>

It must also be noted that Governor Green’s nomination of Dr. Hattori carries deep meaning for students from Micronesia and Oceania. Dr. Hattori is a self-described “daughter of Guam.” She is a native Chamoru who seeks innovative ways to promote culture and tradition and learning that serve to uplift children who often don’t see themselves represented in these positive lights. Dr. Hattori has spent a lifetime developing systems to support Micronesian student success, promoting cultural inclusion and belonging, training teachers and transforming curriculum, mentoring students and young professionals, and serving as a role model for all students and youth of Oceania.

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<sup>1</sup> [Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §302A-126](#), Board of education; qualifications; administration priorities.

I can think of no one better than Dr. Hattori to serve on the BOE at this critical time as Hawai'i seeks to not only recover but thrive in the wake of the pandemic. A Chuukese scholar, educator, and community leader, the late Dr. Joakim "Jojo" Peter, wrote extensively about the significance of nurturing networks of support for educational success, especially for families facing *paselo*. (In the words of Dr. Peter, *paselo* is "the condition of being adrift, to have no control over the movement or directionality of the canoe."<sup>2</sup>) Dr. Peter would surely applaud the appointment of his longtime colleague and educational partner, Dr. Mary Hattori, to continue the work of building and fostering networks of support for all students in Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration of my strong support for Dr. Mary Hattori to serve on the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,



Dina Shek

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<sup>2</sup> Joakim Peter, *A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Migrant Chuukese Families in Hawai'i and Their Children With Special Needs*, EdD Dissertation, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (2017).



**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 2:38:11 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>
Alexander Mawyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in unreservedly enthusiastic support for Dr. Mary Perez Hattori’s nomination to membership on the Hawai‘i Board of Education. A passionate community-centered educator, scholar, and poet with remarkable leadership and administrative experience and expertise, Dr. Hattori’s record of integrity, civic virtue, and high ethical standards speaks directly to her preparation and capacity to take on this role for the role of education in the wellbeing of our community and its youth.

For over a decade, Dr. Hattori has been a thought-leader and source of inspiration to me and others at UH’s Center of Pacific Islands Studies (CPIS), including her accomplished work as our Outreach Director in 2015-2017 prior to transitioning to her Director roles at the East-West Center. Since 1973, CPIS has been the only US Department of Education Title-VI funded National Resource Center for the Pacific Islands region including Hawai‘i. Significant portions of this grant are devoted to supporting pre- and in-service teachers, developing pedagogical and curricular materials for k-12 educators, fostering and maintaining frank yet warm relationships of trust with community partners, and improving education outcomes for students in the state, and across the nation and broader Pacific Islands region. Across such diverse dynamics I have witnessed Dr. Hattori’s generosity of spirit, commitment to best practices, and ethics of care for our state’s teachers and their precious students. From the micro of classroom practice, to the meso- of programmatic thinking, to the macro- of why education matters towards the wellbeing of our youth and community, Dr. Hattori’s vision and voice have guided me and others with clarity, integrity, and collegiality.

With local, national, and international educational experience, a deep well of empathetic kindness, a commitment to our community in all of its diversity and plurality, a foundation in good governance, and a rare talent for collaboration and the nurturing of relationships necessary to achieve consensus in collective work, I am confident Dr. Hattori would not only be a remarkably productive member of the Hawai‘i Board of Education, but one whose dedication to the social, academic, and character development of Hawai‘i’s youth will contribute impactfully to the board’s work in responding to the complexities of the here-and-now of contemporary education.

I could not imagine a colleague I would trust more with this profound responsibility of service to state and community.

Alexander Mawyer, Associate Professor  
Director, Center for Pacific Islands Studies  
Acting Chair, Department of Pacific Islands Studies  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



- ♦ *Project Management*
- ♦ *Construction Management*
- ♦ *Project Administration*
- ♦ *Communications Systems*
- ♦ *Safety Program*

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April 6, 2024

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
State of Hawaii

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am in full support of Governor Green's nomination of Dr. Mary Hattori to the Hawaii Board of Education. Dr. Hattori has the educational background and experiences, and the compassionate heart for the children and the teachers of Hawaii State Education system and indeed is very qualified to sit on the Hawaii Board of Education. Her ability to work across the wide spectrum of educational systems in Hawaii has made her a regularly sought-after source for advice.

My voluntary involvement on boards and committees such as the Micronesians United-Big Island, Hawaii Island Contractors Association, Hawaii Island Safety Association, and the Multilingual Multicultural Advisory Committee has provided me some opportunities to work directly with Dr. Hattori on some community engagement events. In one event, Dr. Hattori organized our team of community volunteers and students of Pacific Islands ancestry and conducted a training for the Konawaena High School teachers as part of their ongoing professional development training on how to effectively assimilate the Pacific Island migrant students into their classes. The all-hands-on deck approach to the Pacific Islands student's systemic absenteeism that Dr. Hattori organized helped improve students' morale, provide purpose, and improve attendance.

Dr. Hattori can identify systemic issues in an organization and devise the proper solution for it while empowering all that are involved. Dr. Hattori is well grounded in her Pacific Island heritage while on the forefront of educational opportunities. I humbly ask that you confirm her nomination to the Hawaii Board of Education without delay.

Sincerely yours,

Principal  
SCORPIUS PACIFIC, LLC

**LATE**

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 8:42:24 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>
Edna L Hussey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in support of MARY HATTORI to the Board of education, Gubernatorial Nominee, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

**LATE**

**GM-710**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 9:35:42 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>
Wayne Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Dr. Mary Hattori's nomination to the Board of Education. For years, I have personally witnessed Dr. Hattori's steadfast, selfless, and incredibly impactful work to uplift and celebrate the richness of our many Pacific Islander communities, communities that enrich our social fabric yet whose contributions and potential to deepen our understanding of each other and of our collective value as Hawai'i's unique society too often go unnoticed. If confirmed, I am fully confident that Dr. Hattori will bring tremendous value to the Board of Education and its work, providing important perspectives that can help the Department of Education better realize the unique advantages of our multicultural and diverse student body, for the benefit of all our public school students, as well as our islands as a whole.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend that the Senate advise and consent to GM710.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Wayne Tanaka