

# GM13

Patricia Halagao

Nomination to the Board  
of Education

October 20, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Senatorial District 24  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
Honolulu HI 96813

RE: Patricia Halagao's Nomination to the Board of Education

Dear Honorable Jill Tokuda:

Please see my written statement addressing the following questions:

**1. Why did you decide to apply to serve on the BOE?**

I am extremely honored to have been appointed to serve on the BOE. I would like to serve on the BOE because I hope to play a role in shaping educational policy that ultimately affects the daily lives of our teachers, students, and communities in Hawaii. As a former public school teacher and now professor of education, I want to serve as voice for teachers in schools. As a member of a marginalized group, I want to contribute to making curriculum more equitable and representative of our community. And finally as professor of higher education, I want to serve as a bridge between the expertise found in academia and practical work existing at the school level.

**2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of individual members and the overall role of the BOE in regards to formulating statewide educational policy and overseeing our public schools system and state libraries?**

If the educational system is a canoe, then I view the overall role of the BOE as being one of the major navigators of the canoe. The BOE sets the vision through its policies; while the DOE and the state libraries develop the sail plan (and in this case the Strategic Plan) to achieve the vision. We have a critical and constructive relationship that pushes each other to serve the best interest of all our children.

I view the individual members of the Board of Education as the captains or the crew of the canoe. We represent diverse interests of the state from business leaders, lawyers to educators, non-profit organizations, military, and students. We all have an investment in education and our diverse backgrounds are needed to tackle the challenges and opportunities we face in our public schools and library system.

The Board of Education must see itself responsive to the current needs of the community. For example, one initiative Board members have taken up is auditing our own policies to ensure that they are timely, clear and relevant.

- 3. Given your understanding of the roles & responsibilities of a member of the BOE, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, experiences, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the BOE. Highlight the three qualities you feel make you highly qualified candidate.**

I believe I am qualified for the position because of my professional background in education as a former teacher, teacher educator, and as an advocate for marginalized communities who have not been traditionally served by the school system. On a daily basis, I am in communication with the pre-service and in-service teachers who I teach. My direct interactions with them inform me on key issues such as curriculum implementation, school reform, research in their classrooms, and teacher evaluation.

In addition, the professional development and school-based partnership work I do in and for public schools and marginalized communities ground me in understanding what is important to connect education to the communities they serve.

Finally, as a professor and researcher in the field of education, I am exposed to cutting-edge educational research and practices by the very nature of my job in higher education. Although I do not profess to know everything about education, I do feel like I have the ability to access experts on almost most any educational topic.

My background, experiences and character traits that best serve my decision-making ability as a BOE member can be synthesized into three statements:

1. I am collaborative, open-minded, and community-oriented.
2. I have educational content knowledge grounded in research and practice.
3. My decisions are driven by academic excellence and equity.

- 4. What priorities do you feel are critical that the Board take up during the course of the next year term? What role do you see yourself playing in addressing these issues?**

The field of education is undergoing a crucial time of school reform with new federal mandates that states must implement i.e. Race to the Top, Common Core, Educator Evaluation System. These changes bring tremendous challenges and opportunities for states. We are at an important juncture of education with the interpretation and implementation of these reform measures.

I feel the Board's major priority is to meet these federal mandates, but to critically interpret them in the best way that serves Hawaii's needs, unique population, culture and place. I feel my background in social studies and multicultural

education helps me ensure that policy, procedures, curriculum and instruction support teaching and learning that develop students into critical, caring, creative, and community-minded individuals. We must hold the DOE accountable to its vision that “Hawaii’s students are educated, healthy, and joyful lifelong learners who contribute positively to our community and global society.” We must advocate for best practices like inquiry and project-based learning and a broad-based curriculum that includes core subjects of language arts and math along with integrating subjects like social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts to develop and excite the whole child.

When interpreting federal mandates, we must apply them to our local level by drawing on culture and placed-based approaches to teaching. While the Common Core curriculum provides a clear understanding of what students are expected nationally, we must equally emphasize the Common Core’s goal to deliver content that is robust and relevant to the real world. We must give administrators and teachers the flexibility to tailor the curriculum to their students. We must avoid scripted learning, a narrow curriculum, and “teaching to the test.” This means adapting our curriculum so that it relates to our students and their worlds.

My work in multicultural education, specifically with the Polynesian Voyaging Society’s Hokulea and Hikianalia canoe Worldwide voyage and mission for *malama honua* (care for the earth) and educational transformation, serves as an example of how our educational system can be grounded in both indigenous wisdom and values and infused with the development of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. The two views must marry for our children to be successful at home and in a globally interdependent world.

Finally, I feel it is my responsibility to bring attention to the experiences of Filipinos who make up the second largest ethnic group in the public school system (21%) and rank second to bottom in Hawaii State Assessments scores in reading and math. The DOE identifies Filipinos as: "consistently underrepresented in areas of academic achievement" and "consistently underrepresented in postsecondary learning opportunities." Though a socially disadvantaged group, Filipino students and its community are not deficient. The DOE system must target the necessary resources for this group’s academic success, as well as find strengths in their backgrounds, language and culture. My research and professional development work around equity and culture-based education aims to provide schools with more effective supports in the teaching of Filipinos.

In the end, I hope my influence on the BOE will serve to empower schools, administrators, teachers, and students to own an education that reflects and benefits all our communities.

**5. How do you feel individual members, and the Board as a whole, can improve stakeholder and community engagement in the formation of education policy?**

I am fortunate that my professional work naturally engages stakeholders and the community. For example, I recently helped organize an event around a pressing topic, teacher evaluation. We invited Stanford University scholar, Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond to talk on the topic “Getting Teacher Evaluation Right: What really matters for learning and equity,” which was co-sponsored by College of Education and Hawaii State Teachers Association. Inspired by the constructive comments of Dr. Darling-Hammond, our event prompted a necessary cross-dialogue amongst the COE, DOE, HSTA and the audience composed primarily of teachers to continually improve a fair implementation of our educator evaluation system.

I am a very big proponent of involving as many voices possible in the formation of educational policy. As we audit our BOE policy, I take cue from a fellow board member, who has actively brought together different stakeholders from the Hawaiian community to provide input on BOE policy 2104 (Hawaiian Education) and 2105 (Hawaiian Immersion). I look to her process as an example of involving as many critical voices to create policy.

However, I do believe there are still ways that the BOE can systematically and concretely reach out to the community. While I support the BOE efforts to invite complex superintendents and principals to present at regular meeting, I think it is equally important for us to visit their communities and hear their concerns as an entire Board. One idea is to rotate quarterly meetings in different communities, especially around Oahu.

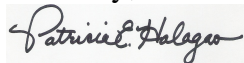
I also think that BOE meetings are not conducive to teacher schedules. One way to resolve this issue is to have teacher representation on the Board similar to the student representation.

**6. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the BOE? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?**

No, I do not foresee any possible conflicts of interests during my service on the BOE.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patricia Halagao, Ph.D.

# GM13

## Testimony



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony in **support** of GM 13  
Confirmation of Patricia E. Halagao, Ph.D.  
Board of Education  
Governor Neil Abercrombie

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

October 30, 2013  
2:30 p.m. Room 414

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

I respectfully ask for your favorable support of my nominee Patricia E. Halagao as a member of the Board of Education. Dr. Halagao is an Associate Professor in Curriculum Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa College of Education and also serves as the lead in developing educational initiatives for the proposed Obama Presidential Center. Most recently, she was awarded the UH Board of Regents Medal for Excellence in Teaching in 2012. In addition, Dr. Halagao has helped to coordinate education programming for the Hokulea's worldwide voyage. Her commitment to a multicultural community is demonstrated by her vast work with our Filipino community and helping to share their rich culture for the benefit of all.

Dr. Halagao will make a great addition to our Board of Education and will help to forward the education of all our students.

Thank you for your consideration in confirming this nominee.



STATE OF HAWAII  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Senate Committee on Education**  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson

Testimony of Donald G. Horner, Chairperson

### **Confirmation of Patricia Halagao to the State of Hawaii Board of Education**

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Education, I am pleased to support the confirmation of Patricia Halagao to the State of Hawaii Board of Education (the "**Board**").

During our first two years, the appointed Board has worked collaboratively with the Department of Education (the "**Department**") to create a strategic plan that has provided much needed prioritization, fiscal restraint and effective support of student achievement.

The Board is now working to ensure that it appropriately monitors the strategic plan initiatives. Through Patricia's work as a member of the Student Achievement committee and the Human Resource committee, she has brought to bear her many years of higher education administration experience and curriculum development at the University of Hawaii as an Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies.

Patricia is also a member of the Board's policy audit work group which is reviewing all Board policies to create a more effective policy structure by eliminating redundancy and aligning the policies with the strategic plan.

Patricia plays a key role in connecting the Board's work to that of the University of Hawaii's work. She supports this relationship by serving on the College of Education Advisory Council with Board member Jim Williams. The College of Education Advisory Council assists the Dean of the College of Education by providing input on and evaluation of teacher training and preparation. This key role in ensuring that our educators are best prepared to teach in our schools is a valuable component to supporting student achievement.

Patricia is committed to the work of the Board and to the betterment of all students. She is a valuable asset and I encourage you to confirm Patricia's nomination.





**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF  
Dr. Patricia Halagao for the Board of Education**

Senate Committee on Education

October 30, 2013

To: Honorable Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Honorable Sen. Michelle Kidani Vice Chair  
Honorable Members Russell Ruderman, Maile Shimabukuro  
and Sam Slom

From: Dr. Amy Agbayani, Vice Chair, NaFFAA Region 12  
3432 B-1 Kalihi St., Honolulu 96819

The National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) strongly endorses the nomination of Dr. Patricia Halagao to the Board of Education. NaFFAA is a national organization and Hawaii is one of the 12 regional chapters. NaFFAA promotes civic participation of Filipino Americans and seeks to increase awareness of Filipino American contributions to social, economic, cultural and political life in the United States. NaFFAA actively support policies that promote equal access and quality education for Filipinos, non-discrimination and social justice.

I have known Dr. Halagao for many years and personally know of her dedication and competence. She has a track record of accomplishments as an educator and community leader. We have worked collaboratively as colleagues at the University of Hawaii, and as members of national and local community projects relating to education, civil rights, multicultural programs, including P-20 educational research and curriculum issues for Native Hawaiian, Filipino and other underrepresented and underserved groups. I am very impressed with her integrity, knowledge, broad professional and community service. Her academic training, research, classroom teaching at the College of Education and in the schools would benefit the Board of Education's policy responsibilities. Dr. Halagao is thoughtful, inclusive and capable of making policy decisions to benefit our students and our state.

In addition to her professional credentials and service to our multicultural community, I would like to express the importance of diversity and the inclusion of a Filipino-American member on the board of education. Consider the following data: Filipinos are one in four residents of our state; one in five students in the public schools and less than one out of ten teachers/administrators. Filipinos continue to be underrepresented among college graduates and the professions.

I respectfully ask you to support Patricia Halagao's nomination to the Board of Education. I am taking this opportunity to thank her for sharing her time, values, vision and expertise with her students, colleagues and community groups.

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c/o 220 S. King St. Suite 1770, Honolulu Hawai'i 96813 · Phone/Fax: (808) 927-7301 · E-Mail: [menorp001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:menorp001@hawaii.rr.com)

Ron Menor, Chair · Amy Agbayani, Vice Chair · Michael Dahilig, Vice Chair · Rouel Velasco Youth Leader

Jake Manegdeg, Treasurer



October 30, 2013  
2:30 p.m.; Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**RE: GM13 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, PATRICIA HALAGAO, for a term to expire 6-30-16**

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and the members of the committee,

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

I am writing in **strong support** of Patricia Halagao's confirmation to the Board of Education.

I have known Dr. Halagao for several years and have been impressed by her integrity, professionalism and leadership skills. Her outstanding character and genuine concern for Hawaii's children will make her an invaluable asset to the Board.

As a teacher educator she inspires teachers to stretch, grow and build bridges among individuals, groups of people and communities. She believes in life-long learning and is open to the endless possibilities of learning from people with varied backgrounds, experiences and knowledge.

I strongly urge you to confirm Patricia Halagao to the Board of Education. The Board and the State of Hawaii will be well served by her participation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



October 23, 2013

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Tamar DeFries

45-285 Kaneohe Bay Drive, #102  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Phone: (808) 664-3027 ext. 1

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

[Herblee@thepaf.org](mailto:Herblee@thepaf.org)

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Hawaii State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Tokuda:

Subject: Letter of Support for Dr. Patricia Espiritu Halagao,  
Associate Professor University of Hawaii, Mānoa, College of Education,  
Department of Curriculum Studies, Appointment to the Hawaii State Board  
of Education.

My name is Herb Lee Jr. and I am currently the Executive Director of the Pacific American Foundation (PAF). I am writing this letter of support based on my direct experiences with Dr. Halagao over the past 5 years.

PAF is a non-profit organization established in 1993 with a mission to help improve the lives of all native Hawaiians and Pacific islanders in Hawaii and the nation that have indigenous roots to the Pacific. In light of this mission our focus has been in the following areas: (1) education; (2) mentorship & leadership training; (3) research; (4) career planning & development; and (5) community partnerships.

Towards this end, PAF has emerged as one of the non-profit leaders in the development of culture and placed –based curriculum in Hawaii, aligned to standards to help increase student achievement in all core academic areas. PAF has trained over 3,000 teachers in nearly 100 schools statewide, mentored over 500 grade 6 to 12 students, graduated over 230 adult “emerging” Pacific Island leaders from its National Pacific American Leadership Institute (NAPALI), assisted over 21,000 students in its career planning programs and formed over a 100 partnerships in Hawaii, the Pacific and nationally.

The opportunity to work with the University of Hawaii, College of Education and Dr. Halagao more than five years ago was important in furthering the mission of PAF and in sharing the knowledge gained with new prospective teachers of interest.

Dr. Halagao was very open to presenting her students with opportunities to both explore alternative instructional strategies and to critically assess its effectiveness first hand. After a series of meetings and site visits to the

Waikalua Loko fishpond (home of one of the culture and placed based curricula) we embarked on formalizing a combination of classroom lectures and hands-on activities that would give students a first-hand experience. This was focused on her ITE 360 (Introduction to Multicultural Education) class which included freshmen and sophomores anticipating entry into the College of Education in their junior year.

Since that time, we have modified the presentations in both the classroom and experience at Waikalua Loko to present evolving ideas, respond to student areas of interests and consider the changing metrics of a culturally responsive evaluation approach.

Over the last five years, Dr. Halagao has not only been supportive and diligent in working with PAF to develop and incorporate the importance of cultural context in education, but has also been an active participant in all aspects of the learning and teaching. She epitomizes the Hawaiian concept of “A’o” which translates that, “in the midst of teaching one is a learner and in the midst of learning one is a teacher.” Her humbleness as a person and as a teacher to put herself out there as a learner of new ideas and approaches is what makes her a truly great teacher. I believe that the interest in her classes has been the result of creating mutually high expectations for both herself and students while also taking the time to allow students the opportunity to explore, be critical in thought and have fun.

It has been and continues to be a refreshing experience to work with Dr. Halagao and her students every semester. It has helped to give me confidence in the fact that our future teachers have been properly exposed to the “choices” in educational methodologies and instruction to help increase student achievement overall.

In an effort to further expose her students to other culture –based educational approaches, a partnership was formed with the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) based on previous programs between PVS and PAF. Dr. Halagao seized the opportunity to expose her students and herself to another dimension of Polynesian culture which led to a deeper relationship between the University of Hawaii College of Education and PVS. Dr. Halagao and her colleagues have taken the lead in providing a much needed leadership and education focus in preparation for the first world voyage of the Hokulea in 2013. She has taken on a pivotal leadership role in helping PVS, teachers, crew and students further define the importance of how education, cultural practice and responsible stewardship can have a profound effect on all learners that are thirsty for the knowledge and experience. This has also led to her leadership and expertise in helping to design the new MAU School of Voyaging.

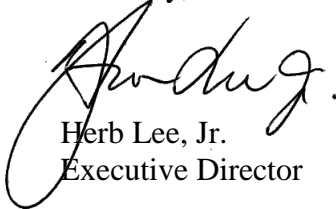
Her enthusiasm, knowledge, and personal skills in dealing with varied people and interests have been a very welcome component to the partnership.

In summary, Dr. Halagao has been a role model to all of us in her openness to new knowledge, her motivation as an always engaging learner, and as servant leader in the field of education. I feel confident in the knowledge that our future teachers have been exposed to a career educator that understands the integrity of the education process and the great responsibility that it carries for our future success.

For all of these reasons, she will make an outstanding representative and leader on the Board of Education, because she has been in the trenches, has the passion and the intellect to help bridge the transformation process that we are hopeful about for all of our children.

It is indeed an honor that I have this opportunity to share and to highlight some of the experiences and traits of Dr. Halagao. She is truly a beacon for all of us that want the best education and learning opportunities for all of Hawaii's students!

Sincerely,



Herb Lee, Jr.  
Executive Director

Personal Written Testimony  
presented before the  
Senate Committee on Education  
Thursday, October 30, 201, 2:30 pm, Room 414  
by  
Donald B. Young

RE: Nomination of Dr. Patricia Halagao to the Board of Education

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Education;

I support this nomination.

My name is Donald Young. I am currently Dean of the College of Education at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Today I am providing personal testimony, not in my official capacity as Dean or representing the University of Hawai'i, in support of the nomination of Dr. Patricia Halagao for the Hawai'i State Board of Education, who I have personally known and worked with since 2001.

Dr. Halagao is recognized as a leader at UH Manoa. She is known for her professionalism, ability to work with many stakeholders, and service to the community. Dr. Halagao brings to the Board of Education a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience at both the K-12 and higher education levels. She understands the opportunities and challenges at all these levels and brings this important and often missing perspective to the Board.

I have known Dr. Halagao since 2001 when I joined the Dean's staff as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Education and Dr. Halagao was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies. It was clear even as early as 2001 that Dr. Halagao was a distinguished educator dedicated to improving student learning at all levels in Hawai'i.

As Dean, I have worked closely with Dr. Halagao on behalf of Filipino students, curriculum development and professional development activities with in-service teachers, and in supporting policy decisions on what is right for children.

She has been an elementary school teacher and university instructor, who achieved tenured status as an Associate Professor based on her demonstrated excellence in teaching, research, and service. In addition, her accomplishments include numerous teaching and other awards as can be seen in her vitae. Similarly, she is recognized as a leader in the community as evidenced by this nomination to the Board of Education by Governor Abercrombie.

I know I can count on Dr. Halagao when things need to get done. She is a quick study, researches issues thoroughly before jumping to conclusions or making recommendations, and listens attentively to all sides before charting a course of action and seeing it through to full implementation. When I need to get things done in the College, on campus, or in the community she is one of the first persons I turn to.

As a teacher, Dr. Halagao is the type of person I would want teaching my own children. As a faculty member, Dr. Halagao is the type of person I want preparing the next generation of teachers and educational leaders. As a researcher, Dr. Halagao is the type of person who can be counted on to be thorough, objective, and focused on what really matters. And as a policy maker, Dr. Halagao will always have the best interests of students as her central focus.

Dr. Halagao is an inspired and inspiring leader. She works well with others, is inclusive, and patient. Her intelligence, integrity, energy, and passion for education are unsurpassed. We need someone of Dr. Halagao's intelligence, passion, dedication, and insight to help us improve learning for all students in Hawai'i. I fully support this nomination and urge your committee to confirm Dr. Halagao as a State of Hawai'i Board of Education member.



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

October 22, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Senatorial District 24  
Hawai'i State Capital, Room 218  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Dr. Patricia Halagao's Nomination to the Board of Education

Dear Honorable Jill Tokuda:

I highly support Dr. Halagao's nomination to the Board of Education. I have known and worked with Dr. Halagao at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, College of Education since 2001. I have always known Dr. Halagao to be extremely collegial, collaborative, and a strong advocate for multicultural and social justice issues in education.

Dr. Halagao is a highly accomplished faculty member who is well respected in the College and in the higher education community. She teaches multicultural education and co-developed the *Pinoy Teach* curriculum for the Smithsonian Institute. She is also the Co-Chair of the College's Filipino Advisory Council called *Tinalak*, which serves to increase the number Filipino teachers in Hawai'i and provide professional development for teachers who work with Filipino students. According to the 2010 Census, Filipinos comprise 25% of the population in Hawai'i and are the second largest ethnic group in our state. In the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE) schools, Filipinos are the second largest ethnic group of students at 21%, but only comprise 6% of DOE teachers.

In addition to her teaching and scholarly work, Dr. Halagao is the 2012 recipient of the University of Hawai'i *Board of Regents Medal for Excellence in Teaching*, she is the Education Director for the Hawai'i Presidential Center Initiative, and she serves as the Co-Director of *A'o Hawai'i: Viewing the Classroom as a Canoe; The Canoe as a Classroom*, which supports the Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia Worldwide Voyage and advances educational change.

I strongly believe that Dr. Halagao would provide unique and meaningful insights to the Board of Education that would positively impact the children of Hawai'i and the DOE school system. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808)956-7915 or [nlibario@hawaii.edu](mailto:nlibario@hawaii.edu).

Sincerely,

Niki Libarios, Ph.D.  
Academic Advisor





UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII°  
MĀNOA

October 25, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Senatorial District 24  
Hawai'i State Capital, Room 218  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Dr. Patricia Halagao's Nomination to the Board of Education

Honorable Jill Tokuda:

As chair of the Department of Curriculum Studies, I am pleased to support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Dr. Patricia Halagao to the Board of Education. Patricia has been an exceptional member of our department since August 2001, gaining tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2006.

Patricia excels in all three major roles of instructional faculty: teaching, research and service. Due to her creativity, effectiveness, and popularity as a teacher, she received the 2012 UH Board of Regents Medal for Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Halagao is equally successful in her research endeavors. She has published a number of refereed journal articles, book chapters and curriculum materials, with the laudatory goal of improving education for Filipino Americans. She is also co-author of a book, currently in press. In terms of grants, Patricia is co-principal investigator of a US Federal DOE "Improving Teacher Quality Grant," which prepares teachers, through Polynesian voyaging field trips, to integrate STEM into their instruction.

Patricia's service record is also impressive! She has a long list of Department, College, University and professional service. Due to Patricia's organizational skills and work ethic, she joined the Obama Presidential Library Steering Committee in 2010 and now acts as Director of the P-12 Education Committee for the Hawai'i Presidential Center Initiative.

Patricia's expertise in multicultural education/diversity, prior experience as a classroom teacher, and collaborative personality will allow her to contribute effectively to the BOE mission. Dr. Halagao is the best choice for this honor!

Sincerely,

Andrea Bartlett, Professor and Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Bartlett".

**U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   H A W A I I ' I   A T   M Ā N O A**

**Library**

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Senatorial District 24  
Hawaii State Capital, Room 218  
Honolulu HI 96813

October 22, 2013

RE: Patricia Halagao's Nomination to the Board of Education

Honorable Jill Tokuda:

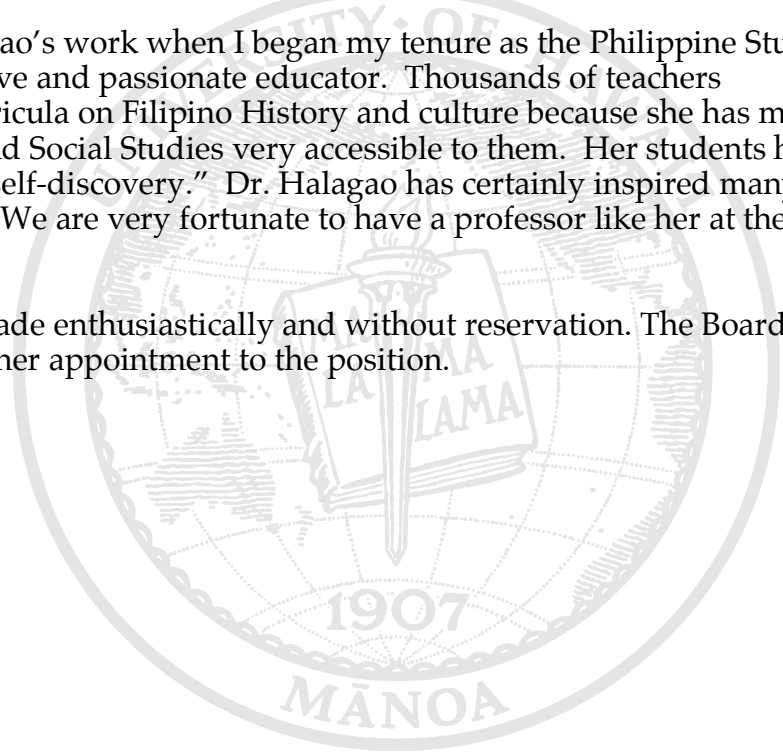
I am writing with the highest recommendation for Patricia Halagao's nomination to the Board of Education. Over the last three years, I have had extensive professional contact with Dr. Halagao as the Philippine Studies Librarian at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and partner in the F.O.B. (Fresh Off The Boat) Project. I have no hesitation in saying that she is an extraordinary individual. She brings excellent professional skills, including a strong work ethic, enthusiasm, and thoughtfulness to every endeavor that she undertakes.

I became acquainted with Dr. Halagao's work when I began my tenure as the Philippine Studies Librarian in 2008. She is an innovative and passionate educator. Thousands of teachers nationally have used her online curricula on Filipino History and culture because she has made teaching Multicultural Education and Social Studies very accessible to them. Her students have also called her courses "vehicles of self-discovery." Dr. Halagao has certainly inspired many students to become better teachers. We are very fortunate to have a professor like her at the University of Hawaii.

My support for her application is made enthusiastically and without reservation. The Board of Education will greatly benefit from her appointment to the position.

Sincerely Yours,

Elena Clariza, M.A., MLISc  
Philippine Studies Librarian



Mililani High School  
95-1200 Meheula Pkwy.  
Mililani, HI 96789

October 21, 2013

Dear Senators,

As a teacher and social studies advocate in the Hawaii public school system, I was pleased to learn that Professor Patricia Halagao was nominated by Governor Abercrombie to serve on the Hawaii Board of Education. While she grew up in California and began her teaching career with Teach for America, she has developed a deeper understanding of the Hawaii public education system than many through her attentiveness to the intersections of culture, identity, education and power in Hawaii. Her work in the College of Education has emphasized an approach to the 'whole child' that is refreshing, and she has developed community curriculum partnerships not only with the Filipino community (Pinoy Teach) but also most recently with the Hawaiian community on the Hōkūle'a (Worldwide Voyage). She has been a strong advocate of a measured approach to standards-based education, and would bring an understanding of the civic education structured around issues of multiculturalism to the Board.

For these reasons, I strongly support Patricia Halagao's appointment to the Hawaii Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Amy Perruso

October 24, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Senatorial District 24  
Hawaii State Capital, Room 218  
Honolulu HI 96813

RE: Patricia Halagao's Nomination to the Board of Education

Honorable Jill Tokuda:

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Patricia Halagao for the Hawai'i State Board of Education. I am an educator who taught high school social studies in the Department of Education for over eleven years and who is currently the Director of Curriculum and Research for the University of Hawaii Uehiro Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education. I met Dr. Halagao in 2007 when I was her student in the University of Hawaii's College of Education. The mentorship and I guidance that I received from Dr. Halagao was unparalleled. She had a profound effect on my development as an effective teacher and educational researcher. Now, as her colleague, I am honored to work alongside her as she makes great gains towards improving educational systems and institutions both locally and nationally.

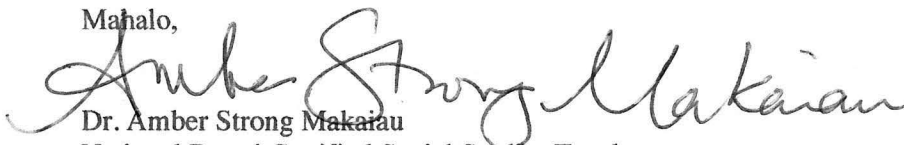
Dr. Halagao is a well-respected educational leader who will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to her position on the Board of Education. She is a prominent scholar and teacher in the fields of multicultural and social studies education. She has expertise in the areas of culturally responsive curriculum and pedagogy, and the education of Filipino Americans. With this strong background, I am assured that Dr. Halagao's work on the Board will improve the educational experience of, and opportunities for all students in the state.

Dr. Halagao's past accomplishments with *Pinoy Teach*, and current work with the educational initiatives for the Obama Presidential Center and the education programming for the Hokulea's worldwide voyage are testaments to her ability to improve society-at-large through education. Dr. Halagao is a visionary. She is dedicated, and inspirational. She is articulate, informed, and excellent at bringing people together to achieve positive change.

Dr. Halagao is just what the Hawai'i State Board of Education needs. She is knowledgeable about students and families in our state and she is committed to serving them. With Dr. Halagao on the Board of Education we should all feel confident that the future of education in Hawai'i is in good hands.

If you have any questions regarding the merit of Dr. Halagao I would be more than willing to give further comment. I can be reached via e-mail at [amakaiau@hawaii.edu](mailto:amakaiau@hawaii.edu).

Mahalo,



Dr. Amber Strong Makiiau  
National Board Certified Social Studies Teacher  
Director of Curriculum and Research  
University of Hawaii Uehiro Academy for Philosophy and Ethics in Education

October 27, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Senatorial District 24  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218  
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: Dr. Patricia Halagao's Nomination to the Board of Education (GM13)

Dear Senator Tokuda,

I, Maya Soetoro-Ng, am writing to express my strong support for Dr. Patricia Halagao's appointment to the Board of Education. I am a professor at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's College of Education, specializing in peace and multicultural instruction. I also serve on a number of educational nonprofits statewide and nationally, and I travel annually to schools around the globe on behalf of the College of Education.

Patricia is one of my dearest colleagues and friends. We have worked closely together as teachers, and in doing so, I have seen first-hand Patricia's deep dedication and passion when it comes to her students. She prioritizes her learners, and spends a great deal of time and energy supporting and guiding her students in creative and effective ways.

Patricia's work with the "Worldwide Voyage" curriculum has been extremely successful to date, as well as her modules on place-based culturally responsive education. She has built a very successful online curriculum with the Smithsonian, exploring various cultural dimensions of the Philippines and Filipino-American life, all contributing to a more vigorous multicultural education.

I know, without a doubt, that she will bring the same commitment and zeal to the Board of Education that she does to her own classroom and other educational efforts.

I enthusiastically support and endorse Patricia Halagao's appointment to the Board of Education. She is pragmatic, thoughtful and has a profound vision for our keiki. Please do give Patricia your most careful consideration.

Mahalo for your time,

Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng

October 27, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol

RE: Dr. Patricia Halagao's Nomination to the School Board

Aloha, Senator Tokuda;

It is a pleasure to be asked to write a letter in support of my dear friend and colleague Patricia Halagao as she begins her service to the Hawai'i Board of Education. I have known Patricia for seven years, both personally and professionally, and her character, expertise, and tireless commitment to education continue to inspire me.

As a parent, Patricia demonstrates her love, her dedication, and her nuanced understanding of children's development every day. She is raising her children, as I strive to raise mine, to be thoughtful, kind, and dedicated to their values. She is an active contributor to the work of her children's school, and a leader of the Girl Scout troop that our daughters both attend. My children and hers are the same age, and my wife and I are privileged to have the Halagaos as partners in our journey of childrearing. In seeking members who have the best interests of children at heart, the Board could do no better than Patricia.

As a fellow educator with the A'o Hawai'i project she initiated (now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of grant funding), Patricia has demonstrated leadership across a broad and sometimes unlikely coalition of community members. In assembling a team of University Faculty, public school teachers, voyaging canoe crew members, and informal educators, she has been instrumental in assisting Nainoa Thompson in organizing an educational movement around the worldwide voyage of the Hokule'a. When coordinating such a diverse range of stakeholders, Patricia's continuous and consistent communication has shone through, guiding the project through the inevitable tensions and challenges that arise in such an ambitious enterprise. And she does it all with astonishing grace.

I teach kindergarten at a public charter school. It's essential to me that our appointed school board members have a deep understanding of teaching and learning, and that they are passionate about the project of public education. What's more, I want our Board to know about charter schools and their unique place among Hawai'i's educational system. Dr. Patricia Halagao has the character, the expertise, and passion and the understanding that we need leading our schools. I urge you to support her nomination.

Mahalo,  
Evan Anderson  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Voyager Public Charter School



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  

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MĀNOA

**ROBERT PERKINSON, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

Department of American Studies

1890 East-West Road • Moore Hall 324 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822-2318

Telephone: (808) 956-8570 • Facsimile: (808) 956-4733 • Email: <perk@hawaii.edu>

October 26, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Education Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 218  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re. Patricia Halagao's nomination to serve on the Board of Education

Honorable Senator Tokuda,

As a professor at the University of Hawaii and coordinator of the state's initiative to host a presidential center in Honolulu, I am writing in support of Patricia Halagao's appointment to the Board of Education. I have known Dr. Halagao for more than a decade—as a colleague, friend, and project collaborator—and I give her my very highest recommendation. She possesses unimpeachable integrity, a breathtaking work ethic, wide-ranging pedagogical and policy expertise, exceptional people skills, and an unwavering devotion to children—all qualities that will enable her to serve as a vital member of the Board of Education.

Dr. Halagao has worked in education from all angles—as a primary school teacher, curriculum developer, education professor, non-profit founder, grant writer, and program designer—but her focus has always been on student learning and well-being. She approaches every student encounter as an opportunity for inspiration, and through applied research, exhaustive preparation, and, frankly, special gifts in communication, she has changed the direction of her students' lives again and again. The University recently awarded her its highest teaching award, a rare honor, especially for a scholar with such impressive research productivity. Dr. Halagao is beloved by her students and held in the highest esteem by her professional colleagues. She is considered to be one of the University's rising stars.

I have collaborated with Dr. Halagao on a number of projects, and every organization that involved her was better for it. In the presidential center initiative, she has directed planning for a robust set of K-12 leadership programs that we hope will become a national model for community-engagement pedagogy. She has also coordinated much of our community outreach, and at key decision junctures, she has stepped in to find common ground among diverse partners. Without her attention, the presidential center would not have the prospects for success that it now enjoys. Without her leadership, the College of Education and the University of Hawaii writ large would be weaker institutions. She is an exceptionally talented leader and has had an extraordinary impact.

I believe Dr. Halagao will have a similarly positive impact on the Board of Education. She will think through problems from every perspective, but she will always put students first. She will approach her post with the insights of a researcher, the devotion of a teacher, and the love of a parent, and I believe she will make you and the State of Hawaii proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Perkinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail that ends in a small flourish.

Robert Perkinson



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

College of Education  
Department of Curriculum Studies

October 27, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chair, Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capital, Room 414  
Honolulu HI, 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of GM13 and Dr. Patricia Halagao's appointment to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Please allow me to introduce myself; my name is Dr. Tara O'Neill. I am a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies at the College of Education (COE), University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I have been in the COE for five years and have had the privilege of working with Dr. Halagao since my date of higher.

Over the past five years Dr. Halagao has been an exceptional mentor and colleague. We have worked together on various grants and initiatives in an effort to better serve PK-20 (preschool through college) students in the state of Hawai'i and bring about systemic change to improve education and access for all students. These efforts include PK-20 collaboration, professional development for teachers, and development of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for all education stake holders (i.e., community members, non-profit organizations, children, parents, teachers, etc.).

Most recently, Dr. Halagao and I have been working to support the educational mission of the World Wide Voyage of Hokule'a via the implementation of *A'o Hawai'i*. In partnership with Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS), the Pacific American Foundation (PAF), the Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE), and public, charter and private schools around the state (i.e., Farrington High School, Kamaile Academy, Kapa'a High School, Konawaena Middle School, and Punahou School), we have designed and implemented *A'o Hawai'i*, a professional development program whose mission is to re-empower educators and youth to embrace teaching and learning as a dynamic process that draws on indigenous knowledge and values infused with the development of 21st Century STEM skills. *A'o Hawaii* promotes real-world application of interdisciplinary content knowledge, which supports youths' skills, content and social emotional development required for college and career readiness and for community and civic engagement.

Dr. Halagao is one of the hardest working, productive, and honorable people I have had the honor to work with and learn from. She has a true passion for education. Having served as a classroom teacher and an education professor, Dr. Halagao will bring a unique understanding of the intersection between education policy, theory and classroom practice. She is extremely knowledgeable about the intricacies required to maneuver the education system from the classroom level to the Board.

# U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   H A W A I I ' I   A T   M Ā N O A

College of Education  
Department of Curriculum Studies

Dr. Halagao is a true leader. She is an exceptional thinker who values collaboration and the knowledge of others, knows where to go for information and answers, and when it is appropriate to seek direction regarding specific issues. When attending meetings Dr. Halagao comes prepared, asks pertinent questions that help drive the work and avoid pitfalls. She understands and relies on data as part of her decision making process.

I have come to know Dr. Halagao very well over the past five years and have enjoyed working with her immensely. Her passion for and experiences in education make her well suited to provide a very important perspective, knowledge and skill set to the current Board of Education.

Dr. Halagao is recognized as leader in the field of education. She is a forward thinker with innovative ideas, and someone that I have come to regularly rely on for advice, support and guidance. Dr. Halagao will be an asset to the Board of Education and the state of Hawai'i.

If additional information is needed please feel free to contact me via the information provided below.

Sincerely,



Tara O'Neill, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum Studies  
College of Education, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
e-mail: [toneill@hawaii.edu](mailto:toneill@hawaii.edu)  
phone: (808) 226-8044



October 20, 2013

Senator Jill Tokuda,  
Chair, Education Committee  
Hawaii State Capital  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: BOE Testimonial Letter for Patricia Halagao  
GM13

Dear Senator Tokuda,

As an Educator at Farrington High School, I've had the opportunity of being one of 22 teachers across the state for the Polynesian Voyaging Society's World Wide Voyage A'o Hawaii Program, which Ms. Patricia Halagao is Co-Director. I am now working with her as a team member for the FOB Project at Farrington and I cannot imagine having a more qualified candidate as Ms. Halagao.

Ms. Halagao's work with Educators at the U.H. Manoa College of Education and A'o Hawaii permits her to look through the lens of classroom teachers and to understand the needs of Teachers & Students. She has the ability and vision of pushing forth logical conceptual ideas into real world concepts for student projects & engagement as she is astute to trends, past & present, and looks at extrapolation of the future of education.

Widely respected throughout community organizations because of her leadership and involvement, her ability to infuse community support into Education (and vice versa) shows the how her depth of relationships & partnerships, in general, strengthens her ability to help support Education in every facet.

Just as important as her many educational accolades, is her integrity and character. Gracious & kind, she is articulate and respectful in her approach and brings forth uplifting positive energy.

As an Educator, who has been under the guidance, and now working alongside Ms. Halagao, I strongly support Ms. Halagao's nomination based upon her background in Education and community involvement. Educators will truly benefit from the experience and leadership of Ms. Halagao as a member on the Board of Education.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diane Tom-Ogata", written in a cursive style.

Diane Tom-Ogata  
STEMworks Advisor  
A'o Hawaii Educator  
Science Educator  
W. R. Farrington High School

# POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY



October 28, 2013  
Senator Jill Tokuda  
Chairperson, Education Committee  
Senatorial District 24  
Hawaii State Capital, Room 218  
Honolulu HI, 96813

RE: Patricia Halagao's Nomination to the Board of Education (GM 13)

Dear Honorable Jill Tokuda:

I am pleased to support Patricia Halagao's nomination to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I have known Patricia for three years. I first met her when she brought her graduate class on cultural diversity and education to our Marine Education Training Center (METC) to learn more about the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the Worldwide Voyage. After learning about Hōkūle'a's voyage and vision to travel around the world, her class developed curriculum for teachers and students.

As we embark on the Worldwide Voyage of Hōkūle'a and Hikianalia to spread *mālama honua*- caring for our earth and humankind, education has become very central to achieving our mission. Over the years, Patricia and her colleagues at the College of Education have contributed to articulating and operationalizing our ideas of education through the writing and implementation of a number of grants. The first grant, *The Mau School of Voyaging: Fostering Teachers as Navigators and Navigators as Teachers* helped us to identify the role of teachers in our movement. The second grant, *A'ō Hawai'i: Viewing the Classroom as a Canoe; Viewing the Canoe as the Classroom* has helped us put this into practice through teacher professional development.

Since then, A'ō Hawai'i has developed into a movement to transform education in our state. In Hawaiian, A'ō means to "teach and learn" in a reciprocal relationship where both adults and youth are learners and teachers. The mission of A'ō Hawai'i is to re-empower educators and youth to embrace teaching and learning as a dynamic process that draws on indigenous knowledge and values to engage them in 21st Century skills.

I am confident that Patricia has much to contribute to the Board. Her professional background in education and work with A'ō Hawai'i positions her to apply this mindset to shape curriculum pedagogy and policy at the system level. She is collaborative and has the ability to bring diverse stakeholders together for a common purpose. Above all, I know she has a genuine concern about the well-being of our state and the education of our children.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 927-7473. You can also send an email to my assistant Jenna Ishii at [jenna.ishii@gmail.com](mailto:jenna.ishii@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Nainoa Thompson  
President, Polynesian Voyaging Society



October 30, 2013

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St., Conference Room 414  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Rhonee Rojas

Subject: **GM 13 – Confirmation of Patricia Halagao to the Board of Education**

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee on Education:

My name is Randy Cortez, president of the JCI-Hawaii Filipino Junior Chamber of Commerce. Our organization’s mission is to empower young active citizens with developmental opportunities to create positive change and perpetuate the local Filipino heritage. We **strongly support** the appointment of Dr. Patricia Halagao to the State Board of Education.

As a professor and longtime educator, Dr. Halagao understands the importance of education. As a mother, educator, role model, and leader in the Filipino community, Dr. Halagao has a strong passion for improving our education system. Her experience will bring value to the board and I have full faith and confidence that she will make a positive impact and contribute immensely in her role as a board member.

Thank you for allowing me to offer testimony. I humbly ask that you favorably support the appointment of Dr. Halagao.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Randy Cortez

RANDY CORTEZ  
President



# Filipino American Citizens League

Jake Manegdeg, President  
P. O. Box 270126 \* Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827

Testimony in Strong Support of GM 13  
Senate Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414  
October 30, 2014, 2:30 p.m.

To: The Honorable Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education, Hawai'i State Legislature  
From: Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President, Filipino American Citizens League

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, PATRICIA HALAGAO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Dear Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. I am the Vice President of the Filipino American Citizens League. The League was formed over ten years ago to contribute to the advancement of civil rights and social justice for minority groups, underserved populations, and vulnerable communities through education, advocacy, and social action.

Thank you for the opportunity to have served as an appointee on Governor Abercrombie's inaugural Board of Education. Having completed my 2-year term, I am proud to strongly support Dr. Patricia Halagao's gubernatorial nomination to Hawai'i's Board of Education.

As associate professor at the University of Hawai'i College of Education, Dr. Halagao brings to the table her years of expertise in teaching, curriculum development, research to address under-achieving students and schools, and lessons learned from successful initiatives for student achievement. Her perspectives will be an asset to the Board in deliberating tough issues facing Hawai'i's public schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support Dr. Halagao's gubernatorial nomination to the Board of Education.

Very Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma  
Vice President, Filipino American Citizens League



## OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 17531 • Honolulu • Hawaii 96817

Testimony in Strong Support of GM 13  
Senate Committee on Education  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414  
October 30, 2014, 2:30 p.m.

To: The Honorable Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
The Honorable Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Education, Hawai'i State Legislature  
From: Charlene Cuaresma, Vice President, Filipino American Citizens League

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, PATRICIA HALAGAO, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Dear Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair, Sen. Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am proud to provide strong testimony in support of this bill. My name is Jean Jeremiah, president of the Oahu Filipino Community Council. OFCC is an umbrella organization that represents a network of non-profit civic groups with a unified vision to improve the lives of our Filipino communities.

Dr. Patricia Halagao is a highly qualified educator with expertise from the classroom to the community. Her years of research, teaching and community building will contribute immensely to the important governance responsibilities of the Board of Education. As Filipinos are the second largest group in Hawai'i public schools, comprise the largest numbers of English language learners, and represent large segments in struggling schools, Dr. Halagao's background as a Filipina and her contributions to the Filipino American Historical National Society will provide valuable cultural and historical insights to supporting student achievement. She is also involved in supporting Native Hawaiian student excellence through her involvement in curriculum development with the Hokule'a global voyage. Her contributions to both groups will benefit all students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our strong support of Dr. Halagao's confirmation to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Jean Jeremiah  
President, Oahu Filipino Community Council

**Erin Conner**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 24, 2013 2:28 PM  
**To:** EDU Testimony  
**Cc:** toddhairgrove@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM13 on Oct 30, 2013 14:30PM (Written Only)

**GM13**

Submitted on: 10/24/2013

Testimony for on Oct 30, 2013 14:30PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testifying in Person</b>
Todd Hairgrove	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Anything To Get Our Kids Back on track

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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