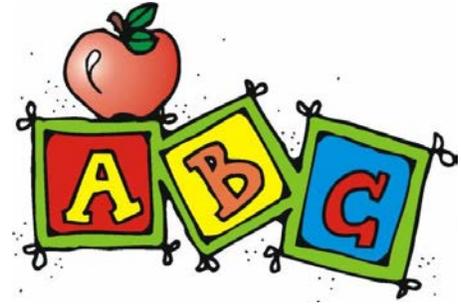


GM706



Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Board of Education

Current Referral: EDU



GOV. MSG. NO. 706

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

March 28, 2014

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Senate President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Seventh State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senate President Kim and Members of the Senate,

In accordance with the provisions of Article V, Section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution, I have the honor to submit herewith for your consideration and confirmation, the following nomination to the **Board of Education**:

BOARD OF EDUCATION

TERM TO EXPIRE

Donald Horner

6/30/2017

Sincerely,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

Presented Before the Senate Committee on Education
RE: GM 706 Confirmation for State of Hawai'i Board of Education

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

April 9, 2014

Written Statement by Nominee Donald G. Horner

1) Having served the inaugural term on the Board, what made you decide to agree to be considered for a second term?

Over the last three years, we have collectively made meaningful progress in constructing a strategic vision, establishing clarity and accountability of objectives and reorganizing/aligning the department and board to improve public education. We are now in the implementation and adjustment phase. We have more work to be done. I remain committed to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to continue to build a strong foundation with a student focus that maintains our progress.

2) What do you feel has been your most significant contributions to the board since you were confirmed in 2011?

The new board and department spent the first 18 months working with many stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategic plan. We then presented our State plan to the Federal Department of Education and successfully gained their approval. So, we now have clarity of purpose and a broad set of benchmarks for student achievement success which we call "Strive Hi." The plan is divided into three foundational objectives: Student Achievement; Staff Development; and Support Services Improvements. We have reorganized the board policy committees and the departmental organizational structure in alignment with these three objectives and established transparent accountability data metrics for each objective. Each school and community complex is measured by these new benchmarks which include goals for

attendance, graduation rates, college admittance, diploma requirements, ACT scores, requiring all schools to be nationally accredited and other metrics that are all student focused. Working through the Superintendent, we have appointed a new, dedicated and highly capable senior management team including a substantial change in personnel and job function/focus of our community complex area superintendents. Other board contributions include development of a new Charter Schools Commission under Act 130, establishment of a strong internal Audit function within DOE, building a consensus of purpose for our Hawaiian Immersion schools, initiated improvements to increase stakeholder engagement and a focus/plan on cost and service improvements for various DOE functions including bus transportation, food service, and facilities construction/renovations.

3) What priorities do you feel are critical that the Board take up during the course of the next term? What role do you see yourself playing in addressing these issues?

Stakeholder engagement should continue to be a priority as we make major changes. We, as a board, must continue to listen to those that are affected by our policies. For example, we are implementing a new comprehensive teacher evaluation system that Secretary Arne Duncan described as a model for the nation. However, we must listen and make adjustments to ensure the system is fair, not overly burdensome and is accomplishing its objective of helping teachers to be successful in the classroom. Another major priority as we move forward is the recruitment, retention and training of our professional staff. Over the next five years, we are projected to experience a large number of retirements. Replacement with highly qualified, prepared and motivated personnel should be a priority. Student safety and health should be an important priority and several new initiatives are underway. Lastly, our average school building is over 65 years old. Innovative, cost effective solutions that bring our infrastructure up to 21st century standards will improve student learning, staff productivity/morale and will actually reduce operating costs.

4) How do you feel individual members and the Board can improve stakeholder and community engagement?

As stated in question 3, this should be an ongoing priority. Community engagement is a specific goal within our Strategic Plan. The Board has found

evening community based meetings within and with the Complex Area Superintendent to be highly effective. The format is after a brief update, we dedicate the entire time to listening to educational issues that involve that specific community. We have conducted 15 such meetings throughout the state which is more than double the number of meetings required by law. Recently, we added evening meetings dedicated for just DOE employees to listen to their concerns. The first was held on Lanai and the second in Lihue. We recently addressed the issue of policy revisions regarding Hawaiian Immersion schools. Before we took up any policy changes, we established a stakeholder task force, conducted over 40 meetings and did onsite school visits in order to ensure we listened to those most affected by our policies. The result was overwhelming support for the policy changes. Well-coordinated, purposeful school visits by board members is also highly effective. Our volunteer board members have conducted over 200 such school visits statewide. Also, attending legislative and other stakeholder sponsored community meetings is important. Our members have attended over 400 such meetings throughout the state. Significant improvements have been made to our website to allow for email requests and comments. Additionally, a new independent "hotline" for the public and employees to anonymously report concerns has been created. After every board meeting, as chair, I established a 5-6 pm "chair office hour" for anyone to express their concerns in person. Within the Superintendent personal contract goals are provisions for community engagement. Under consideration is the televising of our meetings at certain times per quarter and working to allow live public testimony electronically.

5) What is the role of the Board in addressing capacity issues at all levels within the Department and taking appropriate action to maintain both productivity and morale?

The board should work closely with the management team to develop a clear and consistent vision. Productivity is lost when objectives are unclear and inconsistent. Additionally, when employees are given clear objectives, they also should be provided with the training and resources to efficiently and effectively reach the objectives. I have found over the years that employees are the solution and not the problem. The problem is often a lack of vision, training and resources. The Board's job is to work with the management team, the legislature, the executive branch and other stakeholders to ensure all three of these are in-place as we move forward.

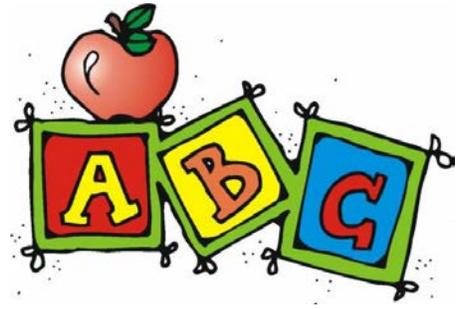
6) What do you feel has been the most significant lesson learned during your first tenure on the Board? How will this guide you in a second term?

I have been impressed with the dedication of the employees and if given a voice in the process and the resources, are more than willing and excited to accept positive change and the raising of the bar. Likewise, our students have the ability to compete with any students anywhere. The old AYP system did an injustice to our students and our teachers by placing a focus only on a subset of our students and required our teachers to teach to a test verses teaching to the whole child and the whole student body. If we provide our teachers and students the goals, freedom and tools, they are more than capable of being some of the best schools in the country.

7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I have received training and understand the State's Ethics Code. During my three years of service, we have had no votes where I have experienced a conflict of interest. If any potential conflict arises, I would declare the conflict and abstain from voting. I would also submit the conflict to the Ethics Commission for their review and would follow their recommendations.

GM706



TESTIMONY



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

Wednesday, April 9, 2014
1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

Testimony of Brian De Lima, Vice Chairperson

GM 706 Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i 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 fully support the confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education (the "**Board**").

Mr. Horner has been an extraordinary leader of the appointed Board's work and has enabled us to accomplish our goals of accountability and effectively working with the Department of Education (the "**Department**") to increase student performance. During his tenure as chairperson the Board has undergone a tremendous amount of work including: (1) implementing the new charter school law to increase performance and accountability of charter schools; (2) implementing the first ever joint Board and Department strategic plan; (3) approving a phase-in schedule to ensure that all Department schools are accredited by 2019; (4) increasing accessibility to the Board (our volunteer members have attended over 400 stakeholder meetings statewide; visited nearly 200 schools; held 173 committee and Board meetings, and hosted more than twice the number required by law of evening community meetings, required by law, on Oahu, Kaua'i, Maui and the Big Island); (5) increasing access to libraries by expanding hours of operation to include weekend hours; (6) improving the Board's student representative selection process to increase the student voice by supporting participation of students from all 44 high schools; (7) approving the revised Hawaiian education policies ensuring that the related constitutional and statutory mandates are appropriately effected; and (8) implementing and managing the risk assessment of the Department and resulting audit plan.

Mr. Horner has continually been the kind of leader that a board implementing monumental change requires. He has not made excuses and not been equivocal when it came to supporting well-reasoned and effective actions that would benefit the students of Hawai'i. He has effectively worked with a diverse body of stakeholder groups and been balanced in his approach with an eye on long-term solutions. These last three years were certainly not easy and Mr. Horner has proven to have the skills and integrity to be accountable for the change and to also be willing to do what it takes to ensure that the long-range goals are met.

He along with Board Member Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui worked with Hawaiian stakeholder groups for over a year to develop amendments to the Board policies on Hawaiian education which ensured that

Hawaiian immersion and the constitutional mandates to teach Hawaiian language, culture and history were affirmatively effected.

We have accomplished so much as a board that I am proud of and that is due in large part to Mr. Horner's leadership.

Mr. Horner is truly an asset to the workings of our Board and we respectfully support his confirmation.



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

April 8, 2014

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

Wednesday, April 9, 2014
1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

GM 706 Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

I am writing in strong support of Donald Horner's reappointment to the Board of Education. Mr. Horner has been an excellent Board Chair. He has led the Board to accomplish many meaningful changes for the betterment of all students. In working with him, I have found him to be fair and even-minded. He has always kept the best interest of all students at the forefront of all decision-making. This is why it is particularly disturbing to see allegations that Mr. Horner is biased against any group since I have only witnessed him be compassionate to the needs of all students.

I am a strong advocate for anti-bullying initiatives in the schools. These initiatives protect all students and especially LGBT students. Mr. Horner has always been a staunch supporter of these initiatives and has noted the need to keep all kids safe in school.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Mr. Horner's appointment to the Board of Education.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Keith Amemiya".

Keith Amemiya
Member
Board of Education

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

<http://CharterCommission.Hawaii.Gov>
1111 Bishop Street, Suite 516, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: 586-3775 Fax: 586-3776

FOR: GM706 Board of Education Nominee, Donald Horner
DATE: Wednesday, April 9, 2014
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
COMMITTEE(S): Senate Committee on Education
ROOM: Conference Room 414
FROM: Tom Hutton, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

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

I am pleased to provide this testimony in support of the nomination of Donald Horner to serve for another term on the Hawaii Board of Education (BOE). I do so in my capacity as Executive Director of the State Public Charter School Commission, as the Commission itself has not had the opportunity to take formal action in this matter. Under ordinary circumstances I think neither the Commission nor its staff would weigh in on a BOE nomination at all. But with this nomination, the circumstances are not ordinary.

When the Legislature enacted Act 130 of 2012 to reconstitute Hawaii’s charter school system, it fell to the BOE and to Chair Horner to help oversee that transition. In the BOE’s appointment of the members of the first Commission, in the contracting of the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) as the contracted transition coordinator, in the role of NASCA’s local subcontractor Dede Mamiya, and in the work of the informal advisory group Chair Horner formed to advise him throughout the transition, he played a vital part in what was for him only one of many complex challenges he and the BOE were addressing.

Yesterday, the Office of the Auditor released its Report 14-06 on the Implementation of State Auditor’s 2011 Recommendations, which includes its follow-up to its Report No. 11-03, Performance Audit of the Hawaii Charter School System, *Hawai’i Charter Schools: Autonomy Without Accountability*. The systemic progress highlighted by the Auditor this week originated in the actions of this body in creating the Task Force on Governance, Accountability, and

Authority co-chaired by Chair Tokuda and in that body's work to set in motion Act 130. But another key element was the BOE's role—and specifically Chair Horner's leadership.

Change is always difficult; rapid change more so. At a time of intense change for all of Hawaii's public schools, Chair Horner has demonstrated real solicitude for our charter schools in countless ways, substantive and symbolic, that have help contribute to a vastly improved relationship between the charter school sector and the larger public education system of which it forms a part. And if his engagement has occasioned some lengthy, and at times difficult, conversations with him on some issues, those conversations invariably have proved fruitful, and from them no one can doubt his commitment to doing right by our children.

On a personal note, when I worked some years ago for the National School Boards Association, we frankly were thrilled to be able to learn about, and to highlight, school board members who brought Don Horner's stature and capability to their work. Few public service roles are both so critically important and so frequently underappreciated as that of a board of education member. Hawaii and its *keiki* are fortunate indeed to have this particular public servant working on their behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



DOING THE
MOST GOOD

Founded in 1865

William Booth
Founder

André Cox
General

James Knaggs
Territorial Commander

John Chamness
Lani Chamness
Divisional Leaders

The Salvation Army

Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division

April 7, 2014

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

**SUBJECT: GM 706 Confirmation of Donald Horner to the
State of Hawaii Board of Education**

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

I, Major John Chamness, Divisional Commander of The Salvation Army Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division, would like to take this opportunity to endorse, recommend and support Mr. Don Horner's application to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

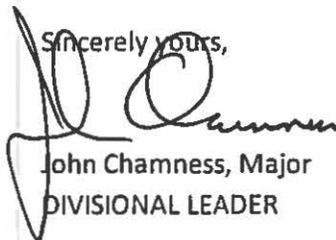
Mr. Horner is influential, a committed and successful gentleman in whatever he undertakes with a great wealth of knowledge. We have had the privilege of Mr. Horner's membership on our Honolulu Advisory Board.

Mr. Horner will be a great asset as a Board of Education member and will certainly be a valued addition to the School Board.

In closing we highly recommend Mr. Horner to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

Thank you and God bless!

Sincerely yours,



John Chamness, Major
DIVISIONAL LEADER

JC/j



Aloha United Way
Hawaii Island United Way
Kauai United Way
Maul United Way

Our AUW Designation
Number is 96450

P.O. Box 620 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809-0620 • Tel: (808) 988-2136 • Fax: (808) 988-5285
Visit us at: www.SalvationArmyHawaii.org



TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION 2014

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 p.m., Conference Room 414

GM 706: Nomination of Donald G. Horner for consideration and confirmation to the State Board of Education as Chair.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the confirmation of Donald G. Horner as member of the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

My name is Gary K. Kai and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Business Roundtable and it gives me great pleasure to submit this letter of support for Donald G. Horner's nomination to the State Board of Education.

Mr. Horner was a long time member of the Hawaii Business Roundtable and one of the strongest supporters of the Roundtable's work to help improve public education. His leadership capabilities are well known throughout the community and the business sector.

As the leaders of their businesses, the members of the Hawaii Business Roundtable employ thousands of Hawaii's citizens, many of whom are graduates of Hawaii's public school system. These leaders fully understand the complexity of running a large enterprise with over 20,000 employees and most importantly that is responsible for the education of over 180,000 of our children here in Hawaii.

The Roundtable's members recognize that under Don's leadership as Chair of the Board of Education and in partnership with Superintendent Matayoshi, the Department of Education has made substantial progress in improving our public education system. Their efforts and their entire team's work were recently acknowledged by U. S. Department of Education Secretary Arnie Duncan as having shown "amazing leadership".

We fully support Mr. Horner's reappointment to continue the work that has been started. The Business Roundtable will continue its effort to support the work of the Department of Education for the sake of the children of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Gary K. Kai, Executive Director
Hawaii Business Roundtable
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2630
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Senate Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

April 9, 2014

This testimony is in support for GM706, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and Committee Members:

The Hui for Excellence in Education (HE'E) is a diverse coalition of over 40 parent and community organizations dedicated to improving student achievement by increasing family and community engagement and partnerships in our schools. Our member list is attached.

One of HE'E Coalition's priorities is influencing policy that affects public education. Therefore, the Coalition staff attends Board of Education meetings, in particular, committee meetings, on a regular basis. HE'E appreciates Mr. Horner's effective administering of the meetings he chairs as well as the support he offers to the chairs of the various committees.

The Coalition was active in providing its voice to the Department of Education's Strategic Plan, advocating that family-school partnerships and community engagement be included the plan. Chair Horner and Board Members were supportive of our efforts and have incorporated some of our recommendations in the plan. The Coalition appreciates Chair Horner's understanding the importance of family and community engagement in our schools and the support he and the Board has given the Coalition in our efforts to give input and feedback educational policy issues.

We strongly encourage this Committee to reappoint Mr. Horner. We look forward to continuing our work with him and the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration. The support of this Governor's Message represents 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director

HE'E Member List

Academy 21
After-School All-Stars Hawaii
Alliance for Place Based Learning
*Castle Complex Community Council
Center for Civic Education
Coalition for Children with Special Needs
*DOE Windward District
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawaii
*Good Beginnings Alliance
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Charter School Network
*Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
*Hawaii State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds

Our Public School

*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu
Voting Members (*)



KANU O KA 'ĀINA LEARNING 'OHANA

Serving and perpetuating sustainable Hawaiian communities through Education with Aloha

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0034 | Fax: (808) 586-0006

RE: Letter of Support for the confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee,
DONALD HORNER

Dear Honorable Governor Abercrombie,

On behalf of Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ōhana, I submit this letter of recommendation in support of the confirmation of Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER to the Board of Education, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

We have appreciated his leadership and look forward to working with him, as the Board of Education Chairperson, as we continue to promote excellence and equity in Hawaii's public schools enabling all students to meet their own unique and varied potentials.

Taffi Wise

Executive Director
Kanu o ka 'Āina Learning 'Ōhana



Wednesday, April 9, 2014
1:15 PM
Conference Room 414

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

RE: GM 706 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and 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.

HAIS is in strong support of GM 706, Donald Horner's reappointment to the Board of Education (BOE). I hold Mr. Horner in the highest esteem for his ability to forge policy in the DOE, while allowing the individual schools to implement it in such a way that is reflective of their respective school cultures. HAIS has long been an advocate of education with a public purpose, a commitment that Mr. Horner has likewise exemplified in his work as chair of the BOE.

HAIS looks forward to continued, thoughtful discussion and partnerships to best deliver a high quality public education that addresses children's diverse learning abilities and needs.

I strongly believe that Donald Horner's continued involvement with the Board of Education will be to the benefit of children and families in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 706.

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Education
FROM: Byrde Cestare, Executive Director, Friends of the Library of Hawai'i
SUBJECT: **Governor's Message 706**
Nomination of Donald Horner to the
Hawai'i State Board of Education
DATE: April 7, 2014

Friends of the Library of Hawai'i supports Gubernatorial Nominee, Donald Horner, to the Hawai'i State Board of Education for an additional term to expire 6-30-2017.

Since joining the BOE, Mr. Horner has brought his business acumen to the task of improving public education in Hawai'i by focusing on public schools and public libraries and the symbiotic effect they have on education. For example, the statewide Summer Reading Program offered at Hawai'i's 50 public libraries has been shown statistically to bridge the gap between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next. At the suggestion of the Board of Education, this program, funded by the Friends of the Library of Hawai'i, will be extended from a five-week program to six weeks for Summer of 2014.

Mr. Horner has been a strong supporter of the Hawai'i State Public Library System and believes strongly in the importance of lifelong learning for children, adults, and all of Hawai'i's people.. We in Hawai'i need advocates such as Mr. Horner to help our public libraries meet the increased demands of the communities they serve,. We believe that Mr. Horner is such a strong, passionate advocate and, as such, merits appointment to another three-year term on the Hawai'i State Board of Education.



HAWAI'I FRIENDS OF CIVIL RIGHTS
3071 Felix St. Honolulu, Hi 996816

March 6, 2012

TO: Chair Jill Tokuda,

Vice Chair Michelle Kidani

members of the Education Committee

FROM: Faye Kennedy, Co-chair

RE: GM 706: Donald Horner

I am representing the Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights (HFCR) in support of the nomination of Donald Horner to the Board of Education. HFCR supports policies, programs and individuals who are committed to state and federal laws relating to equal rights and non-discrimination.

Mr. Horner appreciates and understands the history of our multicultural island state, has a strong track record of service to the community, extensive and successful experience in the private sector. The Board of Education is a very important policy board because it has the responsibility for educating the children of Hawai'i and the policies and programs they review and approve impact individual lives as well as our collective future. The BOE, the students, teachers and administrators have made significant improvements. I am confident that Mr. Horner will continue be a fair and inclusive leader. He is independent, thoughtful and a person of integrity. I respectfully urge you to support his nomination to the Board of Education

Castle & Cooke
Hawai'i

680 Iwilei Road, Suite 510
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817
(808) 548-4811 • Fax (808) 548-2980

Harry A. Saunders
President

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair,
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Education Committee
Hawai'i Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol Conference Room 414
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senators Tokuda, Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Subject: ***Nomination of Donald G. Horner to the Board of Education***

On behalf of Castle & Cooke Hawai'i, I am submitting this testimony in support of the nomination of Donald G. Horner to the Board of Education.

Mr. Horner's background in business, being a member of the Hawai'i Business Roundtable, and his dedication to education and the public school system only help to improve public education. His continuance as a Board member would be beneficial in the work that has been started which was recently acknowledged by U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arnie Duncan.

We respectfully request your favorable approval of Mr. Horner's nomination to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,





Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.

... a non-profit organization with a mission to address the global nursing shortage by providing guidance and assistance for nursing colleagues to obtain their professional license in nursing.

NAMI, P.O. Box 2034 Aiea, HI 96701

E-mail: bramosrazon@aol.com

In strong support of GM 706

Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson,
Senate Committee on Education Members
From: Beatrice Ramos Razon, Founder and President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.
Subject: Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

My name is Beatrice Ramos-Razon. As the founder and president of NAMI (Nursing Advocates & Mentors, Inc.), I am proud to submit our strong support for Don Horner, Gov. Neil Abercrombie's nomination to the Hawai'i Board of Education. NAMI's membership is comprised of over 75 volunteer nurses, instructors, allied health care professionals, and Filipino leaders, who are dedicated to improve the health of Hawai'i's people through education, mentoring, advocacy and service. We mentor University of Hawai'i (UH) students, who are interested in health disparities research. We are concerned that enrollment in our UH medical and law schools have declined. Filipinos and Native Hawaiians are still underrepresented in higher education. That is why we are in strong support of Mr. Horner's nomination to the Board of Education. The systems changes he is spearheading are sorely needed to ensure that all students have access to higher education, especially within our local UH system.

As longtime community partners and mentors of UH students, we believe that Mr. Horner possesses:

- commitment to student achievement,
- competence in working with top Hawai'i Department of Education leadership and fellow board members on state statutes, policies, administrative rules and budget, and
- steadfast, ethical character to hold accountable all the private/public partners and stakeholders of higher education, including those who are underrepresented and underserved.

Thank you for hearing this gubernatorial nomination of Mr. Horner, and for the opportunity to provide our full community support to you for his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Beatrice Ramos-Razon, RN, FACDONA
President, Nursing Advocates and Mentors, Inc.



In strong support of GM 706

Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson,
Senate Committee on Education Members

From: Rouel Velasco, Chair, National Federation of Filipino American Associations Region 12

Subject: Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

My name is Rouel Velasco, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12, which strongly supports this bill. NaFFAA Region 12 represents the interests of Filipinos in Hawai'i, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands. We are an affiliate of the National NaFFAA. Washington policy-makers, private industry and national advocacy groups recognize NaFFAA as the Voice of Filipinos and Filipino Americans throughout the United States. We are a non-partisan, non-profit national affiliation of more than five hundred Filipino-American institutions and umbrella organizations that span twelve regions throughout the continental United States and U.S. Pacific territories.

NaFFAA strongly supports Gov. Neil Abercrombie's nomination of Mr. Don Horner to the Hawai'i Board of Education, because we believe that education is key to economic empowerment for all people, including Filipinos, who comprise a large segment of Hawai'i's vulnerable labor force in service industries with among the lowest paying jobs. We believe that Mr. Horner's conduct and practices as Board chair are ethical, non-judgmental, effective, and exactly what Hawai'i needs to advance badly needed systems changes that will benefit all of Hawai'i's public schools. I am a proud graduate of Wai'anae High School and now serve as UH West O'ahu Student Life Coordinator. With the crucial changes in the Dept. of Education under Mr. Horner as chair, I believe that education disparities from K-12 and, as a result, in higher education have been well served by Mr. Horner and his fellow Board members. NaFFAA Region 12 extends our appreciation to you for hearing this bill and for considering approval of Mr. Horner's confirmation.

Sincerely,

Rouel Velasco, Chair, NaFFAA Region 12

Filipino American Citizens League

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

In strong support of GM 706

Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice
Chairperson, Senate Committee on Education Members
From: Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League
Subject: Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

My name is Jake Manegdeg. As president of the Filipino American Citizens League, we are very proud to strongly support GM 706. 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.

During these troubling economic times and the persistent stalemate and failure in Congress to uplift the status of minority and underserved communities in America, FAACL is disturbed about the declining numbers of Filipino, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students in higher education, particularly in medicine and law. We are happy that Governor Neil Abercrombie nominated Donald Horner to another 3-year term to the Hawai'i Board of Education. We are glad for his leadership to provide the rigorous governance and oversight necessary to fix an ailing administrative system to ensure that all students, especially those from our struggling public schools, will have a good chance in life to be healthy, productive, and helpful members of our diverse communities. He is trustworthy. His actions on the Board show that he is courageous, and can certainly tell the difference between separation of Church and State. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony. Please consider voting yes to Mr. Horner's confirmation.

Very Sincerely,

Jake Manegdeg, President, Filipino American Citizens League



In strong support of GM 706

Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice
Chairperson, Senate Committee on Education Members
From: Helena Manzano, Vice President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity
Subject: Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

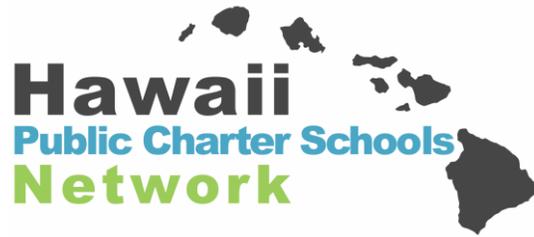
My name is Helena Manzano, vice president of the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity. Since its inception in 1990, the Coalition has represented more than 50 Filipino community leaders, whose aim is to work for social justice issues to empower Filipinos to make socially responsible contributions to Hawai'i and our global neighbors through education, advocacy, and social action.

The Coalition strongly supports Governor Neil Abercrombie's nomination of Mr. Donald Horner to the Hawai'i Board of Education, because he is highly regarded by the community to be a champion for student achievement for all students in public schools. The accomplishments of the Board under his leadership as chairperson has been phenomenal, when compared to the elected school board system. Mr. Horner and his colleagues brought order, synergy, productivity, and accountability in order to use limited funds as efficiently as possible to uplift struggling schools. More work is needed, but we are pleased with the direction, integrity, and access to the Board with Mr. Horner's leadership. Mr. Horner is compassionate, intelligent, and has a big heart for underserved students, as he himself came from humble beginnings and had to overcome adversities in his own life. That is why he will not forget where he came from. He is rational, intelligent, a fair person, and an advocate and fighter for all students to achieve their goals.

The Coalition extends our gratitude to you for hearing this measure, and urge you to consider the confirmation of the Governor Abercrombie's nominee, Mr. Donald Horner.

Respectfully,

Helena Manzano, MSW, Vice President, Filipino Coalition for Solidarity



Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education

DATE: April 8, 2014
TIME: 3:00 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414, Hawaii State Capitol

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee

Re: GM706 - Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER

I am in SUPPORT of the re-appointment of Don Horner for the Board of Education with a term to expire 6/30/2017. As the executive director of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network, I have had several opportunities to work closely with Chair Horner.

Chair Horner played a key role serving on the 2011 Charter School Governance, Authority and Accountability Task Force that led to a recodification of the charter school law (Act130, SLH 2012 and Act 131, SLH2012). He also provided leadership throughout the "transition year" by convening a group of stakeholders to comb through the many inevitable bumps during implementation of the new law.

I can attest to his willingness to create opportunities for stakeholders' voices to be heard, give fair consideration to these voices and work toward a collective solution. Change is never easy. Thanks to the involvement and leadership of Chair Horner, Hawaii's charter school sector has made significant progress.

It is with great appreciation for his hard work that I support Chair Horner for this second term.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn Finnegan". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Lynn Finnegan
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 6:09:32 AM
Attachments: [GM 706 Board of Education David Horner.gif](#)

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arvid Tadao Youngquist	About Face	Oppose	No

Comments: Chair, Sen. Jill N. Tokuda, EDU Committee V. Chair, Sen. Michelle N. Kidani, Senate EDU Right Honorable Committee Members We are opposed to the re-appointment of Mr. David Horner to the BOE. During his tenure on the BOE for the past 3.5 years, the HSTA has seen a long and protracted collective bargaining and impasse period. Continuity and the keiki, as well as the teachers, education assistants, principals and vice principals, as well as the parents paid the price, as did they when the furlough was imposed on the teachers during the last Administration. Did the "solution" of the current Administration and his support for the ballot issue 3.5 years ago backfire? It is for the Community in your Districts to decide. Mr. Horner is spread out "thin" with his major role he he already played on the critical H.A.R.T. That alone is a project with a life of its own. Perhaps, Mr. Horner should consider enjoying his retirement from the banking world, and pick one community service to the City or the State and stick with it? Every election, the previous elected BOE used to have the DOE "co-incidentally" announce the "Blue Ribbon Schools roster". There are many milestones that the DOE can be proud of, and we can see why the BOE felt it was on firm ground recommending the Superintendent for a pay increase. But what about the State Librarian? What about the Library service for the rural areas? Is the Library an orphan child of the BOE? Recommend that the EDU Committee hold this appointment confirmation decision until the very end of the Session, as the Senate did on the chair of the DLNR and the AG, both of whom were eventually confirmed 3.5 years ago. In the short waiting period during this month when your presence is required before WAM, and other individual Committees of your fellow EDU members, some deliberations should be expended before any routine re-appointment is determined. Mr. David Horner is a dedicated BOE members and attends Finance Committee testimonies and decision making hearings, or at least when we were present as well. But can you honestly say that the State made the right decision when it went to an appointed Body rather than an Elected body? Mr. David Horner would be the wrong leader for the BOE if DOE/Executive Branch should decide to return to an elected Body status, if and possibly when the Administration changes, or changes course after the election. In fact the first two BOE appointees who's terms expired first, were in our opinion, the very best of the

community to serve on the BOE as appointees. Let's revisit the BOE structure again. At one time during the early days of Statehood, the Counties ran the education system, county by county, then it went Statewide, so there are various permutations that the DOE/BOE has been seen by the People of Hawaii. Please hold this confirmation decision until the very end of the current Session. Mahalo for this opportunity to offer testimony. Arvid Tadao Youngquist Spokesman, Administrator, & Founder *Note: Registered Voter, Congressional District 1, U.S. House of Representatives (Kalihi Valley resident)

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



A program of
The Safe Zone Foundation
Honolulu, Hawaii
www.girlfeshawaii.org

April 4, 2014

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard
Senator Russell E. Ruderman
Senator Sam Slom

RE: Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION TO GM706 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2017

Dear Members of the Committee on Education:

I write in strong opposition to the re-appointment of Donald Horner to the Board of Education. Our government must uphold the separation of Church and State. Horner is a pastor of a Church which has established its inability to maintain this necessary separation of powers. New Hope and the Four Square national ministry have not only opposed the constitutional right afforded to the LGBT community with regard to Marriage Equality, they have supported the abusive practice of Conversion Therapy on LGBT-identified youth. Such therapy has been proven to be extremely harmful to LGBT children.

Don Horner is not in a position to be impartial in the education and positive environment for learning pertaining to all youth in Hawaii; a demographic which is diverse in terms of sexual identity. It is absolutely unwise to re-appoint Horner to the Board of Education for these reasons. He does not have the best interests of LGBT youth in mind.

Girl Fest has been operating in Hawaii since 2004 responsible for projects that prevent violence in our community. We respectfully urge you to oppose GM706.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Xian
Executive Director
Girl Fest Hawaii
A program of the Safe Zone Foundation



92-954 Makakilo Dr. #71 Kapolei, HI 96707 Email: Rainbowfamily808@gmail.com Phone: 808-779-9078 Fax: 808672-6347

April 4, 2014

RE: GM 706 Consideration of Donald Horner to BOE

In Strong Opposition

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

Aloha Senators,

Rainbow Family 808 is in Strong Opposition of the Re-appointment of Donald Horner to the BOE. He has not fulfilled the promises from the Governor's Office that Horner would use his expertise as a businessman for the benefit of the DOE. Quite the opposite, Horner used his training as a Pastor of New Hope Kahala to shelter the conglomerate of New Hope churches in opposition to the Separation of State and Church. In fact, he did not disclose his affiliation with New Hope until another citizen confronted him during a BOE meeting. This non-disclosure is anything but an example of transparency that should rule the BOE.

Also, Horner used his position on the BOE to shelter his affiliation with New Hope Churches and New Hope's use of DOE properties to the detriment of the students and faculty of the Department of Education of the State of Hawaii. As a social worker, I have seen over the years the harm done by discrimination to those who are not affiliated with evangelical churches and their prejudice. During the Horner administration of BOE, nothing has been done to implement Chapter 19 that would protect students from the harm of bullying.

One example of Horner's lack of leadership is the time change he set for BOE meetings from late afternoon to date time meetings. This time change precludes the attendance of teachers and working parents. The time change also affects any effort at transparency for the citizens who want to be responsible members of our community.

Another example of Horner's lack of leadership as a BOE member and chair of the BOE is when the roof collapsed at Farrington High School. Horner did not call for a complete investigation of the situation. Common sense says that when untold hundreds of pounds of stressors are added to a structure, an investigation is called for. If this had happened to one of the First Hawaiian Bank buildings during his tenure, you can believe that he would have called for an investigation. How can his lack of leadership be good for the students at Farrington High School or the students around the state of Hawaii?

Prior to Horner's appointment to BOE, he had no experience with Public Education. His children all attended private schools. This lack of experience with Public Education is not a shining example of the quality or expertise needed for serving on the BOE for the benefit of the students of Public Education. There are certainly other appointments better suited to Horner's background, experience and interest than the BOE.

As an active citizen since 1981, I have seen the harm in our state by the violation of the , as New Hope destroys from within the protection of the US Constitution for freedom of religion. Our Hawaii families need the protection from discriminatory churches for the benefit our o`hana and the spirit of Aloha.

Please focus on the needs of the families, the DOE and the BOE and do not re-appoint Don Horner to the BOE.

Thank you,

Rev. Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

President – Rainbow Family 808.com



HAWAII
AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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Barbara Polk, Vice-President
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DIRECTORS

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Jan Lubin
Stephen O'Harrow
Jim Olson
George Simson
Bart Dame (Alt)
Marsha Schweitzer (Alt)

MAILING ADDRESS

PO. Box23404
Honolulu
Hawai'i 96823

April 7, 2014

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair Senate Committee on Education, Vice Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee

FROM: John Bickel, President
Americans for Democratic Action/Hawai'i

RE: GM 706 Reappointment of Donald Horner to the BOE

Americans for Democratic Action Hawaii appreciates the business background of Mr. Horner and the long hours he has devoted to the Board of Education (BOE). Yet we find that we could do better in finding Board members who have both a strong background in finance and a background in public service, particularly in public education. We have testified in the past for more transparency from the BOE. It fails to be sufficiently open to public input in its agenda and time and place of its meetings. It has failed to offer a contract that would truly attract and retain quality teachers. It has failed to avoid the standardized-test driven curriculum mandated by the flawed No Child Left Behind program. We can do better. We owe it to our children to do better. Thank you for your consideration.

Hawaii Guerrilla Video Hui

H. Doug Matsuoka

PO Box 22046 / Honolulu HI 96823

8 April 2014

Re: Testimony OPPOSING confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education

Dear Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Kidani,

Whatever the expertise and virtues Donald Horner may possess, and without attacking his character or personal relationships, having a leader of a vehemently anti-gay church on the board responsible for the education of our youth during these challenging new times wrong.

I spent much time this past year livestreaming the people and reactions surrounding the special session for SB1 and I was disheartened by the hateful and disparaging behavior of Pastor Horner's flock. Can Horner serve our youth while opposing a cornerstone civil right our State has granted its adults? I can't imagine that would be the case.

Please do NOT confirm Donald Horner to our Board of Education.

Mahalo for your public service,

H. Doug Matsuoka
Makiki, Honolulu

**GAY LESBIAN
BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER
CAUCUS**



**DEMOCRATIC
PARTY OF
HAWAII**

**Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol RM 414
Honolulu, HI 96813**

**GM 706 - GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DONALD HORNER FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION
TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION**

Dear Chairperson Jill Tokuda and Education Committee Members,

Mr. Horner first came to the attention of the Caucus in 2010 when the Hawaii Business Roundtable wrote a letter to then Governor Lingle asking her to veto HB444 (Civil Unions). The Caucus immediately wrote a letter to every member of the Roundtable. At that time, Donald Horner was President at First Hawaiian Bank. He never took the time to reply to our letter, even though many of his colleagues, who are equally busy, could find the time to do so. We received responses from: Alexander and Baldwin, Aon, City Mill, DFS Group, Foodland, Hawaii National Bank, HEI, HMSA, Hoku Scientific, Kaiser Permanente, Kyo-Ya, Outrigger and Starwood.

We oppose the confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education (BOE) for the following reasons:

1. Mr. Horner failed to notify the public of his position as assistant pastor of New Hope, a subsidiary of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel;
2. New Hope rents public school facilities for its worship services, allegedly at less than fair market value (suit was brought and has since settled);
3. Under Donald Horner, the BOE has submitted little or no testimony on legislation;
4. As BOE chairman Donald Horner has allowed the public little or no access to BOE meetings through the follow policy changes:
 - BOE meetings are held during the middle of the day, thereby ensuring that working parents, teachers and students cannot attend;
 - BOE meetings on neighbor islands and in different districts on Oahu no longer happen;
 - Broadcast of the BOE meetings on 'Ōlelo has been cancelled;
 - Public testimony is no longer allowed, which is a direct violation of the Sunshine Law.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

Jo-Ann M. Adams, Legislative Liaison

From: [Dee Jay Mailer](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: [Donald Horner](#)
Subject: GM 706 Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State Board of Education
Date: Saturday, April 05, 2014 4:25:00 PM

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

I would like to register my full support for Don Horner's confirmation to the State Board of Education. Under his watch, Don has led our new Board of Education to accomplish, in very short order, great movement in building educational excellence in our State.

Clearly there is more to be done and I have absolute confidence in Don's leadership, the passion of the Board and the competence of Administration to clear further hurdles and build the quality infrastructure needed for public school transformation.

Don has always been passionate about quality learning for all children in this State, exemplified by his quick "yes" to lead this Board and his quick action to listen and learn from constituents while gathering independent research on best practices for education across the nation. He supports action that brings aggressive results with attention to minimizing the waste of State resources. He understands the criticality of building educational excellence especially in schools serving the most vulnerable, often children of Hawaiian ancestry.

Given the momentum built over the past 3 years, continuity in inspired leadership is needed. Thus, I offer my full support of Mr. Horner.

Sincerely,
Dee Jay Mailer

Personal Written Testimony
presented before the
Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 pm, Room 414
by
Donald B. Young

RE: GM 706 Nomination of Donald Horner to the Board of Education

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

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 Mr. Donald Horner for the Hawai'i State Board of Education.

Mr. Horner is recognized as a community leader in Hawai'i. He has previously served on the Board of Education with distinction, guiding policy decisions that support the recent widespread improvements in student learning. He has demonstrated an ability to understand the complex issues of our State educational systems and sought input from diverse stakeholders in coming to decisions. I have been impressed with his willingness to listen to opinions counter to his own, and incorporate new information into policy-making decisions.

Most impressive, and indicative of his willingness to seek information and support for policy implementation, Mr. Horner has recently reached out to the College of Education and the University of Hawai'i in general regarding Native Hawaiian education programs and possibilities. I have had a long career in education in Hawai'i and I cannot remember when a Board of Education chairperson has requested such support from the University. I strongly believe that such communication, collaboration, and commitment is necessary to sustain the educational improvement we have recently experienced. And Mr. Horner has demonstrated by words and actions his leadership in all three areas. Mr. Horner is a strong supporter of P-20 education and is committed to serving the children of Hawai'i.

I fully support this nomination and urge your committee to confirm Mr. Donald Horner as a State of Hawai'i Board of Education member.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

April 7, 2014

To: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Education

From: Benjamin A. Kudo
Ashford & Wriston
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM-706 - Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawaii Board of
Education
Hearing date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014
Hearing time: 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 414

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

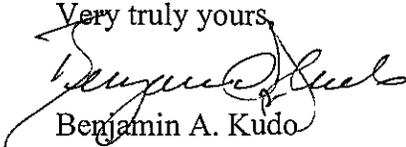
I respectfully ask for your support and the support of your Committee members in considering the confirmation of Mr. Donald Horner to the Board of Education.

I have personally known Don for several years when he worked for First Hawaiian Bank. Don is a person of high integrity and a commitment to excellence. He is especially passionate when it comes to education and young people. During his tenure on the Board of Education for the last several years, we have seen significant improvement in the performance levels of our teachers and students in our public school system. Don's veracity and diligence in pursuing excellence in our school system is admirable. We need to continue with this effort to make our public school system achieve greater accomplishments.

I, therefore, humbly ask for your Committee's support of the appointment of Don Horner to the Board of Education.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Benjamin A. Kudo

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

1:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

GM 706 Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

I am writing in strong SUPPORT of the confirmation of Donald Horner to the State Board of Education.

I have had the opportunity to work with Don for nearly 10 years on educational issues. I always find him to be accessible, approachable and pragmatic. Though we may disagree at times, we agree on most issues.

Don's knowledge on financial matters is possibly second to none. The BOE needs his skill set!

Lastly, his commitment to Hawaii's public schools, its children and employees are commendable over the past three years. It is my distinct honor to know and recommend him.

Sincerely,

Roger K. Takabayashi

April 5, 2014

Senate Committee on Education

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson

RE: GM 706 Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

I am writing to express my full support of Don Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education. I have known Mr. Horner since 2011 when we were both appointed by the Governor to serve on behalf of all our public school students.

Chair Horner is fully invested in preparing our students to succeed in college, careers, and communities, locally and globally. Don is often known and counted on for his financial and business acumen, his attention to details and accountability, and sharp mind and assertiveness. Since serving with him, I also recognize his many other strengths including an open mind and willingness to learn, an ability to adapt and respond quickly to a situation as needed, and a true desire to be of service to others and the larger system. These qualities make him a good board member. I believe what makes him a great leader on our Board of Education is his faith, his deep caring and compassion for people, his holding to standards of excellence and integrity, and his ability to make the space for others to lead.

Don was instrumental throughout a yearlong process working with many members of the Hawaiian community to revise the BOE policies 2104 and 2105 regarding Hawaiian education. I saw first-hand his leadership and followership which culminated in the unanimous passing of both revised policies. This was not an easy process. It was only possible because we shared a deep belief in the importance of Hawaiian values, culture, language, and history in the education of our students. Don is forever part of the 'ohana that is committed to the very best for our children. I am honored to serve with him on the Board of Education and ask you to support his confirmation.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui

Founder and Principal of The Leader Project and Hawai'i State Board of Education Member



KANEOHE
RANCH

April 7, 2014

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members, Committee of Education
Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: GM 706 – Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,
Gubernatorial Nominee – DONALD G. HORNER**

I am writing to strongly recommend the re-appointment of Don Horner to a second term on the Hawaii State Board of Education. I have spent much of my time as a member of the Hawaii Business Roundtable working with Mr. Horner and others to encourage Hawaii's school system to focus on student success. Mr. Horner has contributed significantly to the improvement of the governance of public education in Hawaii, using his strong executive leadership skills and his experience in managing large, complex organizations to help the Board achieve some of the following milestones:

- Commitment to a more rigorous set of high school graduation requirements two years earlier than originally planned;
- Approval of all policies necessary to implement a new evaluation process for teachers and administrators that links their performance to their students' learning;
- Completion of a new long-term strategic plan for the Hawaii Department of Education that focuses more clearly on student results, staff capacity-building, and systems improvement;
- Approval of a new, far better policy covering Hawaiian education that should benefit all students, not just those in Hawaiian-immersion programs; and
- Successful negotiation of a four-year contract with the Hawaii State Teachers Association that incorporates the new evaluation process but that creates a Joint Committee wherein union and management work together to improve the implementation of teacher performance evaluations.

Mr. Horner has essentially professionalized the Board of Education. No longer is the Board used by its members as a political springboard to county and state elected office. Micro-management of the Hawaii DOE is largely a thing of the past, and Mr. Horner's working relationship with Superintendent Matayoshi is very strong. The old Board's staff of 14 was immediately reduced to 3 by Mr. Horner, thereby giving the Hawaii DOE 11 additional positions that it badly needed. Instead, the Board focuses efficiently on high-level policy issues and on over-the-horizon matters, weighing each decision against its fit with the new state strategic plan.

Page 2
April 7, 2014

We all want Hawaii's schools to succeed and all of our students to achieve their academic and career goals. In my view, Don Horner has played a crucial role in ensuring that such success lies at the heart of everything that the Board of Education and the Department of Education do every day. Our state, which has made much progress but has much further to go in closing the achievement gap and college attainment gap, would benefit from several more years with Don Horner at the helm at the Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Mitchell D'Olier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "O".

H. Mitchell D'Olier
Chair

Senate Committee of Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Senator Michelle N Kidani, Vice Chairperson

I am writing in support of Don Horner to continue to serve on the Board of Education. Don and I have been friends and working associates for over 40 years. Both of us enjoyed the experience of working at First Hawaiian Bank and having the privilege to be active in a number of activities that help our community to be better. There is no question as to Don's integrity and his desire to help our Department of Education to better help our keiki achieve their education goals. Don is pono and kinaole (does the right thing). Mahalo for your support.

Tony Guerrero, Jr.
Chairman of the Board
Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center

Testimony Presented Before the Senate
Committee on Education

April 9, 2014

by

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor
School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawaii at Manoa

GM 706 Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

I am pleased to give my strongest support to the appointment of Mr. Don Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education for a term through June 30, 2017. As Dean of the UH Mānoa School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene, I have had the privilege to work with Mr. Horner in his capacity as a volunteer member on the UH Mānoa Nursing Advisory Council since 2010.

Mr. Horner has a distinguished career in banking and finance with his tenure at First Hawaiian Bank since 1978 and current appointment as chairman of First Hawaiian Bank. Mr. Horner takes this same approach of dedication and commitment to the variety of volunteer capacities that he serves and supports to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i's people.

As a member of the UH Mānoa Nursing Advisory Council, Mr. Horner has been valuable in our strategic visioning, communications, and advocating for the underserved. He is an extraordinary, collaborative leader who has demonstrated the ability to work with colleagues across various disciplines and bring forth best practices balanced with strategies that are effective and efficient to the unique communities of Hawai'i. He has a genuine care, understanding, and commitment to improve our communities so that Hawai'i's current and future generations can thrive.

Mr. Horner is passionate about the role of education in our community and recognizes and creates critical linkages that can support the academic success of our youth which include access to related resources including keeping students healthy. He is a strong advocate for education and working together as a community to support the community. During his tenure as chairperson over the past three years, the Board of Education and Department of Education have implemented a number of successful initiatives to guide Hawai'i schools during this time of enormous transformation in education. Mr. Horner's membership and leadership on the State Board of Education will ensure continuity in the joint Board and Department strategic directions that have started to enact a positive momentum for change, access, and participation to support Hawai'i's youth.

Mr. Horner's expertise and passion are beneficial to making a positive impact on the education of Hawai'i's children and adolescents. I strongly recommend Mr. Horner's re-appointment to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of his appointment.

Traci Toguchi, Inc.

April 8, 2014

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 706 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,
Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.
Date: Wednesday, April 9, 2014
Time: 1:15 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 414

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

I am writing in strong support of Donald Horner for the re-appointment as Chairman to the Board of Education.

Don Horner's extensive leadership in the public and private sectors consistently demonstrate his cross-sector knowledge, ability and capability to apply his accumulated experience as a leader, administrator and teacher to make tough decisions with gained wisdom and insight.

His current and previous responsibilities in significant leadership positions in our state which include chairman of the Board of Education, board member and finance chair of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, chairman and former chief executive officer of First Hawaiian Bank, and board member and treasurer of Iolani School reflect the trust of Don Horner by our state's prominent leaders.

In my opinion, the leadership trait that surpasses all others is the character of the leader, which is rooted in the motive of that leader's heart.

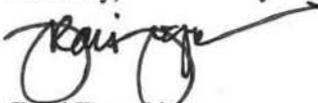
Don Horner's heart to help the kids in our state to have the best education they can is evident in his commitment to the work he has done as chairman of the Board of Education, including the difficult decisions he has needed to make, and continues to make.

His choosing to be better instead of bitter, despite humble childhood beginnings and life challenges, is seen in his ability to lead others throughout his career. He is honest – able to admit fault of his own, and humble – he can and does apologize for those faults. While these traits are not commonly seen in great leaders, it is a part of Don Horner's life. This is a reflection of the character of his heart.

I am a better person for knowing him, for I strive to have the same integrity, honesty, character and heart like his. I'm proud to be his friend and student.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter.

Sincerely,


Traci Toguchi

Post Office Box Seventeen Honolulu, Hawaii 96810

To: Senate Education Committee
April 8, 2014

Fr: Kathy Bryant

RE: GM 706: Testimony in Support of Don Horner

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Committee members,

I strongly support the re-appointment of Don Horner to the Board of Education.

In 2011, I supported Mr. Horner's appointment to the Board based on my experience working with Mr. Horner when he Co-Chaired DOE Interagency Working Group (IWG) in 2005-6. I was asked to facilitate the IWG established by Act 51: Reinventing Education. The purpose of the IWG was to implement a consolidation of education related resources from other state departments to the DOE. The intent was to give DOE control over all assets, staff, and resources that relate to DOE facilities and programs. The IWG included the Directors of all relevant State Departments, the Governor's Office, and unions, and was Co-Chaired by Don Horner and another community leader.

As the Facilitator, I worked closely with Mr. Horner. I found him to be thoughtful, fair, and intelligent. He was extremely committed to improving the education system, and worked hard to see that IWG completed their work in a timely and effective manner. The IWG's task was not easy and in many ways, unprecedented. Mr. Horner committed an enormous amount of time to the effort, and he took the responsibility very seriously. He was thoroughly prepared for each meeting, knowledgeable on all details presented by the departments, and direct in his questions and comments.

As Co-Chair, he organized a process that was inclusive and productive. He listened to the issues presented by all the departments, understood the challenges they faced in making the transition, and respected their positions. Throughout the effort, he was mindful of what was in the best interests of students, focused on solutions, and worked with all the departments to find areas of agreement. He was clear that the long term goal was always to improve student achievement.

Now as a parent and community voice, I have worked with and observed Mr. Horner as Chair of the BOE. He has continued to bring the same leadership skills, level of preparedness, and passion for student success to the Board. He has managed the transition

from an elected to an appointed board very effectively. I have attended several committee and full board meetings, and the style of the Board under Mr. Horner's leadership is thoughtful, fair and decisive. One of the biggest and most significant changes in this Board, and one that I support, is an emphasis on the Board as a more formal policy making body. From the first meeting, Chair Horner and the members of the board, have stressed that they only want to review a policy that has been fully vetted by the DOE and the impacted stakeholders. The DOE has often struggled with gathering stakeholder feedback and has had to implement changes to their outreach and communications. Chair Horner's determination to focus on this shift has not been easy, but it is working. The DOE is greatly improving their capacity to conduct outreach and stakeholder engagement when developing policy and programs, and this has improved the quality and efficiency of policy making. A perfect example is the new DOE Strategic Plan which incorporates a great deal of input from various stakeholders, much of which was gathered in advance of the DOE presenting drafts to the Board. It is not there yet, but the leadership and efforts of Chair Horner have made a huge difference in this shift.

Finally, Chair Horner has given an amazing amount of time to the Board outside of scheduled meetings. He has "office hours", attends the Board Community meetings, and conducts independent research and information gathering on issues before the board. The term "above and beyond the call of duty" comes to mind. Throughout his tenure, he has been crystal clear that his purpose is to improve student achievement and support the teachers. He continues to be fair and respectful to other board members and the DOE staff and community members that appear before the Board. While I may not agree with every decision the Board has made, I have the utmost respect and confidence that the decision was made in a thoughtful and collaborative manner. I give Mr. Horner an enormous amount of credit in both managing the successful transition of the Board, and guiding the board to be a more productive, effective and efficient policy making body.

I strongly urge you to support his re-appointment.

Thank you for opportunity to testify.

April 8, 2014

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

From: Mark S. Taylor

Re: GM 706 Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education
Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 p.m.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

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

I am submitting this written testimony as an individual and not on behalf of First Hawaiian Bank (FHB).

I strongly support the confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education for another term, to expire June 30, 2017.

Although I have known Don since becoming an employee of FHB in 1990, most of my interactions with him over the past decade have been related to improving our public schools. I am a 1977 graduate of Moanalua High School (MoHS) and joined the first MOHS School Community Based Management Council when it was formed in 1992. I continued to serve on the SCBM Council and its successor, the MoHS School Community Council, for 14 years. This included a term as SCC Chair in 2002-2004.

During this time I began to have conversations with Don about workable approaches to enhancing school performance, and learned what a strong advocate he is of public education. He encouraged and supported my service on the MoHS SCBM Council and SCC and gave similar encouragement to other public school graduates. When pilot SCCs were first formed, he arranged for FHB to sponsor a meeting of all of the members of the pilot SCCs to share best practices. Later, after the passage of S.C.R. No. 115, he was instrumental in securing the Hawaii Business Roundtable's support for the pilot project to identify obstacles to effective decision-making, administration and teaching at the school level. This included sponsoring a complex area operations and workflow review by KPMG that determined our teachers were burdened with administrative duties that took time away from the classroom, and made practical recommendations to reduce this burden.

More recently, Don's service as BOE chair over the past three years is already well known to you. In my view he has been very effective in this role, as evidenced by the DOE's progress in reaching a contract agreement with the HSTA, making good use of Race to the Top funds, introducing curriculum and performance measurement improvements, and raising test scores.

In addition to Don's passion for public education and record of performance as BOE chair, I support his continued appointment to the BOE for these reasons:

- He is adept at bringing together people with different backgrounds and views and helping them craft a shared vision they can commit to achieving as a team.
- He is an effective strategist with the ability to distinguish what steps are most important to achieving the vision.
- At the same time he understands success requires paying attention to details, and he puts in the time and effort to master essential details.
- He is a person of character and integrity who keeps his word.
- He genuinely cares about administrators, teachers and students in our public schools.

I know that if given the opportunity, Don will continue to work hard for the benefit of our keiki. Mahalo.

Testimony in support of GM 706: Donald Horner to the Board of Education

Senate Committee on Education

April 9, 2014

Hawai'i State Legislature, Room 414

To: Honorable Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

Honorable Senator Kidani, Vice-Chair

Honorable Committee Members

From: Amy Agbayani

3432 B-1 Kalihi St. Honolulu, HI 96819

amy_agbayani@yahoo.com

My name is Amy Agbayani, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen in strong support of Donald Horner's nomination to the Board of Education. I have known Mr. Horner for over two decades working together with community organizations, such as the Hawaii Community Foundation. In addition, we have common interest in addressing partnerships and programs to improve coordination between the public schools and the University of Hawai'i where I work. Mr. Horner spends time to prepare and conduct productive meetings: he reads all the materials carefully, asked clear and detailed questions when appropriate, listened to other members and encourages full participation from all. He understands his role as a leader of a policy board responsible for a large organization and a public mission for student success.

Over the years, Mr. Horner has demonstrated his understanding of student and community needs and has a deep appreciation of the history of our state and our future. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication and work on behalf of our students. I respectfully ask you to confirm his nomination to the Board of Education.

From: [Bill Reeves](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in favor of GM 706 (the reappointment of Don Horner)
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 12:10:31 PM

I am writing in support of the reappointment of Don Horner as Chairman of the Hawaii State Board of Education.

As Secretary Arne Duncan highlighted on his recent trip to the State, Hawaii's public schools are in the midst of a profound and exciting transformation. Mr. Horner and the entire Board have been strong partners with the DOE through the early stages of critical transitions in standards, assessments and accountability systems. Under his leadership the Board has tackled numerous difficult issues such as changing diploma requirements as well as the successful implementation of Race to the Top.

Throughout his tenure Chairman Horner has demonstrated clear political and policy restraint, providing the Department with support and a healthy hands-off approach in stark contrast to previous Boards. There is clear evidence that the realignment in governance between the Board, the Superintendent and the Governor's office has played a major role in supporting the DOE's progress. There is also ample evidence that Mr. Horner has been thoroughly professional in his actions and that he remains perfectly capable of separating his personal feelings from his fiduciary responsibility. This year Mr. Horner has been attacked from both sides of the political aisle on a variety of issues but that is all part of the job he volunteered for. It is also likely a sign that as Chairman he has thus far steered a sensible middle course by placing children ahead of politics.

Bill Reeves, Honolulu

In strong support of GM 706

Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

Senate Committee on Education

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 p.m.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414

To: Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chairperson, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chairperson,
Senate Committee on Education Members

From: Charlene Cuaresma, Board of Education Member, 2011-2014
728 Nunu Street, Kailua, HI 96734 Email: ccuaresma@gmail.com

Subject: Confirmation of Donald Horner to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education

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

My name is Charlene Cuaresma. I am proud to strongly support Donald Horner's reappointment to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education (the "Board"). I want to extend my deepest appreciation to you for the opportunity to have served as one of Governor Neil Abercrombie's inaugural appointees to the Board from 2011 to 2013.

Under Mr. Horner's tenure as chairperson, I am very proud of the significant changes within the Department of Education to facilitate student achievement. Among them are the joint development by the Board and the Department of Education of a strategic plan; improvement in the procurement of school bus services; expansion of library hours to evenings and weekends; inclusion of all 44 high schools to improve the selection process for student representation and to ensure student concerns are an integral part of Board business; and more.

But what I want to focus on is Mr. Horner's integrity. Above all, he is fair, level-headed, reasonable, and compassionate. He has been a staunch supporter of policies that ensure a safe learning environment for every student. He joins all Board members, including myself, to be cognizant in upholding the civil rights of students in order to aspire to complete an education that will prepare them for college, work, and the community. Given that, I know Mr. Horner to be passionate about preventing bullying in schools. I have no doubt that in my two-year term on the Board, Mr. Horner has demonstrated his ability to be open-minded and respectful of all points of views in vetting school policies that will be in the very best interest of every student.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony in strong support of his confirmation and re-appointment to the Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Charlene Cuaresma

Central Pacific Plaza
PO Box 3590
Honolulu Hawaii 96811-3590
Telephone 808-544-0500
Fax Line 808-531-2875



CENTRAL PACIFIC FINANCIAL CORP

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chairwoman
State Senate, Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: In Strong Support of GM 706 appointing Mr. Donald Horner to the Board of Education

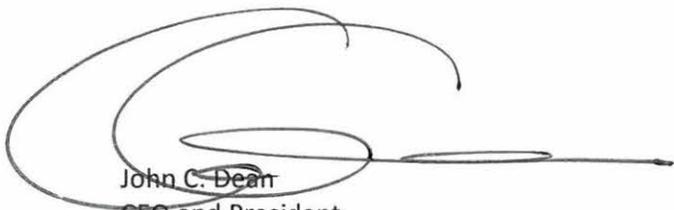
Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Education Committee;

My name is John C. Dean, CEO and President of Central Pacific Financial Corp. The Board of Education (BOE) has a critical impact on the quality of education for our future generations in Hawaii, and therefore, must be comprised of strong leaders with a vision and the passion for our educational system. Mr. Donald Horner clearly provides these qualities that we need in the BOE. Don has demonstrated the positive impact that he can make, time and again, as CEO of First Hawaiian Bank, former trustee of Mid Pacific Institute, past chair of the Board of Education, and in a leadership role of numerous other organizations.

I have had the pleasure of working with Don in the Banking community and in addition to his leadership and expertise, I can attest to his core values, sincerity, and passion to continually improve our public education system in Hawaii. Our community is very fortunate to have a candidate for public service at the caliber of Don Horner.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of GM 706.

Warm regards,



John C. Dean
CEO and President

From the Desk of

*Micah A. Kāne
45-135 Moamahi Way
Kaneohe, Hawai'i 96744*

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Jill Tokuda
Chairperson, Senate Committee on Education
Room 414
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Governor's Message 706

The Honorable Senator Jill Tokuda and members of the Committee on Education:

It is with the highest regard that I submit this letter in strong support of Mr. Don Horner for a second term to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

I recognize that it is unnecessary to reiterate Mr. Horner's professional qualifications and achievements, as they are unsurpassed by few in the State of Hawai'i. However, I do think it is important to shed more light on Mr. Horner's high level of integrity, upstanding character and genuine desire to make Hawai'i a better place for generations to come.

Over the years, I have had the good fortune of interacting with Mr. Horner both professionally and personally. He is a model friend and mentor to many. I'm just one who has benefitted from his time and passion.

Throughout the history of Hawai'i, few people have achieved so much in their business and professional careers, and then enthusiastically engage in public service. As you know, the scrutiny that comes with public service can often times be harsh and undeserved. For those who are willing – a lot is at stake. Mr. Horner has not shied away from high-profile public positions that needed strong leadership – including a post on the Hawaii State Board of Education. I am grateful for that, and I believe Hawai'i is a better place because of it.

I hope we embrace Mr. Horner's willingness to step up and participate. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity for me to express my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kāne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Micah A. Kāne

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: hsmiyamoto@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 9:21:18 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hannah Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Mr. Horner has a dictatorial style, and under his so-called leadership, the DOE has become unresponsive to parents and unaccountable to taxpayers. He should not be reappointed; the students and parents deserve better.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: foodsovereigntynow@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 9:42:26 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Why is a New Hope pastor allowed to serve on the Board of Education? Please maintain a separation of church and state. I do not want my three children's education affected by somebody with strong religious conflict of interest. Please appoint a citizen who is neutral. Mahalo.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: jon.kmoniz@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 9:56:50 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jon Kuahiwi Moniz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose Don Horners appointment to another 3 year term. Torchering another student/minor? really? is that education? worse yet he is representing a board of Educators and we continue to give him this power? He does not have the best interest of students and children. He needs to be removed, and not considered back on the board of education. I totally OPPOSE such renewal. I urge all my law makers... my consituants to dismiss his renewal to the Board of Education.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: kahonu@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 10:08:09 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan McDermott	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I humbly submit my opposition to Mr. Horner's consideration and confirmation back onto the Board of Education.

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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I would just like to state my concerns over people being bias in their roles in office. DONALD HORNER has shown that he is unable to separate his church from state. We need to evolve beyond the hatred and prejudice that he instills into the lives of the congregation of Hope Chapel. While I think he has a right to his own beliefs, I also believe that someone that is so outspoken about the right to discriminate against any class of people should not be holding a position in any form of government office.

He is also a huge supporter of the abusive practice of Conversion Therapy for LGBT identified youth. I Oppose New Hope Pastor Don Horner's nomination for the Board of Education. What message are you sending to the youth in Hawaii from the LGBTQ community and their family and friends by condoning his behavior?

Paul Tonnessen
Kahului, HI

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: scottford25@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 10:52:57 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Ford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Horner sends his kids to a private school. Horner has a dictatorial style, running meetings in a rush, and accomplishing very little. Under Horner's leadership, the BOE has been very secretive and refused to allow public testimony or hear community concerns. Horner changed the meetings from evenings to Tuesday mornings & afternoons when teachers/parents/students cannot attend. Under Horner, the BOE only meets at the DOE office in Honolulu, instead of holding BOE meetings around the state in various public schools. The BOE has no follow up, no accountability, and has been reactive rather than proactive. They do not follow the education bills before the legislature, even ignoring students' pleas for air conditioning. The public school students in Hawaii deserve better leadership.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: manamoo@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 10:55:15 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teriimana Moo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am in opposition of Don Horner's nomination to the Board of Education for another term. His previous term proved to be one of conflict of interest between his commitment to State and his commitment to his Church. During the mega church lawsuits, though the DOE and BOE were not named in the lawsuit, all of their ACTIONS, which included sidestepping and backdoor negotiations were brought forward for public viewing and judgement. Even today, much of it is hushed and hidden from us. Hawaii's BOE system seems to be setup to protect itself, there are serious issues at the DOE being condoned by the BOE, with Don Horner at the helm. He has proven that he cannot abide by the code of conduct, nor represent the citizens of the State without prejudice under conditions of stress and controversy with consideration to his religion and representation thereof. As a citizen of Hawaii, I ask that you not approve his nomination to the Board of Education.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: robertkakalia@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 11:08:45 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ROBERT KAKALIA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha and mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to the confirmation of Don Horner to the Board of Education. I oppose his confirmation because I have doubts in his ability to abstain himself from recent and ongoing controversial issues which his affiliation with New Hope would come in direct conflict with. These issues are marriage equality and the pono choices curriculum which remain under fire by other parties also affiliated with New Hope. Don Horner's business talents would best be utilized by other Boards or Commissions such as the HCDA. This vacancy would better be served by a member of the community with education as their primary focus and even more so with cultural ties to the Native Hawaiian community. Again thank you for this opportunity!

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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April 4, 2014

Dear Most Honorable Donna Mercado Kim and members of the Senate,

I would like to write this testimony in **strong opposition** to the nomination of Donald Horner to the Board of Education.

I am a special education teacher for the Department of Education, therefore my live involves around planning, preparing, and educating Hawai'i's special education population of students for future success. Part of that success is teaching them about advocacy and empowerment. Hawai'i has been overcome by bullying at its strongest. I've observed over the past several months great examples of bullying mostly stemming from those in strong opposition to equality amongst individuals due to the nature of their sexuality. These bullies came in all forms, but the most recognizable bullies came from the Capitol and leaders of religious organizations! Very outrageous and poor examples of what an ideal citizen should entail. We try our best to teach our students in schools about bullying and its affects and only hope they go out into the world respecting one another for their individual differences.

Mr. Horner is a pastor of New Hope and I cannot trust that his decisions will be non-biased and that a separation of church and state would be considered in decisions he will be entrusted to make as a member of the Board of Education. New Hope took their own beliefs to the extreme when they fought against and bullied people of the gay community during the time of the special session to discuss Marriage Equality. I was ashamed for them because their actions did not reflect what I presumed to be teachings of God. Mr. Horner would be part of decision making that involves creating safe schools for ALL students, which include those that are gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender. This also includes any curriculum that will be inclusive of sex education and diverse families. I do not trust that he will make decisions in the best interest of ALL students, teachers, schools, or communities.

Thank you greatly for this opportunity for my voice to be heard,
Brayden Ramos

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: vr1808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 12:35:36 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vern R. Lentz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to the reappointment of Donald Horner to the Board of Education, due to his strong anti-LGBT equality positions and views. Please do not reappoint him for another term. Respectfully, Vern R. Lentz, Salt Lake

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: amina@lifefoundation.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 12:50:36 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amina Peterson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a voter and youth advocate, working to create safe places in schools, hoping to reduce teen suicides and poor choices, I adamantly OPPOSE the appointment of D Horner to any office in which the well being of students might be in his control, directly or indirectly. It is a shame, that despite our nations clear separation of church and state, that someone with such strong, dissecting views about religious matter and LGBT youth would ever be allowed to be in charge of our schools. Please work harder to provide our youth with leadership who can provide an unbiased direction for our schools!

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Testimony Opposing GM 706, BOE Nomination of Donald Homer
April 4, 2014

I strongly oppose the nomination of Donald Homer to the Board of Education. I am shocked to learn that he is currently a board member, while being pastor at New Hope, a fundamentalist "born-again" Christian church. Diversity on the board is a good goal, but to include someone who preaches hate and discrimination, whose beliefs run contrary to established science, who promotes home-schooling and inculcation of dogma instead of knowledge, to include a man like this in determining the state's public education policy is pure insanity. This Christian sect has a stated goal of inserting themselves in all areas of public policy, with the intent of creating a purely Christian fundamentalist society. This was not the intention of the founders and it is not the purpose of our public school system, which is paid for by the taxes of people from all walks of life and all religions. I do not think this man is capable or willing to keep church and state separate. We have already seen the difficulty New Hope has in being honest with the state, in the Farrington HS case. I oppose Don Homer's nomination without reservation.

Mahalo,
Marnie Weeks

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: opio808@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 2:58:45 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James O. Kuloloio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Uphold the separation between Church and State. I Oppose New Hope Pastor Donald Horner's nomination for another 3-year term on the Board of Education. It is clear to me that Mr. Horner's religious views as a pastor and leader in his church that supported the abusive practice of Conversion Therapy for LGBT identified youth disqualifies him from making decisions on behalf of all youth and the LGBT youth in particular. The American Psychological Association questioned the ethics, efficacy and benefits of Conversion Therapy. Studies have also concluded that the practice has caused much physical and emotional damage to LGBT youth. And it is a known fact that homosexuality is not a mental illness which Mr. Horner believes is curable with therapy and thus has proven that he will not be able to separate his religious beliefs from what is best for the children of Hawaii. Donald Horner's nomination will be a slap in the face to all youth, parents and families in this State and I hope that you take this nomination very seriously and consider the alternatives and ramifications of that decision. Mahalo Nui Loa James Kuloloio

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: burgharc@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 4:18:25 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: It is my understanding that Mr. Horner has made considerable growth in understanding the culture and ways of our islands and I applaud him for that. However, it is my understanding that his personal and religious beliefs often color his thoughts about what is pono for our keiki and staff in the Dept. of Education. I strongly request that his reappointment be given careful consideration. We must have strong people willing to look at our islands from a perspective of 'ohana values especially aloha.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: isislovesdolphins@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Friday, April 04, 2014 10:23:02 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/4/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isis Usborne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please do not reappoint this ignorant man to the Board of Education - we need open-minded, forward-thinking individuals to be shaping our future. Donald Horner is none of those things, and will hurt the education of the children of Hawaii as well as hinder this state's development, undermining our spirit of aloha.

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April 4, 2014

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson

Senate Committee on Education

Hawaii State Capitol RM 414

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER – GM 706

Dear Chairperson Jill Tokuda and fellow Committee Members,

My name is James Vivian Mateo and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition of GM706 confirming Mr. Donald Horner as chairman of the BOE. I have a strong concern in this appointment in regard to the separation of Church and State. Mr. Horner is a pastor with New Hope Ministries <http://www.newhopeleeward.org/takeaction?parentnavigationid=17786>, a member of the Four Square Church <http://www.foursquare.org/>, which has very strict religious views on family, LGBT equality, marriage equality and a host of other social issues including the support of Gay Conversion Therapy. Mr. Horner was also actively involved in Transformation Hawaii. These religious views are not shared by all and can have a serious permanent impact on our children's education and psychological development.

It cannot be assumed or expected that Mr. Horner's strict religious views will not have an impact on his decision making and support of DOE Policy and programs while he sits as chairman of the BOE. This cannot be a position held by a person that has a biased slant towards one religion or philosophy and I believe Mr. Horner to be that individual. There are many different religions and cultural belief systems and there cannot be any room for bias or discrimination in the acts of the BOE.

Since taking over as chairman of the BOE Mr. Horner has done everything to make sure that the public has little or no access to BOE meetings. This highlighted by the follow policy changes:

- Canceling the broadcast of the BOE meetings on Olelo
- Canceled taking the BOE meetings out into the neighbor islands and different districts on Oahu
- Starting the BOE meetings during the middle of the day and having the end before the end of the business day and in a lot of cases before the school day ends, ensuring that all working parents, teachers and students would not be able to even attend, let alone voice their opinion about the items on the agenda, which is in direct violation of the spirit of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Horner has attempted to continue these restrictive tactics and hide information from the public by personally testifying in opposition of HCR82 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY IN ITS MEETINGS.

Mr. Horner has REFUSED to allow public testimony, which is in DIRECT violation of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Horner and the BOE voted in Feb 2013 to oppose anti-bullying legislation introduced in 2013 and carried over to the current session. They felt the legislators were usurping the BOE's authority by telling them what to do. At a Jan 2013 BOE meeting, Horner said "We've got lots of work to do," about bullying in public schools. Since that meeting, the BOE has not addressed bullying.

Mr. Horner failed to notify the public of his position as an assistant pastor of New Hope, a subsidiary of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, nor of his membership on the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable. Mr. Horner was also an active participant in Transformation Hawaii and was their keynote speaker at their 2005 Business and Religion Event .

<http://archives.starbulletin.com/.../features/religion.html> As a public servant he has a duty to make sure that the public knows whom they are dealing with and that is not possible when the public does not have all the facts.

It needs to be noted for the record that under Mr. Horner's leadership the BOE has failed to follow legislation that affects Hawaii's Public Schools. If you perform a quick review of the bills that have direct impact on public education you find zero testimony from the BOE. It appears that they have abdicated their responsibility under Mr. Horner's leadership.

Mr. Horner appears to be a very a busy man, so please let him give his attention to his other endeavors by holding his confirmation in committee.

Thank you for you time and consideration and please do not move Mr. Horner's confirmation forward for the sake of the keiki, our teachers and our public school system.

Sincerely,

James Vivian Mateo

Welina me ke aloha. My name is Shaun Campbell and I write in strong OPPOSITION to GM706.

Mr. Don Horner provides New Hope with Old Hate. He brings to his chairmanship at the Board of Education the most unfounded and pernicious prejudices and harms to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and intersexed students (GLBTI). Publicly entrusted to uphold the interests of our school children in his stead, he actively works against providing our kids with “safe space” and, instead, promotes attitudes and behaviors that insult, marginalize, harm, and, ultimately, kill our GLBTI students. Horner has voted against anti-bullying policies in our schools and has done much damage to our communities, making them less safe for all.

Horner is currently a loosely-licensed pastor with International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and New Hope Diamond Head, organizations that publicly and politically oppose and oppress gays. He has participated in Transformation Hawaii, part of the larger Transformation International movement that promotes the killing of gays in Uganda. His personal propaganda and activities fly in the face of state laws regarding the protections and benefits afforded to GLBTI individuals.

Of course, Horner opposes HCR82, calling for greater access and transparency to the public in Board of Educating meetings, because he personally wants *less* transparency to cloak his activities done at the behest of New Hope and other organizations that spread lies and hate.

We need Don Horner off the Board of Education *now!*

Me ke aloha nui,

Shaun Campbell

Co-Organizer

MoveOn.org Honolulu Council

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: aerandir69@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, April 05, 2014 8:43:47 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/5/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyle Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: New Hope leadership opposed Marriage Equality and supported the abusive practice of Conversion Therapy for LGBT identified youth. I oppose the reappointment of New Hope Pastor Don Horner on the State of Hawaii Board of Education. I don't think he is qualified or able to represent the Board of Education because he has demonstrated disregard for the separation of church and state as guaranteed by the First Amendment in our Constitution. He belongs to and promotes hateful values that directly and indirectly harm LGBT children, parents, citizens and other minorities. we need someone in office who works to unify our communities and promote diversity, to support all Hawaii's children regardless of their, gender/gender identity, race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.

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Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson

Senate Committee on Education

Hawaii State Capitol RM 414

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER – GM 706

Dear Chairperson Jill Tokuda and fellow Committee Members,

As a high school senior in Hawaii's public school system, I see the importance of receiving an education and how parents giving input to legislation relating to their child's education is a crucial element in making improvements to the way schools are run and how things are taught.

I am opposed to the confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education (BOE) for the following reasons:

Since taking over as chairman of the BOE Mr. Horner has done everything to make sure that the public has little or no access to BOE meetings. This is highlighted by the following policy changes:

- Canceling the broadcast of the BOE meetings on Olelo
- Canceling taking the BOE meetings out into the neighbor islands and different districts on Oahu
- Starting the BOE meetings during the middle of the day and having the end before the end of the business day and in a lot of cases before the school day ends, ensuring that all working parents, teachers and students would not be able to even attend, let alone voice their opinion about the items on the agenda, which is in direct violation of the spirit of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Horner has attempted to continue these restrictive tactics and hide information from the public by personally testifying in opposition of HCR82 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY IN ITS MEETINGS.

Mr. Horner has REFUSED to allow public testimony, which is in DIRECT violation of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Horner and the BOE voted in Feb 2013 to oppose anti-bullying legislation introduced in 2013 and carried over to the current session. They felt the legislators were usurping the BOE's authority by telling

them what to do. At a Jan 2013 BOE meeting, Horner said "We've got lots of work to do," about bullying in public schools. Since that meeting, the BOE has not addressed bullying.

Mr. Horner failed to notify the public of his position as an assistant pastor of New Hope, a subsidiary of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, nor of his membership on the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable. Mr. Horner was also an active participant in Transformation Hawaii and was their keynote speaker at their 2005 Business and Religion Event .

<http://archives.starbulletin.com/.../features/religion.html> As a public servant he has a duty to make sure that the public knows whom they are dealing with and that is not possible when the public does not have all the facts.

It needs to be noted for the record that under Mr. Horner's leadership the BOE has failed to follow legislation that effects Hawaii's Public Schools. One quick review of the bills the have direct impact on public education and you find zero testimony from the BOE. It appears that they have abdicated their responsibility under Mr. Horner's leadership.

Mr. Horner appears to be a very a busy man, so please let him give his attention to his other endeavors by holding his confirmation in committee.

Thank you for you time and consideration and please do not move Mr. Horner's confirmation forward for the sake of the keiki, our teachers and our public school system.

Sincerely,

Elana C. Waite

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ON GM706

DATE: Wednesday, April 09, 2014
TIME: 1:15PM
PLACE: Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

My name is Dan Abrahamsson and **I am strongly opposed to the gubernatorial nomination of Pastor Don Horner to the Board of Education, GM706.**

Separation of church and state avoids the expectable injustice arising from discretionary government decision-making regarding eligibility for favorable or unfavorable treatment of people of no faith, or different religious organizations. No religion is supposed to influence our laws. Lately radical religious organizations are trying to push for religious laws. These organizations/churches want to replace laws or create new laws for everybody based on their dogma and their own rigid religious beliefs. We have seen this just recently in the well planned and organized activities and threats towards politicians and other citizens. One of the trailblazers is the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel / the New Hope Church. The effort to kill the Marriage Equality bill and to add amendments that allows religious organizations to discriminate against LGBT people, people of no faith, and people of other belief systems, are only two examples of these religious organizations attempts to gain power in public matters. Pastor Don Horner is a licensed minister of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and also serves in a teaching ministry at New Hope Diamond Head Church,

Our educational system should promote liberal and critical thinking, teach scientific and evidence based facts, and not be restrained to specific religious belief that could discriminate against LGBT citizens, people of no faith, or other belief systems.

For this reason **I am strongly opposed to the nomination of Pastor Don Horner for the Board of Education.**

Best regards,

Dan Abrahamsson
1607 Quincy Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: mauifait@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Saturday, April 05, 2014 1:25:42 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/5/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Faith Ewbank	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose Don Horner's consideration for the BOE.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: autumnrose2010@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Sunday, April 06, 2014 11:39:02 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/6/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wynnie Hee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please Do NOT reappoint New Hope Pastor Don Horner for another 3-year term on the Board of Education. New Hope leadership opposed Marriage Equality and supported the abusive practice of Conversion Therapy for LGBT identified youth. Uphold the separation between Church and State. Furthermore, Don Horner is already on the BOARD of EVERYTHING, from HART board to BOE and a dozen or more other boards in between. Just because Don Horner is a good banker, please do not let put his hand in everything in our state. Give other good citizens a chance. Thank you.

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DORAN JAMES PORTER

46-462 Hulupala Place
Telephone (808) 372-2085

Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744-4243
Email: Porter@hawaii.rr.com

Saturday, April 05, 2014

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol RM 414
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER – GM 706

Dear Chairperson Jill Tokuda and fellow Committee Members,

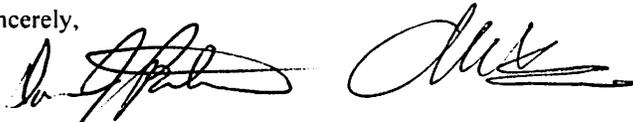
My name is Doran J. Porter, former pastor of the United Methodist Church and long time resident of Hawai'i. I am writing in opposition to the confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education (BOE) for the following reasons:

Since taking over as chairman of the BOE Mr. Horner has done everything to make sure that the public has little or no access to BOE meetings, as illustrated by the following:

- Canceling the broadcast of the BOE meetings on Olelo
- No longer conducting the BOE meetings on the neighbor islands and in different districts on Oahu
- Conducting BOE meetings at hours that preclude the participation of working parents, teachers and student; thus eliminating their voice on issues that affect them. I believe this to be in violation of the spirit of the Sunshine Law.
- Mr. Horner has REFUSED to allow public testimony, again in violation of the Sunshine Law.
- Mr. Horner failed to notify the public of his position as an assistant pastor of New Hope, a subsidiary of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, and of his membership on the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable. As a public servant he has a duty to make sure that the public knows whom they are dealing with and that is not possible when the public does not have all the facts.
- Under Mr. Horner's leadership the BOE has failed to follow legislation that effects Hawaii's Public Schools. One quick review of the bills they have direct impact on public education and you find zero testimony from the BOE. It appears that they have abdicated their responsibility under Mr. Horner's leadership.

Mahalo for your consideration of my concerns and I hope you will not move Mr. Horner's confirmation forward for the sake of the keiki, our teachers and our public school system.

Sincerely,



Doran and Kali Porter

Mahalo Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Kidani

I'm writing in opposition to GM 706 as written. The candidate being submitted by Governor Abercrombie, Donald Horner, should not be reissued another term on the Board of Education for the State of Hawaii. Countless times this person has sat in meetings and hidden the truth from the public regarding issues that are important to the general public. In meetings with the State Legislature he has not spoken complete truths regarding the openness of the meetings that are held by the Board of Education, the ability to communicate directly with members of the Board of Education, and recalling decisions he has made as the Chairperson. It is time for the Board of Education to be elected again by the public and held accountable for all of the decisions they make. Allowing Donald Horner to continue on as a Board member would only push Hawaii's education system farther back based on his poor leadership skills and general lack of communication.

Mahalo!

Christopher N. Ho

High School Teacher

Hawaii Island

April 6, 2014

Senator Jill Tokuda
Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 414
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to BOE Nominee, Donald Horner – GM 706

We strongly oppose the nomination of Donald Horner for chairman of the Board of Education.

We need someone in this position who heralds transparency. We also need someone who is more inclusive to the entire student body needs. As an assistant pastor of New Hope, we strongly suspect he is not taking the needs of our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students to heart. This is unacceptable for the person filling this role.

There are many capable individuals who can perform the role of chair on this important board, and, unfortunately, Donald Horner is not that person. He should not be considered for this position.

Sincerely,

Eileen McKee and Deborah Cohn

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: CKing@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, April 07, 2014 4:30:26 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/7/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cheryl King	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am opposed to Don Horner's being appointed to another term on the Board of Education. His performance as as Chair has been appalling! I have lived in many different states and have never heard of a B.O.E. meeting being scheduled during the day, which makes it impossible for those most concerned, parents and teachers, to attend meetings. Then, to refuse to allow these meetings to be televised, etc. throws up yet another roadblock to transparency. Mr. Horner does not have any commonsense or he has another agenda, one which brooks no opposition. I am also concerned because it has been reported that religious groups that he is connected with are the biggest users of D.O.E. facilities. I feel that his serving again on the Board in light of this is a real conflict of interest. Cheryl King Kailua-Kona

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Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol RM 414
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to Gubernatorial Nominee
Donald Horner-
GM 706

To Chairperson Tokuda and Committee Members,

My name is Lynn Robinson-Onderko. I am an 11 year resident of Ewa Beach and proud mother of two sons in our public education system here in Hawaii. I am a fierce supporter of our public schools. There are many options for education on the island and I have always known that our public schools would be the best place my keiki and our family.

I am opposed to the confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education (BOE) for the following reasons:

Donald Horner's direct ties and with organizations like Transformation Hawaii, the Pastor's Roundtable, New Hope and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel raise huge red flags for me. These organizations have publicly opposed a science based curriculum and a educational climate that makes all students feel safe and included. These very things they oppose should be at the core of our secular, public school curriculum. Even more concerning is the fact that Horner didn't disclose his affiliation with these organizations. His failure to mention his position as Associate Pastor at New Hope upon his last nomination was underhanded and unacceptable.

Since taking over as Chair of the BOE Mr. Horner has systematically restricted public access to the BOE meetings. Meetings that were once scheduled after school into the early evenings are now scheduled during school days. Therefore, most working parents, teachers and students are unable to attend. The broadcasts of BOE meetings on Olelo have been discontinued. Mr. Horner has refused to hear public testimony which violates the Sunshine Law.

His affiliation with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel is an obvious conflict of interest when you consider Foursquare represents at least two dozen churches that were found to be using public school facilities without paying proper rental fees.

I believe Mr. Horner's time serving on our BOE has been harmful to our schools and to the integrity of the BOE as a whole. Our public schools deserve representation without self-interest. I humbly ask that you withhold his confirmation in committee.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully,

Lynn Onderko

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Lynneronderko@gmail.com

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chairperson

Senate Committee on Education

Hawaii State Capitol RM 414

Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER – GM 706

Dear Chairperson Jill Tokuda and fellow Committee Members,

I am opposed to the confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education (BOE). Since he became chairman of the BOE, Mr. Horner has done everything to make sure that the public has little or no access to BOE meetings. This is highlighted by the following policy changes:

- Canceling the broadcast of the BOE meetings on Olelo
- Canceling the BOE meetings out into the neighbor islands and different districts on Oahu
- Starting the BOE meetings during the middle of the day and having the end before the end of the business day and in a lot of cases before the school day ends, ensuring that all working parents, teachers and students would not be able to even attend, let alone voice their opinion about the items on the agenda, which is in direct violation of the spirit of the Sunshine Law.

Mr. Horner has attempted to continue these restrictive tactics and hide information from the public by personally testifying in opposition of HCR82 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY IN ITS MEETINGS. For these reason, I do not think Mr. Horner has the best interest for the community

Thank you for you time and consideration,

Yesenia Ordorica

From: [Alan Isbell](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: BOE Chairman Don Horner's reappointment
Date: Monday, April 07, 2014 9:11:45 PM

Honorable Senators,

There are many reasons to deny state Board of Education Chairman Don Horner's reappointment, but arrogance should top the list.

The arrogance referred to is borne out by his sometimes flippant attitude demonstrated at meetings, as well as his resistance to transparency, and disdain for public participation.

Pastor Horner provides the best possible example for why the BOE should be elected, rather than appointed. Not having to worry about mollifying the public he should be representing, he has seen to it that BOE meetings are no longer conducted outside of Honolulu, nor are meeting times set when working people can attend. The public may only speak to agenda items, and that is limited strictly to two minutes. Horner and the board control the agenda, and if they do not wish to address an issue, that issue may never receive a hearing. If someone wishes to push an issue, Horner may acquiesce to a private hearing in front of him only, but what is exchanged apparently remains shrouded in secrecy.

Even though the agenda is at his discretion, Horner has repeatedly demonstrated a disturbing lack of understanding of the issues at hand, be it teacher retention, special needs servicing, or the contract he helped negotiate with the teachers union. Perhaps he has spread himself too thin to commit much of his time to education, since he is heavily involved with the affairs of his church.

This church affiliation is fair game for examination, since he apparently cut a deal behind closed doors to settle a lawsuit brought against his church for underpaying for use of state school facilities for worship services. Would this lack of separation between state and church be tolerated in any other situation?

During a time when public education reform has been thrust to the forefront of state politics, the BOE should be encouraging public debate, not the opposite. And although he and the upper echelon of the Department of Education ballyhoo the collaboration involved by all parties in education reform, their words are devoid of meaning when Horner displays his contempt for fair and open hearings on issues brought by the public, as opposed to agendas set on the whims of appointed officials.

Please help bring the public back to public education.

Please vote against Don Horner's reappointment as chairman of the Hawaii Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Alan Isbell
Fourth-grade teacher at Wailuku Elementary and the school's head faculty representative to the Hawaii State Teachers Association.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: haha@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, April 07, 2014 9:50:52 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/7/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caroline Kong	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Chairperson Jill Tokuda and fellow Committee Members, I am opposed to the confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education (BOE) for the following reasons: I come here today as the mother of a child with disabilities one of the largest, and often most visibly so, disenfranchised groups on the planet. My concern is for these groups: the vulnerable, the ones who need protection from harm in their fragility. I have struggled within the BOE/DOE systems for years. They are byzantine and not public, parent or child friendly. With Don Horner as Chair of the BOE it has become only more so which I would not have thought possible. Since taking over as chairman of the BOE Mr. Horner has done everything to make sure that the public has little or no access to BOE meetings. This highlighted by the follow policy changes: • Canceling the broadcast of the BOE meetings on Olelo • Canceled taking the BOE meetings out into the neighbor islands and different districts on Oahu • Starting the BOE meetings during the middle of the day and having the end before the end of the business day and in a lot of cases before the school day ends, ensuring that all working parents, teachers and students would not be able to even attend, let alone voice their opinion about the items on the agenda, which is in direct violation of the spirit of the Sunshine Law. Mr. Horner has attempted to continue these restrictive tactics and hide information from the public by personally testifying in opposition of HCR82 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY IN ITS MEETINGS. Mr. Horner has REFUSED to allow public testimony, which is in DIRECT violation of the Sunshine Law. Mr. Horner and the BOE voted in Feb 2013 to oppose anti-bullying legislation introduced in 2013 and carried over to the current session. They felt the legislators were usurping the BOE's authority by telling them what to do. At a Jan 2013 BOE meeting, Horner said "We've got lots of work to do," about bullying in public schools. Since that meeting, the BOE has not addressed bullying. Mr. Horner failed to notify the public of his position as an assistant pastor of New Hope, a subsidiary of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, nor of his membership on the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable. Mr. Horner was also an active participant in Transformation Hawaii and was their keynote speaker at their 2005 Business and Religion Event .
<http://archives.starbulletin.com/.../features/religion.html> As a public servant he has a duty to make sure that the public knows whom they are dealing with and that is not possible when the public does not have all the facts. It needs to be noted for the

record that under Mr. Horner's leadership the BOE has failed to follow legislation that effects Hawaii's Public Schools. One quick review of the bills the have direct impact on public education and you find zero testimony from the BOE. It appears that they have abdicated their responsibility under Mr. Horner's leadership. Mr. Horner appears to be a very a busy man, so please let him give his attention to his other endeavors by holding his confirmation in committee. Thank you for you time and consideration and please do not move Mr. Horner's confirmation forward for the sake of the keiki, our teachers and our public school system. Sincerely, Caroline Kong

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: hughey2000@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Monday, April 07, 2014 10:04:04 PM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/7/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
justin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: TO: Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair Senate Committee on Education, Vice Chair Senator Michelle Kidani, and Members of the Committee FROM: Justin Hughey Teacher at King Kamehameha III Elementary RE: GM 706 Reappointment of Donald Horner to the BOE STANCE: STRONGLY OPPOSED First I am disappointed this hearing was not done after school hours so teachers, parents and students could attend in person. I'm a teacher and at 1:15, I cannot even participate in your new video conferencing technology without taking one of my five personal days off. I would like to thank Mr. Horner for time served as chairman of the appointed Board of Education, but I feel that he was never qualified for the job. We need the chairman of the BOE to have extensive background in public service and public education. How is Horner's experience as a corporate banker the justification for success in setting public education policy for the state of Hawaii? I do not go to an auto mechanic to buy a cake and I do not go to a baker to fix my car. Education is not a business and should not be run like one. This concept historically has failed. Since the current Board of Education was not elected by the people, it does not have to be accountable to the people. That being said, it did not need to be reorganized as a corporate model of tightly centralized, hierarchical, top-down control, conducting their meetings in a silo with little to no transparency or public input. The legislature currently has resolutions requesting the BOE to be more transparent; publishing the email addresses of board members and making them available to the public, ensuring greater public input by holding public meetings after working hours and on weekends, holding general meetings in each county of the state at least once a year and publishing more detailed and specific agenda items as well as email addresses of an appropriate contact person to ensure clarity and transparency. Mr. Horner, shockingly, in person, testified against one of these resolutions. I submitted testimony Sept. 1, 2013 in regard to the agenda item Update/Discussion on Special Education implementation. I had serious concerns about how the Department of Education changed the special education weighted staffing allocation formula (established because of the Felix Decree) to a proportional formula. My testimony was not provided to the people who were able to make the board meeting. I was informed that the board members said they received my testimony, and would respond to my questions. A person who attended the meeting asked what those questions were. The board refused to read or hand out my testimony. Don Horner's

actions amount to bad government. An appointed board of education could work, if it was lead by experts and advocates with broad knowledge and experience in public education. Please do not vote to reappoint Don Horner. The keiki of Hawaii deserve someone qualified and committed to the practice of good governing.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Senate Committee On Education (EDU), Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Public Hearing, Wednesday April 9, 2014, 1:15 PM, Conference Room 414

Testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to GM706 "Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, DONALD HORNER, for a term to expire 6-30-2017."

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing in **strong opposition** to GM706 and Senate confirmation of Mr. Donald Horner for another term on the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE).

Mr. Horner should be disqualified and denied reappointment for the following reasons, including **charges of inappropriate behavior or unlawful conduct**.

1. Mr. Horner's direct ties and active participation with staunchly anti-gay organizations, such as Transformation Hawaii, the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable (HPR), the New Hope megachurch, and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (ICFG), for which Mr. Horner is a licensed pastor, committed to the beliefs and policies of the church. Mr. Horner did not publicly disclose any of his direct ties to any of these organizations, until he was forced to do so.
2. Mr. Horner's direct conflict of interest and inappropriate actions to benefit ICFG, New Hope, and other churches to the financial detriment of Hawaii's public schools, the Department of Education, and taxpayers. In fact, both the ICFG and the HPR represent dozens of churches that were found using public school facilities, buildings, and grounds without paying the full and proper rental fees and utilities charges as required by law and knowingly benefiting from the unpaid use. As a result, Hawaii's budget-strapped public schools were losing millions of dollars annually while subsidizing churches—many directly affiliated with Mr. Horner, the ICFG and HPR.
3. Mr. Horner's deliberate, inappropriate, and unlawful behind-the-scenes actions to forestall and frustrate an independent investigation into the use of public school facilities by churches directly affiliated with the ICFG and HPR.
4. Mr. Horner's undue influence over DOE Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi, who violated the following laws without due process [see the following page for a list of statutory violations]. The Superintendent ostensibly broke the law at the behest of Mr. Horner and on behalf of the ICFG, New Hope, the HPR, and other churches, that were discovered to be underpaying or not paying anything at all for their extensive use of public school facilities.

Superintendent Matayoshi's unlawful actions include the following:

- Unauthorized and unlawful 33% reduction in rental fees

HAR § 8-39-5(a) mandates that “rental fees and service charges applicable to the use of school facilities shall be determined by the superintendent of education *to recover costs*.” [Emphasis added] The rental rates have not been increased since 2008, when construction/maintenance costs and electricity/utilities charges were much lower. Law mandates that rental fees and utilities charges be reviewed and updated *every two years*, but on April 1, 2013, Superintendent Matayoshi simply lowered the rental fees by 33% without due process or any input from the public. Ms. Matayoshi has flaunted and/or ignored the law to the direct benefit of numerous churches belonging to ICFG and HPR members.

- Unauthorized and unlawful waivers of rent and utilities charges

HAR § 8-39-5(b)(2) specifies that utilities charges are to be “assessed according to the type of facility and the number of hours the facility is used” and to “cover costs which would not have been incurred if the facility was not utilized.” By waiving hourly rental fees and utilities charges for use of facilities, Superintendent Matayoshi has further subsidized churches while passing the significantly increased costs directly to taxpayers.

- Unauthorized and unlawful repeal of the 5-year limit on facilities use

The Superintendent rescinded the limit, dismissing a long-standing Attorney General's opinion warning of abuses and constitutional concerns with long-term use of school facilities by churches.

- Unauthorized and unlawful waiver of legal requirements for BLNR approval of long-term use of school facilities by third parties

HAR § 8- 39-4 (b) specifies: For periods of use exceeding twelve consecutive months, all applications shall be initially processed by the school and final approval given by the land board of the department of land and natural resources.

HRS § 302A-1148 requires: “approval by the board of land and natural resources shall be required when the dispositions are for periods in excess of a year.”

Neither of these regulations have ever been enforced by the DOE, resulting in the monopolization of school campuses by churches, some using the same school facilities for 10, 15, and 20 years or longer.

Both Mr. Horner and Ms. Matayoshi should be held accountable for their deliberate neglect of the law at the expense of taxpayers. Ms. Matayoshi must be held accountable for her unlawful actions as related above.

5. Mr. Horner's deliberate inaction to prevent amendments to Title 8, Chapter 39, of the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) "Use of School Facilities" that were recommended by the previous elected Board in 2011. These are important amendments expanding the classes protected from discrimination to include sex, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, age, religion, etc., as required by law. Mr. Horner has refused to take up these or any amendments to HAR Chapter 39 in his effort to preserve the *status quo* and benefit the ICFG, New Hope, the HPR, and other churches that use public school facilities.

6. Mr. Horner's and the DOE's failure to conduct a proper and objective investigation into the collapse of the auditorium roof at Farrington High School, on November 23, 2012, and the potential culpability of the ICFG and New Hope—Mr. Horner's own church—which admitted to making numerous alterations and modifications to the Farrington auditorium, including but not limited to re-roofing, welding, and hanging heavy objects on the ceiling truss that failed, without authorization or permits.

7. Mr. Horner's bullying and biased treatment of members of the public who testify before the Board. Mr. Horner often interrupts and cuts off testifiers with whom he disagrees, but repeatedly allows others with whom he does agree to testify at length (often well beyond the two-minute limit). Mr. Horner even had the audacity to call state sheriff's deputies to a meeting when I publicly accused him of having a conflict of interest involving ICFG and HPR churches known to be using public schools.

8. Mr. Horner's method of conducting Board business verbally and otherwise in secret violates Hawaii's sunshine laws. Mr. Horner uses executive sessions and private discussions—including the use of private email—to conduct business that should have only been conducted before the public. This undermines public confidence and limits public participation in education policy decisions.

9. Mr. Horner's BOE agendas use stealth and imprecise language to describe matters scheduled for discussion/action by the Board. A "bait and switch," if you will, that included a recent agenda item listing only "student health and safety," which was in reality a report and discussion on the controversial "Pono Choices" program. In this case, Mr. Horner appears to have privately informed a cadre of anti-gay churches and organizations to attend and provide near-unanimous testimony against the sex-education program. Mr. Horner also appointed Darrin Araki, executive director of the HPR, to serve on a working group created to study the DOE's "Pono Choices" program.

10. Mr. Horner's doctrinal opposition to teaching the science of biological evolution over millions of years. Note: Aimee Semple McPherson, who led a lifelong public crusade against the teaching of biological evolution in public schools, founded the ICFG. New Hope Diamond Head, Mr. Horner's home church, states unequivocally on its web site that New Hope Diamond Head adheres to the beliefs and policies of the ICFG. As a licensed pastor serving the ICFG, Pastor Horner is required to adhere to the letter of church doctrine.

11. Mr. Horner's failure to hold twice-monthly general public meetings as required by BOE policy.

12. Mr. Horner's use of offensive Jim Crow-era language, such as "shuckin' and jivin'," in the course of public Board meetings.

13. Mr. Horner's sexist attitudes and disrespect toward women. At BOE meetings I have witnessed Mr. Horner repeatedly addressing women by their first names only, while addressing men with the respectful salutation Mr. and last name.

14. Lastly, Mr. Horner never attended public schools in Hawaii and chose to send all of his children to private schools.

For each and all of these reasons and/or charges of inappropriate behavior or unlawful conduct, Mr. Horner should be denied re-appointment to the Hawaii State Board of Education. Mr. Horner's tenure on the BOE has already caused significant harm, undermined public confidence, and stifled public participation.

The Hawaii State Senate should also call for an independent audit into the DOE's "Use of School Facilities" program and the millions of dollars lost to churches, many directly affiliated with Mr. Horner, the ICFG, New Hope, and the HPR.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Kahle
Honolulu, Hawaii
Phone: (808)-542-0972
Email: mitchkahle@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: alanrspector@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 7:55:16 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan R. Spector, LCSW	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose the confirmation of Don Horner to the State of Hawaii Board of Education for the following reasons: 1. Our public school system is non-sectarian. Pastor Horner and/or the religious denomination he represents (New Hope) doesn't respect the constitutional mandate of separation of church and state. We have seen this time and time again from the aims of Transformation Hawaii (which New Hope belongs), to opposition to the Marriage Equality Act, as well as anti-bullying/safe schools legislation. How can one lead a non-sectarian public school system when he and/or the religious denomination he represents don't believe in basic scientific facts as well as the outcomes of valid social science research? A public school system should not be headed by a sectarian figure. Pastor Horner should serve on the board of a private religious school, not a public school system. 2. As a licensed mental health professional, I can say without equivocation that the views held by Pastor Horner regarding issues of sexual orientation are harmful to the mental health of our LGBT youth. Aloha Alan R. Spector, LCSW Kaneohe, HI

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: rstewart99489@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 8:00:00 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxane Stewart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I testify in strong opposition to the continued appointment of Don Horner for another term at the helm of the Board Of Education. Under his leadership, the Board as an entity has done more to seclude itself from the public who they are supposed to be serving. In order to help guide and support public education in a positive direction, we need someone at the helm that truly understands education and is willing to sincerely work with ALL stakeholders toward positive change for our students. Don Horner is not that person.

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GM706

Submitted on: 4/2/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maura	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: I ask that Donald Horner NOT be reapproved as a member of the Board of Education. I am concerned that Mr. Horner, pastor of New Hope Church, holds beliefs and advocates positions that are directly opposed to the developmental and educational interests of the students of Hawai'i.

His opposition to homosexuality extends so far as to support so-called "conversion therapy" for LGBTQ youth, a devastating experience for young people already at a much higher risk of suicide than their heterosexual, cisgendered peers. Statistically, that risk is 8 times greater when their parent or parents strongly reject their sexuality, gender identity or gender expression. Those that survive this rejection and interventions such as "conversion therapy" are often deeply emotionally scarred by this experience and may find it extremely difficult or impossible to recover from it.

His church puts religious dogma over scientific evidence. New Hope Church is part of the Foursquare Church network, which states on their website, foursquare.org, "We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God; it is absolutely true, enduring, and unchangeable." Such Biblical literalism is not consistent with scientific inquiry or current scientific evidence and knowledge.

There is also reason to suspect that Mr. Horner deliberately obscured that the sexuality education curriculum "Pono Choices" was up for discussion at one Board meeting, yet let members of his congregation know so they could testify against it. This is not consistent with the democratic process and fair political discourse. It also indicates a likely conflict between Mr. Horner's faith and the teaching of accurate sexual health information to students in Hawaii.

The students of Hawai'i deserve a board that stands with *all* of them, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, and that advocates for curricula based on *evidence*, not religious dogma. It is for these reasons that I believe that it would not be pono to reapprove Donald Horner as a member of the Hawaii Board of Education.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: lorax3283@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 7:29:11 AM
Attachments: [DONHORNERagainst re-election4-8-14.pages](#)

GM706

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doreen Adams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to the re-appointment of Horner. Doreen Adams, 866 Kaahue St., Honolulu 96825

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DATE: Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 1:15 p.m.

The Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Tokuda and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to give personal testimony regarding GM 706. I am Dr. Ashley Maynard, I came of age here in Hawaii, and I serve as Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where I have been employed since 2001. Though my insights into psychology and the workings of society are informed by my profession, they do not necessarily reflect the position of the University of Hawaii.

I am opposed to the confirmation of Donald Horner to the Board of Education (BOE) for the following reasons:

Mr. Horner has direct ties with organizations that have publicly opposed a science-based curriculum and an educational climate that makes all students feel safe and included. (These organizations include Transformation Hawaii, the Pastor's Roundtable, New Hope, and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel.) Knowledge based on science should be at the core of our secular, public school curriculum. And, all students should feel safe at school.

I worry that Mr. Horner's affiliations make him a polarizing figure—something our Board of Education doesn't need. Indeed it is easy to see strong opposition in our community to Mr. Horner's re-appointment, and it is easy to understand the sources of this opposition. Many people associate these organizations with oppression of science-based knowledge and oppression of people in our society who are different. It is this association that is psychologically powerful and that has brought out so many to testify against this confirmation.

People are counting on our public schools to provide knowledge to students and train them in critical thinking so that they will go on to become contributing members of society. People also want to be involved in our public schools, because we all have a stake in our shared future. I was alarmed to learn that, since taking over as Chair of the BOE, Mr. Horner has systematically restricted public access to the BOE meetings. Meetings are now held during the school day, when most parents, teachers, and students are not able to attend. Furthermore, the broadcasts of BOE meetings on `Olelo have been

discontinued. In this day of media accessibility, *transparency* of our public proceedings should be easier than ever.

It appears that Mr. Horner's affiliation with the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel presents a conflict of interest vis-à-vis the BOE; Foursquare represents at least two dozen churches that were found to be using public school facilities without paying proper rental fees.

I believe that Mr. Horner's re-appointment as Chair of the BOE would send the wrong message and would be divisive to our community. I humbly ask that you withhold his confirmation in committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Ashley E. Maynard
Honolulu, HI 96813

From: [Erik Ott](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony regarding GM706 for EDU hearing April 9, 2014.
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 9:41:55 AM

Hello

I would like to voice my objection to renewing BOE Chair Don Horner's position for another 3 year term. Although the Board under his leadership has made strides toward improving the education system, his techniques and conflict of interest are not in the best interest of the public. Mr. Horner does not seem to want public involvement in board operations. He has continually not allowed the public to put items on the agenda or discuss items during the open forum if they are not on the meeting agenda. How can the public discuss something if it cannot be put on the agenda nor discussed if not on the agenda? This is poor leadership.

As an example of his unwillingness to hear and consider public comments/feedback, I was witness to Mr. Horner refusing to hear a 2nd question from a member of the community in the BOE community meeting held on Oahu. In this situation, there was still time before the end of the meeting yet Mr. Horner refused to allow more than 1 question from the audience and ended the meeting early. Again, poor leadership.

His unwillingness to dismiss himself regarding the lawsuit brought about regarding Churches using school property and not paying for it is another example of poor leadership. Mr. Horner is a pastor for one of the churches brought about the law suit which represents a conflict of interest in dealing with this lawsuit. Not only was he aggressive against the plaintiffs and refused to recuse himself, he called the police on the plaintiffs for no good reason thus wasting their time and causing an unnecessary scene. I'm not sure how in his position as CEO of First Hawaiian Bank he cannot see this clear conflict of interest and recuse himself, other than he has a big ego and thus will not listen or tolerate those with a different opinion.

Mr. Horner has also expressed to members of the community his belief that he answers to no one other than the governor. This kind of attitude is detrimental to progress. The fact is, the governor is answerable to the people and thus so should be Mr. Horner.

I have read that Mr. Horner has children and does not put them in public education. This makes me wonder how he can be serious about his position when he does not even seem to believe in the Education system.

The system needs a lot more help, and a great place to get that help is from the community. Mr. Horner continues to believe to the contrary and is not open to public comment/opinions. He claims to believe in the system but does not put his children in it. Perhaps it's time to nominate a chairman that has experience in the education system as well as a proven belief in the system and being open to public discussion. Mr. Horner may have a solid business background, but this is not what is needed right now.

April 8, 2014

Testimony for EDN Committee Hearing 4/9/14 re: GM706

To: EDUtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

Aloha Senate Education Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose Donald Horner's reappointment to the Hawai'i Board of Education.

Research has shown that parent and public involvement is a leading indicator of school success. Under Mr. Horner's leadership, the BOE has shown little interest in parent and public concerns, and I think this approach is not what Hawai'i needs at this time.

From where I sit, Mr. Horner has done a good job of helping the Department of Education develop better business practices by working closely with DOE administrators. I'd like to thank him for those contributions. However, the public, teachers, and parents are largely excluded from the table. I honestly believe that this lack of stakeholder collaboration is the cracked and crumbling foundation in the Hawai'i public school pyramid, the root problem to making substantial improvements throughout the DOE. The oligarchical model the Board has adopted permeates all public schools to the detriment of our education system

Hawai'i needs a *new* Board Member with a proven track record of public engagement. The public should not have to go to their legislators in desperation with bill after bill on issues to which the BOE has turned a deaf ear. We need BOE leaders who will hold DOE administrators accountable for following all policies the Board has set. We need BOE leaders who will create new policies to address existing problems. We need BOE leaders who will listen to all stakeholders and ensure accountability for BOE policy compliance throughout the DOE. We need BOE leaders who will be responsive to public, parent, student, and employee concerns. We need BOE leaders who will reach out, not exclude. We need BOE leaders who are public collaborators.

I hope the legislature will ask the governor to present a new candidate for the Board of Education who will provide this much needed expertise for the next three years to build upon and augment the business alignments that Mr. Horner has worked to put in place.

I have several personal observations that have lead me to believe that Mr. Horner is not the right person to take the Board of Education to the next level of a high-performing public education system that involves the public -- *all* the stakeholders. I've written about these observations in the attachment to this letter.

Thank you for your consideration,



Vanessa Ott

Attachment: Observations

After a 20-year career in publishing, audio/video media, and information technology in Northern California, I decided to become an elementary school teacher in Hawai'i. I had been visiting Hawai'i regularly for nearly a decade and wanted to live here. Hawai'i was actively recruiting teachers from the mainland. I was a good teacher. My students had been adults, and the subject matter had been computer technologies, but people always commented on how it seemed easy for me to develop a near instant rapport with children. So, I received my post-graduate training in elementary education from the NCATE accredited California State University East Bay in 2005. The path seemed to be the right one.

However, teaching under the Hawai'i Department of Education turned out to be the most horrible job I've ever had. It wasn't teaching children that was horrible. Nearly 95% of the students were a joy to work with. It was wonderful when I actually had the opportunity to teach, and children had those "a-ha" moments when I would hear, "Oh I get it." But, the administration from Principal on up was absolutely horrible. I was disappointed beyond compare to discover how unprofessional and dysfunctional the public education system was. I was shocked by the employee fear, the lack of public involvement, the fascist attitudes and the incompetence. Over the years, I've come to know that these problem education problems not isolated to Hawai'i, but I've also come to believe that Hawai'i could make substantial improvements if all stakeholders are encouraged to be involved rather than silenced, ignored, and even persecuted for trying to make positive changes.

I gave up teaching in 2012, and my husband and I got an apartment in Honolulu in addition to our home on the Big Island. That year, I started to attend Board of Education meetings. I wanted to contribute to making some much needed changes. I did not find the BOE to be receptive to any suggestions, and Mr. Horner was at the helm. Only items on the agenda could be discussed at Board meetings. Getting items on the agenda proved to be impossible for me.

In June 2011, I sent correspondence to the new, appointed BOE (while I was still an employee) asking how to get items on the agenda so that people could submit testimony. Over two years I sent email after email asking this question and never received a response. It was a stone wall. In June 2013, two months after Chair Horner announced his availability for meetings with members of the public after general board meetings, I took advantage of the opportunity to speak to him in person and find out how members of the public can get items on the agenda. His response was, "You can't. I don't work for you."

I do not think this is a proper attitude for a public servant.

The first BOE meeting in Honolulu that I ever attended was in 2012. I listened to a charter school student and his father appeal to the Board to allow charter school students participate in local high school orchestra. The precedent had been set by the legislature regarding charter school students participating in athletic teams at local public schools. Chair Horner would not consider a Board Policy to extend the coverage of the law to include activities other than sports. Based on the commitment and intelligence the student showed in repeated attempts to appeal to the BOE, I believe that Chair Horner's decision to not even open up the topic to discussion with other Board Members and put it on the agenda cost the local school what would have been an excellent addition to their orchestra.

This past year I heard testimony from a community member, Mitch Kahle, about churches using public schools yet not paying usage fees. Mr. Kahle said that because of Pastor Horner's position with the New Hope Church, one of the largest alleged debtors, that Chair Horner should recuse himself from overseeing management of this issue. Chair Horner took offense, and accused Mr. Kahle of being threatening. Mr. Kahle asked Chair Horner to substantiate any incident where that had ever occurred, but there was no reply. The Board went into Executive Session and someone from the BOE called the police. While the public

was calmly standing around in the hallway waiting for the Executive Session to end, three (3!) sheriffs arrived. This was completely uncalled for. It wasted taxpayer money, and the newspaper headlines stating that sheriffs were called to the meeting were ridiculous. Yes, they had been called, but it was not necessary at all – not even close. This is what happens to people who speak up.

I have some serious issues that I think the Board needs to address. I write to the Board and get no legitimate response. An automated email letting you know that the email has been received is often all one gets. Very, very rarely do my questions get answered, and not yet has any of the concerns I've raised been taken seriously. If the public continues to be ignored and silenced, a lot of terrible abuses and costly inefficiencies within the system go unaddressed.

And let us not forget the union-busting, last, best, and final offer that this Board, under Chair Horner's leadership, forced down teachers' throats. Walking away from the negotiating table. Reducing teachers' already appallingly low salaries with furloughs (regularly-scheduled unpaid work days) that went on for years. I personally know two teachers who filed for bankruptcy during this time, and considering how few teachers I know out of the 12,500+ teachers in this state, that's a pretty high percentage.

I spoke with Governor Abercrombie very briefly at a Democratic Party event about my concerns regarding how the BOE was operating. I wrote to Governor Abercrombie. I never received a response. So, we need the legislature to do something.

Mr. Horner does not seem to be the kind of leader who is willing to engage the public. He claims public involvement, but I think it's always the same closed oligarchy that comprises his view of "public" representation. We need Board Members who will be public servants, embrace transparency and accountability, and turn their attention to where the real problems lie – poor quality, bloated administration that routinely forces excellent teachers out of teaching.

Welina me ke aloha, Chair Tokuda and members of the Education Committee:

My name is Baijnauth Singh, I am a 25 year resident of Hawai'i, and I write in strong OPPOSITION to GM706 and the confirmation of Don Horner to the Board of Education.

Mr. Don Horner injects his rabid anti-gay views from New Hope church and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel into public education and, in doing so, creates an unsafe space for all students, particularly those who are gay and lesbian in our public schools. Mr. Horner hid these ties from the Board and the public until forced to do so recently.

Mr. Horner has also paved the way for inappropriate and unlawful use of our public school facilities by the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and New Hope church, which have illegally underpaid rent for the use of our schools.

His ties to these churches and position on the Board of Education pose a direct and duplicitous conflict of interest. Please do not confirm Mr. Horner's further appointment to this Board.

Me ke aloha nui,



Baijnauth Singh

1911 Kalākaua Avenue, #305
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
Tony96815@gmail.com

GM706
Education Committee

April 9, 2014
Con. Rm. 414

Chair Tokuda and members of the Education committee;

I am Marcia Linville, speaking against the reappointment of Don Horner as Chair of the Board of Education, as stated in GM 706.

I have M.A. in Library Science, over 40 years of service in libraries at Federal, State, City, and Special Libraries, 4 years as resource teacher in the schools, a phi theta kappa in early childhood development, 10 years Board member in Hawaii Literacy, (where you take care of the problems the schools didn't,) almost 20 years as Unit 13, DOE, HGEA, steward, have twice been president of the Librarians Association of Hawai'i, and Children's Section Head of Hawai'i Librarians Association, served as the Democratic Party's legislative liaison for Education as well as HLA and LAH, and as part of legislative committee of the League of Women Voters, on whose Honolulu Board I sit, served as People to People delegate for Libraries and Information in both China, and Eastern Europe and a number of other positions which have provided me with the experience which I bring to this testimony.

I have attended Board of Education meetings since 1969, originally at the request of Marian Saunders, who pointed out to me the importance of the public petition item on the agenda as the only way that the Board could be made aware of problems in the schools the Administration wished to conceal. It is because of Mr. Horner's abolishment of this item, as part of his denial to the public of the ability to testify on any matter save those he wishes to hear when he wishes to hear them, that I find of most concern.

I can attest to the improvement in the administrative area of the DOE which Mr. Horner has achieved, but this is more than offset by some questionable actions and his ambiguous testimony to the Legislature. Mr. Horner was appointed, and has never gone through the process of explaining who he is, and what he intends to do in the position he holds, as every legislator must. Nor has he ever asked or allowed the people of the state to tell him what they want from the schools, or the holder of the position to which he was appointed. My most serious concern is that these actions have begun to reflect badly on the Governor.

The Education for the people of the state, and our children, are the most important resources we have. They are not well served with Mr. Horner's continued appointment. He should be thanked for the improvements he has made in Administration, but for the sake of public interest, parents, teachers and students, he should Leave.

Marcia S. Linville
536-4466

Senate Committee on Education -Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair

April 9, 2014

Re: GM706 Confirmation of Mr. Donald Horner to Board of Education

Submitted by: Maralyn Kurshals

Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Maralyn Kurshals. I am submitting testimony in opposition of the confirmation of Mr. Donald Horner to another term on the Board of Education. With all due respect for Mr. Horner's very significant connections within the financial, political and religious sectors in the state of Hawai'i, I believe that his term needs to end for several reasons.

Under Mr. Horner's leadership, the Board of Education is no longer accessible nor transparent. It does not promote engagement with educators, the community, parents or students. The process of free speech and open government has been eliminated. Mr. Horner, as chairman, has imposed this in multiple ways. First, he deliberately scheduled business meetings during daytime hours when the majority of parents and others are unable to attend. The meeting times did not allow the student representative to participate without missing school which is rather ironic and made it difficult to find a someone to serve in that position.

Mr. Horner then strategically removed the oftentimes lengthy portion of the agenda called "Community Concerns", which allowed an open, uncontrolled discussion of random topics by community members. In addition, Mr. Horner developed a new "policy" that all public testimony topics had to already be on the agenda which completely restricted any opportunity for authentic discussion. This oppressive tactic created an isolated bubble of misinformation and denial about what was actually occurring in our schools. The Board only heard what Mr. Horner and a select group of individuals, wanted them to hear. Another serious flaw in Mr. Horner's leadership is how he structured meetings. Business meetings were no longer held in schools but confined to the easily CONTROLLED environment of the downtown board meeting rooms with no public filming allowed. The so-called "community meetings" that were in schools did not require a quorum, were optional for Board members and no minutes were ever recorded. The community meetings which lasted from one hour to one and a half hours provided no time for any significant contributions.

Time management, efficiency and strict control has dominated Mr. Horner's term of office. Community engagement, integrity, and authenticity has been lost. We thank Mr. Horner for showing us what it is like to lose our freedom of speech so that we can value it more fully. We wish him God-speed on his other future endeavors.



Holly J. Huber

1519 Nuuanu Ave #154 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
(808) 554-7692 • hollyjhuber@gmail.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wednesday, April 09, 2014 @ 1:15PM in Conference Room 414

GM706 – Appointment of Don Horner to Board of Education IN STRONG OPPOSITION

Aloha Senators:

Policies implemented by Don Horner have greatly limited the public's access to the Hawaii State Board of Education, often in violation of Hawaii's Sunshine Laws. The lack of transparency has prompted the Hawaii House of Representatives to unanimously pass a concurrent resolution, HCR82, urging the Board "to provide more transparency in the conduct of its meetings, the way it notifies the public of its meetings, and the way testimony is submitted at its meetings."

But passing HCR82 is not enough to ensure transparency at the Board; a change of leaderships is required. Mr. Horner should not be reappointed for the following reasons:

Mr. Horner used racist language while chairing a BOE Meeting.

Mr. Horner used the slave-era, racial slur "shucking and jiving" at the January 8th, 2013 Board meeting. Use of the phrase "shucking and jiving" is evidence of intolerance and scorn or contempt for minorities. Mr. Horner uttered this offensive phrase, at an official government meeting, after hearing a presentation on the DOE's anti-bullying efforts.

I wrote to Mr. Horner complaining about his derogatory and inappropriate language and I received an unapologetic and unsigned response. Because members of the Board, including the Chair, do not have Board emails, he did not respond to me directly. Instead Mr. Horner asked some unidentified person at the Board to forward a single line of text: "Thank you for the comment and feedback. I agree that is/was a poor choice of words and not to be used again." The message was not signed. [The email exchange is attached to this testimony for your review.]

Mr. Horner is often rude, dismissive, and biased in his treatment of those appearing before the Board

Mr. Horner strictly limits testifiers to two minutes, when he doesn't agree with them. If he approves of the testimony, then the two-minute limit is not applied. Mr. Horner interrupts and reprimands testifiers who attempt to address what he considers non-agenda items. Other Board members are not allowed to address the testifier or ask questions regarding the issues raised.

Until recently, Mr. Horner scheduled the Executive Session of the Board first. Anyone attending the public meeting was immediately sent out in the hall to wait for an hour or more. In response to persistent complaints, Mr. Horner now allows public testimony prior to the Executive Session, but anyone attending the meeting still has to endure a long wait in the hallway.

Because public testimony is scheduled at the beginning of the meeting and just after Executive Session, Mr. Horner often calls for public testimony and moves on to the next agenda item before most people have had the opportunity to enter the meeting room.

When addressing female DOE employees, Mr. Horner routinely uses their first names but men are referred to as Mister followed by their last name.

Mr. Horner enforces a tight schedule with agenda items moved through at a rapid pace to the point of confusion and rudeness. Board members and DOE Administrators giving reports are rushed and therefore can be difficult to understand. Important presentations have been cut short due to time constraints so meetings can be adjourned by 4 PM. Some General Business Board meetings last only 1.5 hours with half that time devoted to Executive Session.

Mr. Horner violates Board policies

According to the FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD:

In accordance with Chapter 92, HRS, and the Board of Education By-Laws, **conducts public meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of every month, and special meetings as required, for the purpose of transacting official board business; receives requests and petitions from the public;** receives reports from the Superintendent of Education, the State Librarian, board committees, commissions, and student representatives; and **expresses board concerns.**

Mr. Horner does not hold required Board meetings

Mr. Horner provides no calendar of Board meetings; the only notification is the posting of agendas the required six calendar days in advance. The twice-monthly Board meetings are frequently skipped without notification. In the past five months, the Board has skipped four general business meetings. In the 2012-13 school year, the Board skipped another five general business meetings in just six months.

Mr. Horner appears to transact official Board business outside of public meetings

It appears that Mr. Horner conducts much of the Board's business in private, without consulting other Board members or informing the public, as required by law.

The Board agendas are abbreviated, with only a few items, and the meetings are conducted at breakneck speed with very little discussion amongst Board members. This lack of public communication implies that private communications are being made between Board members regarding meeting schedules, agendas, items to be voted on, and community concerns. Either that or the Board is woefully ill informed.

“Public Petitions and Community Input” are not allowed at Board meetings

The previous Board included “Public Petitions and Community Input” on the agenda for every general meeting. Under the leadership of Mr. Horner, public testimony is limited to agenda items only. Parents, students, teachers, and community members are not allowed to bring their concerns before the Board.

Board policy 1200 1.9 reads: “Citizens desiring to present problems, raise questions, or make suggestions concerning the schools may request in writing for an opportunity of appearing before the Board.”

Requests by the public to appear before the Board and/or to have items added to the agenda have been denied. Those wishing to address an education issue are told they can schedule a private meeting with Mr. Horner, write to him or call the Board office. In his testimony on HCR82, Mr. Horner claims “All complaints are shared with all Board members and require a response within specific guidelines.”

These private communications with Board members appear to violate the sunshine laws as well as Board policy requiring public access. It also puts Mr. Horner in complete control of access to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

Mr. Horner has never provided a report to the Board regarding complaints made to him in private meetings, in writing or by phone. In fact no board member ever mentions requests or concerns from the public. Nor would they have an opportunity to do so, “Board Concerns” have also been eliminated from the agendas.

Board Meetings are held during school/work hours in Downtown Honolulu

Mr. Horner changed the Board meetings from afterschool and evenings to 1:30-4:00 PM on Tuesdays with committee meetings scheduled the same day starting at 9:30 AM. This change greatly limits the ability of parents, students or teachers to attend the meetings. The Board’s student representative must miss classes in order to attend meetings.

Mr. Horner schedules committee meetings immediately preceding the general meeting so there is no time for Board committees to engage in lengthy discussions, written reports or proper presentations. Committee chairs merely recite the content of their agendas when giving reports. Because the Board meetings are not recorded or televised, meeting minutes are the only record and those are only available 2-6 weeks later.

Under the elected Board, meetings were frequently held at various schools across the state after school and in the evenings. Schools took pride in hosting the meetings, giving Board members campus tours, presentations, and even dinner. This gave the parents, students, teachers, and community members from all over Hawaii access to the Board. Under Mr. Horner's leadership, Board meetings are only held at their offices in downtown Honolulu.

Community Meetings are not advertised or reported on

Mr. Horner claims the Board has “conducted 15 evening community meetings throughout the state.” Unfortunately that is all we know about these required community meetings.

No reporting is provided. If a parent, student, teacher, or member of the public attends one of the community meetings to provide input, their concerns are not conveyed—at least not publicly—to the Board.

The community meetings are not advertised or promoted publicly. Even those who sign up for Board meeting notifications are not notified of the Board's community meetings.

Board agendas are vague, perhaps intentionally so

The Board's agendas use generic terms and provide no specific information or supporting documents prior to the day of the meeting, not even for items to be voted on. This lack of information, especially for action items, appears to be a violation of the sunshine laws.

It also puts testifiers in the awkward position of giving public testimony on a vague agenda item for which they have been provided no information.

When a committee discussed the Farrington auditorium's roof collapse, it was listed on the agenda simply as "the Department's structural evaluation of facilities."

A recent discussion of the Pono Choices sex education program was posted cryptically as "student health and safety." Critics of Pono Choices — some apparently from Mr. Horner's church or the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable — were tipped off that sex education was the actual topic and came to testify in large numbers. It appears that the vague language used on Board agendas is intended to control or limit the discussion to one viewpoint.

Mr. Horner's undeclared conflict of interest

You may know that Mr. Horner is a volunteer staff member at New Hope Diamond Head Church, a licensed pastor for the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, a member of the Hawaii Pastor's Roundtable, and involved with Transformation Hawaii.

New Hope and Foursquare Gospel churches are the largest users of public school facilities — they have about 24 churches meeting in our schools. According to news reports, these churches recently settled a lawsuit alleging they were underpaying or not paying full and proper amounts for rent and utilities.

Under Mr. Horner's leadership, the Board has ignored this important issue. In his three years on the Board, the public use of school facilities has not appeared on the agenda, despite legal requirements, considerable media attention, and requests from churches and members of the public.

When New Hope churches and the Hawaii Pastor's Roundtable wrote to Mr. Horner as Chair of the Board of Education, they supposedly received no response. But the churches did get what they asked for: a reduction in rental fees and the removal of the five-year limit on public school use. All of these changes to benefit Mr. Horner's church happened in secret, without any Board hearings or public input.

Attached to my testimony is evidence of these claims against Mr. Horner. A two-page letter to Mr. Horner from the Hawaii Pastor's Roundtable, dated 9/15/12, requests "that a policy change be made to the current rent structure and the 5 year lease limitation." The

letter is signed by Fernando Castillo, who was then pastor of New Hope Diamond Head (Mr. Horner's church) and later the Foursquare Gospel spokesman, two members of Transformation Hawaii, and Darrin Araki, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pastors Roundtable and recent appointee to the DOE Working Group on Pono Choices.

Also attached is a two-page letter, dated 10/4/12, from the Executive Pastor of New Hope Oahu, John Tilton, to Mr. Horner. This letter threatens to remove all of New Hope Oahu's technical equipment from the Farrington auditorium, "which will result in a replacement cost to the State of at least one million dollars, which if not available, will deem the auditorium unusable for any school class, event or activity." The letter also requests "that a policy change be made to the current rent structure and the 5 year lease limitation."

On 10/25/12, DOE Superintendent Matayoshi sent a memo announcing the removal of the five-year limit on public school use. Later on 3/12/13, Ms. Matayoshi issued another memo releasing a new rate sheet with reduced rental fees, special daily rates, and free hours for setup and teardown. These changes were unauthorized and unlawful, in violation of Hawaii Administrative Rules and Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Mr. Horner should NOT be re-appointed to the Board

I have provided you with a long list of reasons that Mr. Horner should no longer serve on the Board of Education. I have included extensive documentation to back up my claims. If you require additional information, please contact me.

Hawaii, with the 10th largest school system in the US, deserves better leadership.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Huber

attachments

From: boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us, boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Re: Chairman's Inappropriate Comment at January 8th BOE Meeting
Date: January 15, 2013 1:06:35 PM EST
To: Holly J Huber <hollyjhuber@gmail.com>
Reply-To: boe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us
▶ 3 Attachments, 1.1 KB

Ms. Huber - forwarding the message below from the Board Chair.

Thank you for the comment and feedback. I agree that is/was a poor choice of words-and not to be used again.

▼ Holly J Huber ---01/13/2013 10:50:34 AM---Holly J Huber <hollyjhuber@gmail.com>



Holly J Huber <hollyjhuber@gmail.com>

01/13/2013 10:50 AM

Toboe_hawaii@notes.k12.hi.us

cc

SubjectChairman's Inappropriate Comment at January 8th BOE Meeting

Chairman Donald G. Horner
State of Hawaii Board of Education
1390 Miller Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha Chairman Horner:

I am writing regarding an inappropriate comment you made at the January 8th general meeting of the Board of Education.

I was in attendance, and near the end of the meeting I heard you use the phrase "shucking and jiving" to describe the matter under discussion.

I am not certain which agenda item was being addressed since the agenda was taken out of order and things were so rushed at the end.

But your use of the phrase "shucking and jiving" made me very uncomfortable and I made a note of it.

This Sunday morning on MEET THE PRESS, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, said "shucking and jiving, that's a racial slave-era term." Powell mentioned the use of the phrase as evidence of intolerance and scorn or contempt for minorities.

It is unsettling that the chairman of Hawaii's Board of Education would use such derogatory language in the course of an official government meeting.

Sincerely,

Holly J. Huber
1519 Nuuanu Ave #154
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

hollyjhuber@gmail.com

This email was scanned by the Symantec Email Security System contracted by the Hawaii Dept of Education. If you receive suspicious/phish email, forward a copy to spamreport@k12.hi.us This helps us monitor suspicious/phish email getting thru. You will not receive a response, but rest assured the information received will help to build additional protection. If you need assistance or a live response regards spam/phish email, send email to nssb@k12.hi.us For info about this email security service visit http://www.symanteccloud.com/products/email/anti_spam.aspx

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HAWAII PASTORS ROUNDTABLE

BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 15, 2012

'12 SEP 17 AB:50

Mr. Donald Horner, Chairperson
Hawaii State Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

*re dacted: internal routing and
control codes.*

Dear Mr. Horner:

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to pursuing excellence and equity in the education of Hawaii's children and youth.

We are writing in regards to the recent escalation of rental rates for the use of public school facilities. These escalations make the use of public schools economically unfeasible and are financially forcing churches and other beneficial community groups out of their communities. We are deeply concerned about the detrimental impact these departures will have on the students, their schools, and the surrounding communities.

Though we understand that reasonable increases are necessary to account for rising utility and school costs, an 800% increase is not reasonable or sustainable for non-profit, community-minded organizations. This type of rent structure is well beyond the reach of all but a few non-profits.

Churches and other community organizations serve a vital role in advancing the goals of the Department of Education's *Comprehensive Student Support Services* (CSSS). The departure of these organizations from our public schools undermine and counteract the stated goals of CSSS.

Goals of CSSS

1. **To provide** comprehensive and timely supports for students that allow them to achieve in school, to be confident and caring, and to become contributing citizens in their communities.
2. **To involve** families and the community as integral partners in the implementation of CSSS.
3. **To integrate** human and financial resources of the appropriate public and private agencies to create caring communities at each school.

Churches and other community organizations also are key implementers of many of the Critical Elements of the Department of Education's *Comprehensive Student Support Services*. The loss of these key implementers will have a negative impact on the students and families that benefit from these services and place a heavier burden on State-funded programs.

Critical Elements of CSSS

1. **Prevention and Early Intervention:** The Community Support System includes an array of services to address the basic needs of all the community.

P.O. Box 699 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96809 • Tel: (808) 777-9591

Email: Contactus@hawaiipastorsroundtable.com • Website: www.HawaiiPastorsRoundtable.com

HAWAII PASTORS ROUNDTABLE

2. **Community Outreach and Support:** We actively communicate with other community agencies and support groups to build families and community. In addition, we engage in partnerships to enhance community connections.
3. **Family Involvement and Participation:** An effective community support system encourages families as full participants in the educational process for their children. Families participate as planners, contributors, leaders, teachers, learners, and colleagues. Family literacy programs provide parents with skills to assist their child's learning. Family support programs such as Families for R.E.A.L. facilitate parent participation.
4. **Emergency Support:** We offer various services and procedures necessary for crisis and emergency situations. Specialized assistance programs are available for students with intensive special needs.

We request that a policy change be made to the current rent structure and the 5 year lease limitation. We ask that this be done expediently, as to avoid the further loss of key contributors that are investing in the future of Hawaii's children. If a tenant group will be assembled to devise an equitable rent structure and subsequent policy, we request to be included in that discussion. We may be reached at 808-777-9591 or via email at Darrin@hawaiipastorsroundtable.com. Thank you for addressing these concerns.

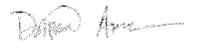
Sincerely,


Fernando Castillo
Chairman


Francis Oda
Vice-Chairman


Allen Cardines Jr.
Treasurer


Gary Secor
Secretary


Darrin Araki
Executive Director

enclosure: CSSS Pamphlet
cc: Kathryn Matayoshi, Department of Education Superintendent
Raymond L'Heureux, Assistant Superintendent



11/11/12 08:00 AM

October 4, 2012

Donald Horner, Chairman
Hawaii State Board of Education
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, HI 96804

Dear Mr. Horner:

I would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for your leadership in providing the best in educational curriculum and social development support for our youth through out the State school system.

I am writing with regard to a concern in the pricing structure and formulas that are used in the renting of public school facilities.

The key concern and challenge to any organization that rents or leases a public school facility is being charged the full rental rate from the time the organization begins setting up, through the event time, through interim non-use times between sessions and through the breakdown and clean up time.

There is no other public or private facility in the State including Waikiki hotels, the Blaisdell Center or the Stan Sheriff Center that charges users the full rental from the time the organization steps onto the property, through the time the organization leaves the property. Setup, interim non-use time between sessions and breakdown times are either not charged, or at the most are charged 20% of the full rental rate. Thus, the current rental rate structure used in renting and leasing public school facilities is way above market rates in comparison.

In our situation for New Hope Oahu using the Farrington High School Auditorium and 10-12 classrooms; our rental for our Saturday and Sunday services would have increased from \$225,000 to \$900,000 annually, or \$ 4,327 to \$17,308 for two days per week. Although we adjusted our set up and breakdown time to the bare minimum, we still pay \$ 9,000 for two days rental per week, or \$468,000 annually. This has put an immense strain on the financial stability of our church. Thus, although we will continue to rent and lease the facilities until we find an affordable alternative, we have no choice but to look for other facilities to use.

It is our opinion that when the time comes of finding alternative facilities, the students, the community and our church will be the losers. When we first began renting the auditorium and classrooms in 1991, the auditorium was condemned. The school grounds were a drug haven with much crime going on during the evenings and weekends. We've invested millions in the renovation and upkeep of the auditorium and classrooms.

Mr. Horner
Page Two
October 4, 2012

Crime and drugs on the campus during the evenings and throughout the weekends are now non-existent.

We have willingly had the pleasure of donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to the school for programs, general funds, uniforms, transportation and special events; plus providing tents, chairs and technical equipment at no charge for student and school events.

We have given to and supported numerous community events in Kalihi.

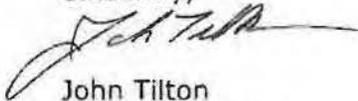
We have also provided clean up and food for the housing projects that surround Farrington High School.

If we do find alternative facilities, we will have to remove all of our technical systems (electrical, sound, lighting and video) from the auditorium for use at our new facility, which will result in a replacement cost to the State of at least one million dollars, which if not available, will deem the auditorium unusable for any school class, event or activity.

New Hope used to maintain all of the systems including the air conditioning system. Now that we have to pay a higher rental rate due to the air conditioning that we purchased and installed, the State was to take over the maintenance of the air conditioning system. They have failed to do so. Thus, one of the two systems is non-working resulting in a warm uncomfortable environment. The State inspected the situation and deemed the repair non-priority and therefore not scheduled a date or plans for repair. Yet, we are expected to pay the higher rental rate based on air conditioning. In the past, we would have covered the cost of the repair. However, we understand that we will not receive any credit or consideration to do so.

We request that a policy change be made to the current rent structure and the 5-year lease limitation. We ask that this be done expediently, as to avoid the further loss of key contributors that are investing in the future of Hawaii's children. Thank you for addressing these concerns.

Sincerely,



John Tilton
Executive Pastor
New Hope Oahu

cc: Kathryn Matayoshi, Superintendent, Raymond L'Heureux, Assistant Superintendent, Office of School Facilities and Support Services

KH000688



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

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

October 25, 2012

TO: Complex Area Superintendents

FROM: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent *pmg-f*

SUBJECT: **Use of School Facilities by Third Parties**

I have directed Raymond L'Heureux, Assistant Superintendent for the Office of School Facilities and Support Services to lead an internal Department of Education (Department) working group to examine the use of school facilities by third parties. The charge to this working group is to review the Department's existing practices and procedures. Where warranted, this working group is to propose amendments to Chapter 39 of the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) or revisions to our implementing documents, such as the Application for Use of School Buildings, Facilities, or Grounds forms and the schedule of fees and charges.

Until any amendments to the HAR have been formally adopted, the Department must adhere to the laws and administrative rules as they currently exist.

This memorandum provides interim supplemental guidance in applying the current rules to several recurring situations that have recently been brought to our attention. This guidance supersedes any contrary instruction or guidance in prior Department of Education memoranda.

Background and State Policy on Use of Facilities by Third Parties

State law, HRS § 302A-1150, directs that "the fullest freedom" shall be given to citizens of the State to use for lawful purposes all public school buildings during the hours the structures are not in use for strictly educational purposes. The law requires that third parties may use school facilities so long as the uses do not interfere with the normal and usual activities of the school and its pupils. HRS § 302A-1148. State law also authorizes the Department to assess and collect fees and charges from the users of school facilities.

To implement these laws, the Department has adopted public administrative rules, Chapter 39 of Title 8. Within the requirements of the statute and the HAR, the school principals exercise the authority to review, permit or deny applications for use at their particular school. The schools must also assess, collect, and account for fees and charges. The existing schedule of fees and charges was developed by the Department in 2008 and, although it may need to be updated, the schools must use this schedule. The schools are also required to use the standard application forms, BO-1 and BO-2 to ensure uniformity among schools.

Supplemental Guidance on Applying the Administrative Rules

Until our HAR is formally amended, please adhere to the following guidelines on facility use by third parties. Please note any problems with these guidelines and bring them to the attention of the working group reviewing the HAR.

Treat All Users Equally

Our current rules classify users into various Types, and assess fees and charges according to type of use. While the rules treat one type of use differently from another type of use (Type I versus Type II versus Type III), all users must be treated evenhandedly. In particular, religious organizations using school facilities are to be treated no differently from non-religious organizations within the same Type.

Limit Period of Use to One Year or Less

Schools should strongly discourage any user from reserving particular facilities for periods longer than a year. This practice to limit the period of use to one year or less would maximize the opportunities for all groups to use school facilities. Under rare instances, special circumstances may warrant a continuous disposition exceeding one year. The applicant must make a convincing case to the school that a use period exceeding one year is appropriate, and the applicant must be willing to assist and support the Department in obtaining Board of Land and Natural Resources approval of the proposed use. Please inform the applicant that any use exceeding one year requires prior Board of Land and Natural Resources approval. If you have a special circumstance and are considering allowing the applicant to use the school's facilities for a period exceeding one year, please contact Assistant Superintendent Raymond L'Heureux for guidance on what you need to do to obtain Board of Land and Natural Resources approval.

Review Renewal Applications on a Case by Case Basis

Applications from a current user to renew the term of the use should be evaluated and either approved or disapproved on a case by case basis. Thus, renewals should not be automatically granted. Schools must make best efforts to encourage applications from all potential users and avoid any appearance that any particular user has a "lock" on the facilities or the times for use. On the other hand, renewal applications should not be automatically denied after 5 years of accumulated use. Among the factors to consider in determining whether to approve a renewal, the school must consider whether ample opportunity has been offered to all potential users, whether any other user has expressed interest, whether the school's own needs for the facility can be fully accommodated, whether the school has the custodial staff to service the user, whether the school facilities can sustain the added wear and tear. This list of factors to consider is not an exclusive list, and the school principal must exercise sound discretion in light of the particular circumstances at the school.

Assess Fees and other Charges Against Hours of Actual Use Directly Related to the Event

The Department established the current rental rates based on an amortization formula designed to recover costs. Although the hourly rental rates and other charges are clear, there have been

concerns whether these hourly rates should be applied against the overnight hours when the user is not on site, or against the time a user spends setting up for the event or cleaning up after the event. We will address these issues in more detail as we go through the rule amendment process. Until further notice, please assess fees and other applicable charges for those hours the user is on site and engaged in activity that is directly related to the event, such as setting up for the event, conducting the event, or cleaning up after the event. Thus, for example, a user is not to be assessed for the overnight hours when the facilities are not used, but is to be assessed for the half hour it uses to open the rooms, turn on the lights, and set out registration tables on the day of the event, and for any time it spent the previous day setting up the room.

School Can Preempt Third-Party Uses for Unanticipated School Needs

All permitted third-party uses are subject at all times to possible preemption for school use. Even if an application for use is approved, such third-party use is subject to preemption for school uses, which may not have been foreseen at the time the application is granted, but which may subsequently arise. This preemption assures that school use is given priority over non-school use. All users must be informed that their permitted use is subject to a school's right to preempt all or a portion that use period for the school's needs.

No Signage or Other Indications Suggesting Long Term or Permanent Use

A user is free to post signs or banners (consistent with county ordinances or codes) during times the facility is actually being used by the user. These signs or banners must be removed at the conclusion of the use. No user is permitted to have permanent, visible identifying marks on school structures or equipment.

Uses Must Be Documented

To ensure even-handed treatment of all users, schools must ensure the application forms are filled out as completely as possible. The standard BO-1 form has been revised to delete references to the "5 year" rule. This amended form is posted at <http://fssb.k12.hi.us/images/BO-1%20and%20BO-2%20Forms.pdf> and should be used until the Chapter 39 Administrative Rules have been formally amended or new forms created.

Fees and Charges Must be Assessed, Collected, and Handled as Provided Under Current Procedures

Please continue to assess the fees and charges according to Type of User as specified in the schedule of charges, posted at <http://fssb.k12.hi.us/images/Use%20of%20Facilities%20Fee%20Schedule.pdf> . Fees and charges must be collected and handled as outlined in SP 6110.

Keep Donation Transactions Separate from Facility Use Transactions

Schools are encouraged to solicit donations and other forms of community support, but must clearly avoid any overlap between donations received and rents and charges for facility use. The practice of "donations in lieu of rents" is not permitted under the current HAR.

Complex Area Superintendents
October 25, 2012
Page 4

Cash donations must be properly accounted for under the procedures for cash donations. Rents, fees, and charges collected for facility use must be properly accounted for under the procedures for facility usage.

With respect to intended donations of cash, equipment, or services for the repair or upgrade of school facilities, the school should direct the donor to the Hawaii 3R's program (HRS § 302A-1502.4) or to Assistant Superintendent Raymond L'Heureux.

Should you have any questions, please contact Raymond L'Heureux, Assistant Superintendent, Office of School Facilities and Support Services at (808) 586-3444 or e-mail via Lotus Notes.

KSM:RL:PP:ck

c: Department of the Attorney General, Education Division
Assistant Superintendents
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Office of School Facilities and Support Services



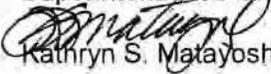
STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

March 12, 2013

TO: Assistant Superintendents
Complex Area Superintendents
All Principals
Superintendent's Office Directors

FROM: 
Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent

SUBJECT: **Use of School Facilities by Third Parties Interim Guidelines**

On April 1, 2013, the following changes will be in effect for all agreements for the Use of School Facilities by Third Parties:

ALL NEW AGREEMENTS:

- Term: All agreements will not to exceed one year.
- Charges: All agreements will use the new rate schedule as posted on the Office of School Facilities and Support Services website: <http://fssb.k12.hi.us/forms.htm>

EXISTING AGREEMENTS:

- Existing agreements entered into BEFORE April 1, 2013 need not be terminated and can proceed under current rules.

CHANGES TO COMMON FACTOR RELATING TO RATE SCHEDULE:

- Change base of calculation from a 40 year amortization @ 248 business days @ 8 hours/day to a 40 year amortization @ 365 calendar days @ 8 hours/day.
- Creation of a new Daily Rate capped at 8 hours times the respective hourly rate. This rate is to be used in situations where a single event lasts more than 8 hours on a single day, or single event occurs over two or more consecutive days.
- All other charges remain unchanged.

Assistant Superintendents, Complex Area Superintendents, et al.
March 12, 2013
Page 2

All other interim supplemental guidance provided in the October 25, 2012 memo regarding Use of School Facilities by Third Parties will remain in effect. See attached.

Should you have any questions, please contact Raymond L'Heureux, Assistant Superintendent, Office of School Facilities and Support Services at (808) 586-3444 or email via Lotus Notes.

KSM:RL:DK:ck

Attachment

c: Department of the Attorney General, Education Division
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

Aloha Chair Tokuda and committee members,

My name is Barbara Service; I'm a retired Child Welfare social worker. I am a volunteer, active in AARP and Kokua Council.

I am urging you not to support the consideration and confirmation of Don Horner to the Board of Education (GM706).

During his tenure as chair, Mr. Horner limited access to board meetings, by holding them during the day during school/work hours. He removed "Community Concerns" and "Public Input" from the agendas of the meetings. He did not allow meetings to be filmed recording or televised. Meetings are limited to downtown Honolulu, which excludes many.

Please do not support GM706.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Barbara J. Service

GM 706
Senate Committee on Education
Wednesday, April 9, 2014
4:14 PM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414
By
Chris Daida

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Education Committee:

I am opposed to Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Mr. Horner to the Board of Education. An appointed chair to the Board of Education must demonstrate an ability to involve *all* stakeholders in a transparent, non-preferential way, including those the chair might oppose for religious reasons. I do not trust Mr. Horner's ability to separate his roles as a Pastor of New Hope and member of Christian leadership organizations, such as the Hawaii Pastor's Roundtable, and member of the Board of Education. Indeed, his record demonstrates a disturbing conflict of interest and a willingness to use his role as BOE chairperson to further the goals of his church and broader Christian community rather than look after the interests of all, including the LGBT families of Hawaii.

The agenda for the February 4, 2014 General Business meeting included a vague reference to a Discussion Item on "Presentation/Discussion on student health and safety."

- c. Superintendent's Report
 - i. Complex Area Superintendent's Report – Honokaa-Kealahou-Kohala-Konawaena

VII. Discussion Items

- a. Presentation/Discussion on student health and safety

VIII. Recommendations for Action

- a. Discussion/Board action on 2014 Legislative agenda and process

<http://www.hawaiiboe.net/Meetings/Notices/Pages/GBM2-4-2014.aspx>

The general public could have had no compelling reason to conclude that the discussion was actually regarding the Pono Choices Teen Pregnancy and STI Prevention Program. Yet, a review of the meeting minutes show that is precisely what occurred, and in fact there was a flood of oral testimony in opposition to the curriculum.

<https://lilinode.k12.hi.us/STATE/BOE/Minutes.nsf/a15fa9df11029fd70a2565cb0065b6b7/b92a972a83486f520a257c84000b8b78?OpenDocument>

It is very interesting that all but one of the testifiers was in opposition to the curriculum given that no one could have known by the meeting agenda alone, which stated merely a discussion on

“student health and safety,” that the discussion was actually about Pono Choices. How was it that apparently only one side was prepared to discuss the matter, especially given the amount of public debate over this curriculum, and the degree to which many churches are in overdrive to mischaracterize and malign it because of its inclusion of LGBT youth? There should have been full transparency about the true nature of the discussion item. The fact that there was such an imbalance in representation strongly suggests that transparency is being provided on a selective basis. When Mr. Horner helps to pastor a church very active in the discrimination of LGBT couples and families chairs the Board of Education, and there is a lack of transparency regarding the handling of matters affecting LGBT families, it is impossible for the public to trust that this Pastor is able to keep his roles and responsibilities compartmentalized.

This lack of transparency would be bad enough were it confined to matters where his religious practice and BOE leadership conflict, but it is one point in an overall pattern of leadership that fails to respect the many stakeholders in a community so wide as that impacted by the public school system. Even our State House of Representatives recognizes the scope of the problem of his leadership by its *unanimous* passage of HCR82 - REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE MORE TRANSPARENCY IN ITS MEETINGS.

http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HCR&billnumber=82&year=2014

So it seems that there is a general problem with Mr. Horner’s capacity to lead a board such that it involves the public in a meaningful, feasible, transparent way--except perhaps when public involvement can be confined to a small subset of religiously like-minded to oppose measures that broaden the content of public education to include members of the LGBT community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to GM706.

Sincerely,
Chris Daida

From: [Brendan Poff](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: GM706 testimony
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 6:10:58 PM

I think it is time for a change. Don Horner has had three years to contribute to the BOE, but I believe that it is time for the public to have greater involvement in public education. I would like a Board Member who has a track record in civil rights advocacy, labor rights, and public involvement. I want a public servant in that position.

Mr. Horner has had issues with transparency with the BOE, made meetings unavailable to the working man, limited meetings to Oahu and consistently holds executive sessions to speak about HSTA and HGEA off the record. Would be interesting to know what is so important that you constantly need executive session to speak about every meeting. A bit suspicious. I want someone with an education background not a banker. Please **DO NOT REAPPOINT DON HORNER!**

From: [Jory Watland](#)
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony on GM706
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 9:31:06 PM

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

My name is Jory Watland and I wish to speak in opposition to the appointment of Don Horner to the Board of Education.

I have been a resident of Kalihi Valley for over 45 years. I started the first drop-out program for Dole Intermediate in 1970

using three Kalihi valley churches as sites. I have worked with education professionals for decades, both as an ordained

Lutheran pastor (our congregation was the first church in Hawaii to turn over the Sanctuary for Head Start, and the Sunday

school classroom for a parent cooperative (no cost to parents) pre-school).

My two sons attended public elementary, middle, and high school in Kalihi. I feel I can speak to the proposed appointment

of Mr. Horner from my personal experience; from my participation in education; from my lifetime experience in Health and

Human services, from my years of serving on the Neighborhood Board, and from my graduate education (Theology) and professional

engagement with dozens of non-profit Boards.

I strongly recommend that you Do Not nominate Mr. Horner to the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,
Jory Watland

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: maefuimaono@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Wednesday, April 09, 2014 12:26:49 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/9/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Fuimaono	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I disagree with the appointment for a couple of reasons, number one is moving the meeting times to during the day when many parents or teachers can't come because they are at work. I also believe in the separation of church and state, I am a christian but I wouldn't want my pastor to hold a public office a church member is different. Lastly how is a banker qualified to be on this board in a powerful position it should be given to a teacher, someone who has real insight to the needs of Hawaii's educational system.. Thank you

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [EDU Testimony](#)
Cc: joycemcharles@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM706 on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM
Date: Tuesday, April 08, 2014 6:36:07 AM

GM706

Submitted on: 4/8/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joyce Midori Charles	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: At the very least Don Horner should explain to the Public how he can separate his religious beliefs and practice from his civil duties.

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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The Reverend Canon Brian J. Grieves
7007 Hawaii Kai Drive A21
Honolulu, HI 96825

April 7, 2014

Dear Senators: I write as a priest of the Episcopal Church. My comments, questions and concerns are my own.

I wish to comment on the nomination by Governor Abercrombie of Pastor Donald Horner to be reappointed to the State of Hawaii Board of Education. I have learned that Mr. Horner, while holding various positions in public and private organizations, is also a pastor of the New Hope Church. As you may know, New Hope church has consistently opposed initiatives that would give equal rights to the LGBT community, and has supported conversion therapy, even for minors, as a means to convert a homosexually oriented person to a heterosexual orientation.

Conversion therapy has been discredited in our country after decades of misuse and abuse. The leadership of a major conversion therapy program, Exodus International, recanted and apologized for this type of therapy, acknowledging its failure and the suffering it causes, and announced the program was closing. Two states, New Jersey and California, have now passed laws forbidding the use of conversion therapy because of the psychological damage that it has proven to cause. The Hawaii Senate has introduced SB2204 to outlaw conversion therapy which states "The legislature finds that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender is not a disease, disorder, illness, deficiency, or shortcoming. Major professional associations of mental health practitioners and researchers in the United States have recognized this fact for nearly forty years." Other states are considering such a bill.

I am concerned that if Pastor Horner should bring the bias of his church against homosexuality to his role as a member of the Board of Education, he would endanger the vision of the BOE which says "All schools, regardless of size, are safe, nurturing learning communities." Homophobia would not be conducive to a safe or nurturing environment for LGBT youth.

I therefore hope that you will question Pastor Horner about his views on conversion therapy for underage youth who might attend our public schools. I would also hope you will ask him for his position on sex education in the public schools, and how he believes homosexuality should be taught in such a curriculum.

Pastor Horner has been serving as the chairman of the BOE. This makes his views on the matters I raise of even greater concern.

I appreciate that you will exercise due diligence in assuring all our young people attending public schools in Hawaii that they need not feel threatened for their safety and well being, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Thank you for your serious attention to this matter.

Faithfully,

The Reverend Canon Brian J. Grieves

GM706

Submitted on: 4/2/2014

Testimony for EDU on Apr 9, 2014 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rob Hatch	Honolulu Pride	Oppose	Yes

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isaiah Chong	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
claudia rice	Individual	Oppose	No

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura	Individual	Oppose	No

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Golojuch	Individual	Oppose	No