

# GM 602

Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

**Branden Kawazoe**



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION

Wil Okabe  
President  
Joan Kamila Lewis  
Vice President  
Colleen Pasco  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Wilbert Holck  
Executive Director

DATE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

RE: G.M. 602 – SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE  
HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, BRANDEN KAWAZOE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE  
6-30-2018

PERSON TESTIFYING: WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Honorable Chair Michelle Kidani, Honorable Vice Chair Breene Harimoto and  
Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) **strongly supports G.M. 602** which  
submits for consideration the appointment of Branden Kawazoe to the Hawaii Teachers  
Standards Board (HTSB).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and show our support for Branden Kawazoe.  
He has been teaching since 2013 with the Department of Education. He is currently a  
counselor at Kaiser High. He is committed to support and maintain the highest  
standards and accountability for all teachers in the State of Hawaii. With this  
appointment he will be able to help facilitate and educate others about the teacher  
licensing process. We urge you to approve his recommendation.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and show our support for Mr. Branden Kawazoe.



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**HAWAII TEACHER STANDARDS BOARD**  
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 201  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

GM602, 603, 604, 605, 606 and 610

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 1:15 pm

Conference Room 229

Testimony of Lynn Hammonds, Executive Director, Hawaii Teacher Standards Board

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the following nominees to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board:

- GM602: Branden Kawazoe;
- GM603: Roxane Stewart;
- GM 604 and GM605: Leslie Murashige;
- GM606: Kariane Park Toyama;
- GM610: Steve Nakasato

While I do not yet know these individuals personally their qualifications indicate that they will become valued members of the board, representing teachers, principals and the public's interest in the preparation, licensure and continuing professional development for strong professional educators in our state. I have received only positive feedback and comments for each of these nominees and hope that you confirm them to be part of the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Education Committee  
Wednesday, April 15, 2015 @ 1:15pm

GM 602 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, BRANDEN KAWAZOE, for a term to expire 6-30-2018

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto, and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Stephanie Kim and I am testifying as an individual. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support for the Governor's nominee, Branden Kawazoe, for consideration and appointment to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board.

As a parent of a student at Kaiser High School, I have had the opportunity to get to know Mr. Kawazoe on a professional basis over the past few years. Mr. Kawazoe would bring a solid commitment and dedication to this appointment and I know him to be a thoughtful and reliable individual both as a counselor as well as head coach of the basketball team. I have the utmost respect for his abilities and feel he would make a good addition to this board.

I respectfully encourage the Committee to recommend him for confirmation for the Hawaii Teacher Standard Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for the Governor's nomination of Branden Kawazoe.