

# GM 782

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTINA COX, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Report Title: Early Learning Council

Description:

Companion:

Package:

Current Referral: HMS

Introducer(s):



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

Testimony in SUPPORT of Governor Message 782  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTINA COX, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Senate Committee on Human Services  
Senator Suzanne Chun-Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair

March 27, 2012 at 1:15 pm, Conference Room 106

Chair Chun-Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of Governor Message 782, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTINA COX, for a term to expire 6-30-2014

Christina Cox, the Governor's nominee to represent the center-based program sector on the Early Learning Council (ELC), has been dedicated to building a comprehensive, integrated high quality early learning system in Hawaii for over 27 years. Her leadership contribution to the field of early childhood in Hawaii, especially in the effective administration of multi-site center-based early childhood programs, has been instrumental and highly valued locally and nationally.

Ms. Cox has a Master's degree in Education with a focus on early childhood leadership and day care administration. Since 2000, Ms. Cox has been President and CEO of KCAA Preschools of Hawaii, a non-profit preschool organization with seven nationally accredited preschool centers on Oahu that serves over 1,000 children with a staff of over 130 employees and an annual operating budget of over \$7 million. She is currently overseeing the construction of a new innovative Center of Early Education and Development on the grounds of KCAA's Mother Rice Preschool.

Ms. Cox began working in early childhood administration at KCAA, first as Director of Wai-Kahala Preschool from 1984-1987, then in 1992-1993, she returned as Program Director of KCAA, to provide leadership on curriculum and policy for their seven preschool centers. From 1994 to 2000, she worked for Kamaaina Kids, another Hawaii multi-site center-based early childhood education and school age care organization, first as the school age care trainer and later as the Vice President and Preschool Division Director. At Kamaaina Kids, Ms. Cox provided operational oversight to nine preschools and two state- contracted First-To-Work sites.

Ms. Cox believes and lives out strong private-public partnerships as a key foundation for our comprehensive and integrated early childhood system. In 1994, she was an Early Childhood Specialist in the Governor's Office of Children and Youth. In that role she supervised and coordinated aspects of the Preschool Open Doors Project related to preschools and coordinated the collaboration of public and private sector agencies. Currently, Ms. Cox is an active member of our state's Department of Human Service's statewide child care advisory and is a project partner with the University of Hawaii's P-3 initiative and demonstration sites, specifically working closely with the Department of Education's (DOE) Farrington Complex. Several months ago, she provided guidance to the writing of our State's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge application and preliminary dialogue about how DOE's junior kindergarten program transitions to a voluntary state funded program for targeted four year olds, through a mixed delivery system.

In regards to professional affiliations, Ms. Cox is the Liaison for the Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii, which is made of over 60 preschools serving over 4,000 children on four islands in our state. The mission of the Childcare Business Coalition is to ensure effective, accessible and affordable delivery of high quality early childhood education and care to Hawaii's children and families. As Liaison for the Coalition, Ms. Cox is on the Board of Directors of the Early Care and Education Consortium, which is non-profit alliance of America's leading national, regional, and independent providers of high-quality child care and early learning and development programs for young children.

Over the years, the leadership awards she has been honored with speak volumes about how Ms. Cox is regarded among her colleagues and local organizations. In 2006, she received the Ho'okele Award given by the Hawaii Community Foundation for excellence in non-profit leadership. In 2007, she received the leadership and vision award from the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children.

Therefore, the Abercrombie Administration is in strong support of Christina Cox as the center-based program representative for our state Early Learning Council.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 782.

**Date:** 3/27/2012

**Committee:** Senate Human Services

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

**Title of Bill:** GM 782, Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee: CHRISTINA COX for a Term to Expire 6/30/2014

**Purpose of Bill:** To consider and confirm Christina Cox to the Early Learning Council for a term to expire 6/30/2014.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports the confirmation of Christina Cox (Center-Based Program Representative to serve on the Early Learning Council (ELC). Upon your committee's confirmation, Ms. Cox would serve on the ELC from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014.

**Christina Cox** is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of KCAA Preschools of Hawaii. Ms. Cox's extensive experiences in various early learning and development programs for almost 30 years serve as a strong foundation in her advocacy for high quality early education and care. As the Childcare Business Coalition of Hawaii Liaison, Ms. Cox promotes its mission to ensure effective, accessible, and affordable delivery of high quality early childhood education and care in Hawaii. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Early Care and Education Consortium, a non-profit alliance of national child care providers. Ms. Cox received the Hookele Award, paying tribute to nonprofit leaders, from the Hawaii Community Foundation in 2006 and the Leadership and Vision Award from the Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children in 2007.

We respectfully request your support and consideration in confirming Christina Cox to serve on the ELC. Ms. Cox brings an extensive array of reliable expertise, connected experiences, and wide-range knowledge of Hawaii's early childhood community. Ms. Cox's effective communication and outstanding facilitative skills all lead to strong and positive contributions as she serves on the ELC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Ms. Cox. Her appointment will add and enhance the ELC's community pursuit of implementing Hawaii's high-quality early learning and development system.



## **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

### **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Human Services  
Tuesday, March 27, 2012  
1:15 p.m.  
Room 016

By  
Dr. Linda K. Johnsrud  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost  
University of Hawai'i

GM 781, 782 and 783 Gubernatorial Nominees ALFRED CASTLE, CHRISTINA COX  
and LORA PERRY for the Early Learning Council

Chair Chun Oakland, Vice Chair Ihara, and members of the Committee on Human Services, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. My name is Linda Johnsrud, Executive Vice President and Provost for the University of Hawai'i System. I have represented President MRC Greenwood on the Early Learning Council since its inception, and I have had the opportunity to work with many of the early childhood education leaders in the state as together we promote a strong system of early learning for Hawai'i.

I am providing testimony in wholehearted support of the three gubernatorial nominees for the Early Learning Council: Alfred Castle, Christina Cox, and Lora Perry. Each of them brings a solid commitment and history of support for improving the early education system of the state. As Executive Director of the Samuel N. and Mary Castle Foundation, Al Castle is a leader in the philanthropic community, locally and nationally, and will provide the strong voice needed for the public private partnerships that must be built if we are to succeed in this endeavor. Likewise, Christina Cox as President of KCAA Preschools represents the center-based child care providers and has been a tireless advocate for quality childcare and education. Christina has also been an invaluable partner with P-20 on our P-3 W.K.Kellogg Foundation grant which focuses on preparing children to read by third grade. And finally, I have had the pleasure of serving with Lora Perry, Project Director for Nā Pono No Nā 'Ohana, as a current member of the Early Learning Council, and know her to be a thoughtful, reliable, and active member of the Council and a knowledgeable leader in early education.

I have had the good fortune of working with each of the nominees, and I look forward to serving with them on the Early Learning Council. I respectfully encourage the Committee to confirm these three excellent choices for the Council.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Hearing date:  
**Tuesday, Mar 27,**  
**2012; 1:15 pm.**  
Senate Human  
Services Committee  
Room 016

To: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair  
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

From: Elisabeth Chun, Executive Director  
Good Beginnings Alliance

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 1:15 pm  
Conference Room 016

Subject: **GM782: Early Learning Council Gubernatorial Nominee – Christina Cox**

We wholeheartedly recommend Ms. Christina Cox be confirmed as a member of the State Early Learning Council. Ms. Cox is respected leader in the early childhood community as President of KCAA Preschools. As President of this seven-site preschool program, she has led her program to higher levels of quality to include NAEYC accreditation for all of her schools. Additionally, she has served as the designated representative for the center-based seat on the Early Learning Council when the primary representative was unavailable. Ms. Cox is a brilliant and strategic thinker and will be a great asset to the Early Learning Council.

Mahalo for your consideration and your support. For more information contact: Good Beginnings Alliance; phone: 531-5502; [ljchun@goodbeginnings.org](mailto:ljchun@goodbeginnings.org)



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**Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Chair**  
**Senator Les Ihara, Vice Chair**  
**COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

**From:** Katherine Murphy, Executive Director  
Hawaii Association for the Education of Young Children (HAEYC)

**Date:** **Tuesday, March 27, 2012**

**Subject:** **GM 782, Early Learning Council, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTINA COX**

HAEYC is pleased to submit testimony in support of Christina Cox for appointment to the Early Learning Council. Ms. Cox is a strong advocate for early education in Hawaii. In addition to her work to promote early education, she has been recognized by the community for her work with early education and served as a Early Learning Educational Task Force. HAEYC is confident that her dedication and leadership to the education community will be an asset to the Council.

HAEYC will continue to be a positive contributor to the state's transition to a true, comprehensive public/private early learning system. Our volunteers and staff would be happy to provide you more information to facilitate your decision-making. Please contact us at 942-4708 or [haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org](mailto:haeyc@hawaiihaeyc.org).

HAEYC represents nearly 1,000 members who are early childhood development and educational professionals across the state.

*HAEYC's mission is to promote, support, and expand quality and professionalism in early childhood programs and services for Hawaii's children (0-8) and their families.*

Katherine E. Murphy  
Executive Director  
HAEYC

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HMS Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [stevengalbert@hotmail.com](mailto:stevengalbert@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM782 on 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 3:45:54 PM

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Testimony for HMS 3/27/2012 1:15:00 PM GM782

Conference room: 016  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Steven Albert  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [stevengalbert@hotmail.com](mailto:stevengalbert@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

**Comments:**

Christina Cox is a great choice, she has had many years of experience in the childcare business and knows more about the business of childcare than any other person that I know. And I have been a preschool director for forty years. Make it happen.

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