

GM-660

Submitted on: 4/8/2018 4:24:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/11/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kenneth T. Uemura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Chair State Senate, Committee on Education

Re: In Support of GM-#660 appointing Alan Oshima to the Education Commission of the States

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Education Committee;

My Name is Kenneth T. Uemura, Member State Board of Education. I have known Alan Oshima for over 50 years. Over that time I have found Alan to be a person of great intelligence and integrity. Alan has a deep understanding of public education in our State. As an alumna of our public education system, Alan has personally experienced the challenges and rewards of public education. Alan is compassionate about improving our State public education and will be a great addition to the Commission. I support his appointment to the Education Commission of the States.

Sincerely,

Kenneth T. Uemura

Member, State Board of Education



SanHi

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP

DATE: April 9, 2018

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Chair, Committee on Education
Submitted Via Capitol Website

RE: **GM 660 – Confirmation to the Education Commission of the States,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Alan Oshima
Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018
Conference Room: 229**

Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education:

I am Rick Tsujimura and write in **support** of the nomination of Alan Oshima's appointment to the Education Commission of the States.

I have known Alan for over thirty years. His commitment to public education is unparalleled and his appointment to the Education Commission is not only a good thing for Hawaii, it reflects the high regard he has in this community.

Alan will be an asset for Hawaii on this commission, and I urge your support for his confirmation.

GM-660

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 8:36:35 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/11/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tammi Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Committee on Education

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

Support for GM 660, Confirmation of Alan Oshima to the Education Commission of States

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for Governor's Message 660, the appointment of Alan Oshima to the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Confirming Alan to another term as a Hawaii Commissioner to ECS will serve the state well. Alan will represent Hawai'i well in the national education forum, and Alan shares and applies other states' lessons learned and emerging trends with colleagues in Hawaii to inform and improve Hawai'i's public education. Alan brings a wealth of experience and commitment to the role of an ECS Commissioner in his experience as a Farrington High School alumnus, parent of two public school graduates, business and community leader, and public education advocate and supporter.

I would like to emphasize Alan's role as a public education advocate and supporter. I partnered worked with Alan in several capacities related to public education, and my experience in each situation confirms Alan's long-term commitment to Hawai'i's public education, his personal investment and leadership in achieving better outcomes for our youth, and his role in catalyzing support for innovation. There are two projects which I worked on, in my former role as then-Governor Neil Abercrombie's education advisor,

that represent Alan's personal commitment as well as his vision for innovation in education. First, in 2012, then-Governor Abercrombie issued a State of the State challenge that we provide a "laptop for every student." As Executive Vice President for Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI), Alan responded with HEI's support for investing in learning technology for Hawaii's students. HEI, through its charitable foundation and the generosity of its employees' gifts, supported digital devices for nearly 1,000 students and teachers at Kea'au Elementary and Middle Schools on Hawaii Island as a demonstration project. HEI's "Makana Connection" provided a breakthrough opportunity for Kea'au students to have more personalized learning, engage in virtual field trips with students in other states and countries, and incorporate cutting edge Google tools in the classroom. Digital learning provided new and exciting opportunities for students in an economically challenged rural community. Alan catalyzed a wide ranging set of partners: Aloha United Way served as fiscal agent, Hawai'i 3Rs and Hawaiian Electric Light Company transported devices inter-island, Hawai'i Community Foundation provided support for teachers to attend the Schools of the Future Conference for training, and Punahou School provided technical support in preparing the laptops and provide onsite training at Kea'au. Alan's tenacity kept the project moving in spite of many challenges and kept the project focused on the outcome of making technology a tool for learning rather than simply deploying the technology for its own sake.

A second project that benefit from Alan's leadership is the 21st Century Schools project. As the Hawai'i 3Rs Chair, Alan is all too familiar with the ongoing challenges of facilities' repair, maintenance and upgrades for Hawaii's public schools. After continuous lobbying and public-private partnerships, the Hawai'i Department of Education's repair and maintenance backlog is now at \$293 million in 2017 compared with \$720 million in 2001. Through his involvement in Hawaii Institute for Public Affairs, Alan helped to lead research and analysis efforts to consider alternative funding for public schools, particularly for facilities upgrades, through leveraging of its real estate assets for public-private partnerships. As is Alan's signature, the effort goes beyond a financial arrangement but promotes state of the art school facilities that support and enable new approaches to learning. Act 155 (2013) established a pilot program to generate revenue through the lead of public school lands for public purposes and then Act 206 (2017) extended the program.

Alan's leadership in Hawaii public education has been recognized repeatedly, including being awarded as 2017 Inspirational Leader of the Year by the Center for Tomorrow's Leaders and being honored by the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation.

Alan is a man of ideas but also of action that leads to outcomes. I look forward to the impact that he will have in continuing as an ECS Commissioner for the state. I encourage the committee to confirm Alan Oshima as a Commissioner.

Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-660

Submitted on: 4/10/2018 12:00:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/11/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Capsun M. Poe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: