



STATE OF HAWAII
Executive Office on Early Learning
1390 Miller Street, Room 303
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 10, 2018

TO: Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Lauren Moriguchi, Director
Executive Office on Early Learning

SUBJECT: **Measure:** Governor's Message No. 669
Hearing Date: April 11, 2018
Time: 2:45 p.m.
Location: Room 229

Purpose of Measure: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Benjamin Naki III, for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE ON EARLY LEARNING'S POSITION: The Executive Office on Early Learning (EOEL) strongly supports the confirmation of Mr. Benjamin Naki III to the Early Learning Board, for a term to expire June 30, 2019.

Mr. Naki has served on the Board as its Head Start provider agency representative. Head Start programs, which primarily serve children with serious socioeconomic disadvantages – often associated with poorer academic and other life outcomes – and wrap the children and their families with comprehensive health, nutrition, and education services, are an integral component of the early learning system (from prenatal care to kindergarten entry) that EOEL is charged with developing.

Mr. Naki's expertise on Head Start programs, as well as his almost two decades of leadership in the early childhood community especially with vulnerable children and families, has been and we hope will continue to be, a great asset to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure and express our support for Mr. Naki's nomination.

April 3, 2018

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Education Committee

From: Michael Fahey, Chair Nominations Committee,
Early Learning Board

Re: **GM 669 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, BENJAMIN NAKI III, for a term to expire 06-30-2019**

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members:

It is with great gratification that I ask you to confirm Ben Naki for Head Start Provider Agency Representative on the Early Learning Advisory Board to expire 06-30-2019.

Ben has been a leader in the early childhood community for two decades. His expertise and leadership has ensured high quality services for low income children in their families in Hawaii. He is an administrator whose understanding of vulnerable children's development and care is a great benefit to our work on the Early Learning Board (ELB).

Ben has consistently been present at ELB meetings over the years to help guide and advise us and he also volunteers on ELB committees. He is highly respected among his peers and has a firm understanding of ELB's goals, strategies and topics.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in strong support of Benjamin Naki III's confirmation to the ELB.

Sincerely,
Michael C. Fahey

HEICC Representative, Chair Nominations Committee,
Early Learning Board

April 7, 2018

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Education Committee

From: Robert G Peters, Chair,
Early Learning Board

Re: **GM 669 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Early Learning Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, Benjamin Naki III, for a term to expire 06-30-2019**

Wednesday, April 11, 2018, Conference Room 229, 2:45 pm.

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kahele and Committee Members:

This testimony is in support of confirming Benjamin Naki III to serve as the Head Start Provider representative on the Early Learning Board (ELB) as a nominee of the Governor.

Ben currently serves as the Vice President for Early Education Programs for PACT (Parents and Children Together). He is the senior professional in charge of the implementation and on-going oversight of Head Start and Early Head Start programs. He guides educational services and family engagement approaches in developmental programs. As a member of the UCLA Mentoring initiative, Ben has served as a mentor to new Head Start Directors; he has also been a UCLA, Johnson & Johnson Head Start Fellow and was the president of the Hawaii Dad's Coalition.

Ben brings a unique perspective to the Early Learning Board and has previously served as the Home Visiting Provider representative when we were an Advisory Board (ELAB). His understanding of the transition of the Board to a governing authority from its advisory function will prove helpful as we move forward with strategic initiatives.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of Benjamin Naki III for a term on the ELB to expire on June 30, 2019.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Peters, Chair
Early Learning Board



**The Head Start
Association
Of Hawai'i**

Debbi Amaral
MEO Head Start
99 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Child and Family Services

Family Support Hawaii

Maui Economic Opportunity,
Inc.

Maui Family Support
Services

Parents and Children
Together

Honolulu Community Action
Program

*Pacific Region Associate
Programs:*

American Samoa
Guam
Palau

Commonwealth of
North Mariana Island



April 9, 2018

This letter is in support of Ben Naki III, Vice President of Early Education Programs for Parents and Children Together (PACT) to represent the Head Start Association of Hawai'i on the Early Learning Board (ELB).

Ben was selected by the Head Start Association of Hawai'i to be nominated for a voting position on the ELB. The Association is inclusive of six grantees throughout the State of Hawai'i serving young children, birth to five years of age, and their families. Services also include pregnant mothers and families in support of prenatal care.

The majority of children and families served by Head Start and Early Head Start meet federal income poverty guidelines for program eligibility, presenting an opportunity for Ben to provide valuable input to the ELB for community discussion and decision making.

You are welcomed to contact me for additional questions regarding this letter of support for Ben.

Respectfully,

Debbi Amaral
President

Head Start Association of Hawai'i
(808)243-4379 / debbi.amaral@meoinc.org





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

FROM: Ryan Kusumoto, President & CEO of Parents And Children Together (PACT)

DATE/LOCATION: Wednesday, April 11, 2018; 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229

RE: GM669 TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF BENJAMIN NAKI III FOR THE EARLY LEARNING BOARD

We support Benjamin Naki III, gubernatorial nominee, for the Early Learning Board. Ben is highly qualified to serve as a member of the State's Early Learning Board with his vast experience working within the sector of early childhood education and currently serving as the Vice President of Early Childhood Education Programs at PACT. He is also currently serving on the Early Learning Board after previously serving for three years on the State's Early Learning Advisory Board. His commitment to early learning is second-to-none and he brings a steadfast commitment to our communities and to the children and families of Hawaii.

Ben is an accomplished leader and has represented our State on the Head Start Association of Hawaii as well as on the Board of the Regional Head Start Association. He has been a mentor to new Head Start directors and continues to participate in various leadership capacities both locally and nationally. As a Head Start and Early Head Start Program Director for many years, Ben has a clear understanding of the needs of both our community and its consumers. Always a thoughtful listener, Ben is willing to hear all perspectives knowing that differing opinions often help to shape positive, collaborative and productive solutions.

Ben is well-respected and effective. He operates with honesty, humility and a sincere interest in making sure that our families, especially our keiki, have access to quality early learning opportunities. Ben elevates the community around him-- expectations are high, communication is clear and decisions are made with the utmost discernment and care. He is a grounding force-- working with integrity, an eye towards the mission and a keen sense of what is best for all constituents. Ben brings to the Early Learning Board a wealth of experience coupled with his authentic, transparent leadership and knack for fostering collaborative, engaged communities committed to student and family success.

Founded in 1968, Parents And Children Together (PACT) is one of Hawaii's not-for-profit organizations providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, PACT helps families identify, address and successfully resolve challenges through its 16 programs. Among its services are: early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support of Benjamin Naki III**, please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or rkusumoto@pacthawaii.org if you have any questions.

GM-669

Submitted on: 4/9/2018 2:38:28 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kidani and Vice Chair Kahele,

I humbly submit this testimony in strong support of Benjamin Naki's confirmation to the Early Learning Board. As Vice President of Early Education Programs at PACT, Mr. Naki has worked dilligently to administer programming that expands early education and family strengthening opportunities for some of the most vulnerable families and children in our communities. I have known Ben on both a personal and professional level for the past several years and have been impressed with his ability to cultivate and nurture partnerships that benefit the communities in which he serves as well as the broader early learning professional community. The Early Learning Board will benefit from his many years of experience in the field and in his work with at-risk populations. Mahalo in advance for your careful consideration of this testimony and confirmation of Mr. Naki.

Sincerely,

Jin Chang

Family-Child Interaction Learning representative, Early Learning Board