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Senate Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Breene Harimoto, Vice Chair

April 17, 2015

This testimony is in support for GM783, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Margaret Cox, for a term to expire 6-30-2018.

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Harimoto 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.

The Coalition supports Ms. Cox's nomination. We are pleased that she has experience as an educator and a former Board of Education (BOE) member.

One of HE'E Coalition's priorities is to provide the community voice to influence public policy that affects education. Therefore, we attend BOE meetings on a regular basis. The Coalition was active in providing its voice to the Department of Education's (DOE's) Strategic Plan, advocating that family-school partnerships and community engagement be included the plan. We are appreciative of the DOE and BOE's support of our advocacy, as many of our recommendations for the Strategic Plan have been included. We encourage incoming Board Members to be supportive of family and community engagement in our public education system. As the BOE is a policy-making entity, we also appreciate BOE member support in our efforts to give input and feedback educational policy issues.

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

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 (*)