



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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

By
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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.