

## **Cover Letter**

Date: April 23, 2014

Subject: iLEAD Kauai Public Charter School Application

Additional Written Testimony for April 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Description: These letters were composed by our board members in support of our charter school proposal. The Individuals who have agreed to sit on our board and who have composed these letters are:

**Hartwell Blake**- Former Kauai County Attorney

**Paul Zina**- Hawaii DOE Public School Administrator

**Thomas Lambert**- Local Kauai Guardian Storage Facility Business Owner

Thank You for Your Attention.

Hartwell H.K. Blake  
P.O. Box 159  
Koloa, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96756  
2 April 2014

State of Hawai'i  
Board of Education

RE: ILead Kaua'i  
Petition for Public Charter School

To Whom It May Concern:

ILead Kauai is petitioning the State of Hawai'i for approval, recognition, and funding as a public charter school. If approved, it will be open to all students on Kaua'i. The parents and educators who seek to establish ILead believe the educational needs of their children can be more positively addressed in a motivational environment geared to an individual approach specific to each student.

We are fortunate to be able to pattern the program after two successful ILead Charter Schools already established on the continent. Adaptation of this template permits time and resources to be allocated to structure and obviates having to 'reinvent the wheel'.

In addition to the individual student-specific approach, the school intends to recognize and incorporate matters of importance to our island community. Hawaiian values will be emphasized. These universal values will be reflected in Hawaiian terms. It is important because the simplicity of the language permits a single word, e.g., 'aloha', to encompass all of the nuances of a definition otherwise provided by a long list of synonyms.

Character development and ethical behavior will be an important aspect of the curriculum.

Deena Fontana Moraes is imminently qualified to incorporate these standards into the requirements of the basic state curriculum. She was born and raised on Kaua'i, educated in our public schools, matriculated to Reed and Sarah Lawrence, has taught school in Brazil, and holds a MEd. She took all of the Hawaiian culture classes offered in her schools and also learned to dance the hula.

I can personally vouch for her initiative and personal work ethic, having supervised her as a student clerk in the Office of the County Attorney. My daughter and Ms. Fontana were classmates at Kaua'i High School. I am informed that Deena was well-liked and respected by her school mates and instructors. Her reputation and character are attributable to positive parental influence and her understanding, acceptance, and appreciation, of our folkways and mores. Please approve the ILead application.

/s/ Hartwell H.K. Blake

April 3, 2014

To The Public Charter School Commission of Hawaii,

I am writing this letter as a board member of the iLEAD Kauai proposed charter school for the island of Kauai. Having been vice principal and acting principal of a number of well-respected public schools on the island, I am always looking for new ideas to infuse into our community. I first came across the iLEAD Kauai Charter School proposal in a presentation at our Kauai Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons and was deeply intrigued by the ideas and approaches of iLEAD. I also attended the public meeting held on the island and was pleasantly surprised to see such a wide turn out of important community members who were present to learn more and lend their support to the project. As I shared with Deena, there was significant positive sentiment in the room that night and an overwhelming response that Kauai was ready for this new school alternative amongst the many people present.

As an educator and administrator with a long-standing record on the island, I was initially cautious about lending my support, but as I learned more about the project and about the successes that they experienced at their other schools, I was infused with enthusiasm for a well-structured system for project-based learning that is so needed on the island. The iLEAD ideas and approaches deeply resonate with my beliefs in public education and with the needs that we have on the island to provide free and appropriate alternative learning options. With all of this in mind, I am enthusiastic to lend my support to the iLEAD Kauai governing board. I am confident that although the iLEAD concepts originated in California, the structure of their system will be easily adaptable to the reality of our island and our state.

I am even more confident to lend my support to the project after observing Deena Fontana Moraes' leadership abilities and style. Deena is a talented and articulate local Kauai girl who left the island to gain education and experience in the global community. She is passionate to return to her home and dedicate her energy and efforts to create the very best institution possible for our kids. Deena was my teaching colleague at Waimea High School and has deep roots on our island. Due to the fact that she has spent the last several years working in an International School environment, one way that I believe that I can support the iLEAD Kauai effort is by helping to advise the team about the intricacies of our current Hawaii DOE system.

On behalf of the island of Kauai, I urge the board to approve the iLEAD Kauai proposal for the 2015-2016 school year.

Please feel free to contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Zina", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Paul Zina  
Public School Administrator

To the State Public Charter School Commission:

As a board member of the newly established iLead Kauai school proposal, I wanted to offer to you my thoughts about Deena Fontana Moraes and her ability to be an effective leader. I have known her for over ten years. During this time she has proven herself to be highly competent in organizing and establishing vitals programs. When she was a college student, she won a Kauai Rotarian scholarship to continue her education abroad. She was sent to Brazil for her studies; and the two requirements for the scholarship were her participation as a goodwill ambassador for the Rotarian program and to finish her studies, both of which she fulfilled. However, while she was there she identified a dire need for water among one of the outlying villages. At the time, the people of the village had to walk many kilometers a day to access water; and because of a lack of modern conveniences, they had to carry what they could back to their village. It was quite an ordeal, and it was how it had been done for the people of the village for centuries. Because of that, there may have been apathy by local leadership to institute modern conveniences for that particular village. Deena was horrified by it, and was alarmed about the health safety of the people of the village. She knew that as a consequence of the difficulty in obtaining the water, the village people were often sacrificing their health by drinking unsafe water. Therefore, she lead a movement among the local Rotarian group to advocate for installation of the necessary water infrastructure for the village. She was instrumental in creating a system whereby the people of the village have water to this day. This was truly heroic, and it shows a level of leadership through persistence, positive action, and the necessary follow through to see it to fruition. It also demonstrates how she was able to motivate and engage the local leaders, who come from a different culture, to a cause she felt passionate about.

Deena has often exemplified a concern for her community and has shown compassion to those who are often forgotten. Another example of those exhibited traits I would like to mention is when she noticed that the children of Salvador, Brazil were left unattended when not in school. In particular, during the extended break between school years the children would lose an academic footing but also occupied their time in environments which were unsafe. Deena saw a need in the community for an academy which would be devoted to children, where they could go on a continual and regular basis to learn and play, within the safety of a controlled environment. She established such a program, arranged for the funding, and created the organizational support so that this program is offered annually. It has grown in size and participation, to this day, and the resulting success has lead others to study it for the replication of it elsewhere.

I find both these programs to be amazing and a benefit to the intended communities. They demonstrate Deena's creativity and energy in solving problems locally. I believe strongly that she could lead a team to create an inspiring, lively, and academically focused school program here on Kauai, using the same skills that she successfully applied in Brazil. I trust she will surround herself with able minded and dedicated individuals, thereby creating a dynamic program, which will be a benefit to the children of Kauai.

If you should have any questions, you may reach me at 808.651.1097.

Sincerely,



Thomas Lambert  
1481 Haleukana St.  
Lihue, HI 96766