



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

March 21, 2012

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CHIEF CLERK  
CAROL TANIGUCHI

Ms. Odetta Fujimori

Re: Nomination to the Stadium Authority GM 808

Dear Ms. Fujimori:

Congratulations on being nominated by Governor Neil Abercrombie to the Stadium Authority. To assist the Senate with its confirmation process, I request that the following information be submitted to my office by **Wednesday, March 28, 2012**:

- (1) A resume with a list of references
- (2) A written statement that addresses the following questions:
  - (a) Why do you wish to be a member of the Stadium Authority board?
  - (b) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a board member of the Stadium Authority board?
  - (c) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Stadium Authority, why do you believe that you are qualified to serve as a member of its board? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Stadium Authority board.
  - (d) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
  - (e) Have you reviewed the Auditor's recent report, "Investigation of the Stadium Authority's Swap Meet Operations"? What are your thoughts on the role of the Stadium Authority board in addressing the Auditor's recommendations?
  - (f) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Stadium Authority?

- (g) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Stadium Authority?
- (h) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Stadium Authority Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

Your prompt response in providing the above information will ensure that the Senate confirmation process can proceed in a timely manner. The committee is scheduling your confirmation hearing on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 1:15pm in Conference Room 016. Please contact Doris Lam or EDT Committee Clerk Ashley Advincula at 586-6890 if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senate Economic Development Committee

(a) Why do you wish to be a member of the Stadium Authority board?

I believe in the mission of the Aloha Stadium. I want to be able to make a contribution to continue to provide a first class arena for our state and to make changes as needed to enhance that mission.

(b) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a board member of the Stadium Authority board?

The role and responsibilities/powers and duties are defined by Statute, (HRS 109-2)....basically, to maintain, operate and manage the stadium.

(c) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of the Stadium Authority, why do you believe that you are qualified to serve as a member of its board? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability...

I believe I have a reasonable amount of skills for good decision making. I have served in "key" leadership positions built on trust and knowledge. My previous career utilized a team approach that is beneficial to serving on a Board, and finally, I am a team player who encourages collaboration and always striving for a "win-win" outcome.

Having served as an elected Trustee on the Employees' Retirement System Board (ERS), I am familiar with rules and regulations, including process and procedures expected of state agencies/boards. Finally, I pride myself with being a "sports spectator," and a bit knowledgeable with a whole array of sports. During my teens, I was on my high school tennis team, played volleyball and dared to challenge anyone at table tennis. Today, I stick to the game of golf. My children participated in gymnastics, soccer, baseball, basketball, capoeira and roller hockey. I have been a UH football season ticket holder since the opening of Aloha Stadium, and also have season tickets for UH basketball at the Stan Sheriff Center; and even prior to that, at the Blaisdell Center. For nearly ten years, we purchased UH Baseball season tickets and supported the team's fundraising efforts. I have done sports "fund-raisers," served as "team-mom," cleaned the parks for games and worked with city officials in encouraging the creation of roller hockey courts in the public parks. These experiences should enhance my decision making as a board member.

(d) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

I hope we will be able to resolve any ceded land issue, relative to the Swamp Meet, with the US Department of Interior. I would also like to be part of the decision-making as to whether the Stadium Board trades land and/or builds a brand new stadium, and/or upgrades the facilities to last beyond my children's life-time. Finally, I hope we will be able to find additional ways to enhance the stadium revenues.

(e) Have you reviewed the Auditor's recent report...What are your thoughts on the role of the Stadium Authority board in addressing the Auditor's recommendations?

I believe the present board has addressed some of the recommendations, but there are others that the board should consider and seek ways to resolve some of the findings of the report.

(f) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Stadium Authority?

I am an eager learner/participant, a "people-person" and I do my "homework," which should be beneficial to the Stadium Authority.

(g) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Stadium Authority?

An HSTA Strike Vote Meeting, attended by more than 5,000 teachers was becoming very hostile. As past president, and six months pregnant, I was called upon to conduct the strike vote. After four hours of parliamentary maneuvers, including demands from confrontational individuals, I was able to quell the unrest and fears of those in attendance. I believe my Parliamentary skills can benefit the Stadium Authority Board.

(h) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Stadium Authority Board? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

I do not foresee any conflicts of interests at this time but if any such conflict does occur, I will follow procedures to declare a conflict, including an abstention during a vote, if necessary.

Testimony of  
Odetta Fujimori  
to the  
Senate Committee  
on  
Economic Development and Technology

April 2, 2012

Subject: G.M. 808 - Nomination to the Stadium Authority - Odetta Fujimori

Good afternoon, Senator Fukunaga and members of the Committee . Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you as you consider my nomination to the Stadium Authority, for a term to expire December 1, 2016.

For thirty-one years, I labored in the field of education as a classroom and special education teacher, a diagnostic-prescriptive teacher on a Special Services team, and one of two vocational education planners for special education at the district's Vocational Planning Center. I worked for a very short while for former governor Ben Cayetano when he served as lieutenant governor and ended my career as a resource teacher for the district's deputy superintendent. Sandwiched between my teaching profession and that of a mother, and having learned from my father, who was a union organizer, I spent many years at the state and national levels advocating for better schools and working conditions for our profession. Most of you know me as a former HSTA leader and I thank you for your past support. Since retirement (1995) my time in this building has been spent monitoring legislative bills affecting our retirees' pension and health benefits.

I have been a University of Hawaii Football season ticket holder since the Stadium opened in 1975, and have always had a desire to be a part of that decision-making body. Over the years, other things have taken priority, but today, I am ready to offer my services as a member of the Board. I am anxious to face the many challenges before the Board, including the recent Auditor's Report. Foremost, is to move forward in supporting the mission of the Aloha Stadium; that of a first-class sports and cultural arena. I thank Governor Abercrombie for this nomination.

Rather than being redundant, the written statement from questions that were requested by the Chair should provide you with sufficient information about my background, skills and knowledge. Hopefully, those kaleidoscope of experiences will earn your support and approval. I would be happy to clarify or to answer any questions.

Again, thank you for your time. I hope this committee will support my nomination.

**GM 808**

Ms. Odetta Fujimori  
Stadium Authority

**EDT**



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING**  
**AND GENERAL SERVICES**  
P.O. BOX 119  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY  
OF  
DEAN H. SEKI, ACTING COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY  
ON  
April 2, 2012

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 808

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STADIUM  
AUTHORITY, ODETTA FUJIMORI

Chair Fukunaga and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on G.M. 808. The Department of Accounting and General Services supports Ms. Odetta Fujimori's confirmation to the Stadium Authority.

Ms. Fujimori had a long career in various teaching positions within the Department of Education. She has also served on the Board of Directors of various nonprofit organizations including the Hawaii State Teachers Association, National Education Association, and the Honolulu Marathon/Nike Fun Run for Honolulu District Schools. Ms. Fujimori's broad experiences provide her with the necessary skills to be a contributing member of the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

**DEAN H. SEKI**  
ACTING COMPTROLLER

**SCOTT L. CHAN**  
MANAGER

**LOIS M. MANIN**  
DEPUTY MANAGER



TESTIMONY OF  
SCOTT L. CHAN, STADIUM MANAGER  
STADIUM AUTHORITY  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

APRIL 2, 2012  
1:15 PM  
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 016

G.M. 808

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Odetta Fujimori, for a term to expire 06-30-2016.

Chair Fukunaga and members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of Odetta Fujimori.

We welcome the opportunity to work with Ms. Odetta Fujimori and support her nomination to the Stadium Authority. As a board member, her wealth of knowledge and experience (including 32 years of outstanding service in the field of education and numerous leadership appointments to several prominent organizations) will be of great value to Aloha Stadium.

Therefore, we proudly endorse the appointment of Ms. Odetta Fujimori to the Stadium Authority.

## **fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane**

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**From:** Alice Kotake [AKOTAKE@HAWAII.RR.COM]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Subject:** Odetta Fujimori nominee

Carol Fukunaga, chair  
Economic Development and Technology Committee

Odetta Fujimori has been nominated for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority for a term to expire 6-30-2016. The hearing is to be held on Monday, April 2, 2012 at 1:15 p.m. Since standing in the HSTA formative picket lines in 1973, she has remained actively involved in supporting the NEA, HSTA, and now the HSTA-R and I wish to support her gubernatorial nomination. She comes well qualified and enthused about being involved in our community in a wide range of activities.

I am Alice Kotake and have worked with Odetta for many years as director of the HSTA-Retired. I reside at 26 Kepola Place, Honolulu, HI 96817.

Thank you.



## **fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane**

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**From:** BFCoons@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 27, 2012 7:14 PM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Subject:** Stadium Authority Board and Odetta Fujimori

To: Carol Fukunaga

From: Barbara Coons

My long-time friend, Odetta Fujimori, met with you to talk about her nomination to the Stadium Authority Board. I have known Odetta since she was HSTA President back in the early 70's. She has excellent people skills, working with individuals and groups. One of our recent endeavors was as members of the University of Hawaii Alumni Board in the College of Education, where we worked together.

Odetta is a person who will follow through and will become knowledgeable about the issues and needs pertaining to the Stadium. I also know that she and her family have supported U.H. sports and have attended many different sporting events there. I think she would be a great member of that Board, Carol. She takes such responsibilities very seriously.

All the best to you,

Aloha, Barbara Coons  
521-7022

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Monday, April 2, 2012, 1:15 pm  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

RE: GM808, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, ODETTA FUJIMORI, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology. My name is Charles T. Toguchi and I'm providing written testimony today in support of Odetta Fujimori's gubernatorial nomination to serve on the Stadium Authority.

I have had the privilege of knowing Odetta Fujimori for over 30 years. Odetta Fujimori is a true EDUCATOR...and is remembered by many teachers for her leadership and the inspiration that she provided as HSTA's first president. She helped to organize Hawaii public school teachers for collective bargaining over 40 years ago. She has worked tirelessly to help support and bring about needed positive changes to help Hawaii's public school children.

Odetta's leadership has been recognized by many. She has served on National and Local labor and Educational Boards...was appointed by former Governors to various Boards...the Hawaii Employment Relations Board, Hawaii Labor Advisory Council, and the Board of Trustees, State of Hawaii Employees' Retirement System. She has an extensive background in working with government agencies, including the legislature.

I'm a former member of the Stadium Authority Board, and I can see that Odetta is a perfect candidate for this Board. Sports has always been an important part of her life...and she fully understands the significance of sports and its relation to education.

Leadership is action...and Odetta has proven...with her positive action...strong work ethics...forward thinking vision...and integrity...that she can get the job done. Without any hesitation, I strongly urge your favorable consideration of her nomination to the Stadium Authority Board.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

Sincerely,  
Charles T. Toguchi



Written Personal Testimony  
presented before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
April 2, 2012, 1:15 pm, Room 016  
by  
Donald B. Young

**GM 808** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Odetta Fujimori, for a term to expire 6-30-2016.

Chairs Fukunaga, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

My name is Donald Young, currently Acting Dean in the College of Education at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. However, this testimony is provided as personal testimony, not in my official capacity.

I fully support the Governor's nomination of Odetta Fujimori to serve on the Stadium Authority. I have known Ms Fujimori for nearly 30 years. She has experienced a long and illustrious 32-year teaching career and has made outstanding contributions to the teaching profession and the community. She taught special education at Linekona School and Pauoa Elementary School, and was a Diagnostic-Prescriptive Teacher in the Honolulu District, serving as a member of a multi-disciplinary team that provided training to teachers in teaching/learning strategies. She was also a Vocational Program Planner, assisting schools to prepare high-school special-education students for careers after graduation. She also served as a resource teacher in the Honolulu District, working with school administrators, and coordinating district events and programs.

In addition to teaching, during the early 1970s Odetta helped organize Hawaii's public school teachers for collective bargaining. In 1973, she was elected the first president of the Hawaii State Teacher's Association (HSTA). She also served at the national level from 1973–1991 as a board member and/or committee chair with the National Education Association (NEA) in Washington, D.C. She has received numerous recognitions and honors at both the state and national levels.

Throughout her career, Ms. Fujimori has demonstrated her commitment to public service with unequalled integrity, dedication, and a moral conscience for doing what is right. These are the characteristics necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the sometimes controversial Stadium Authority. A respected community member, dedicated leader and public servant, make Odetta Fujimori highly qualified to serve on the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Economic Development and Technology Committee  
Monday, April 2, 2012  
1:15pm  
Room 016

GM808: Submitting in support of consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Odetta Fujimori, for a term to Expire 6-30-2016

Dear Senator Carol Fukunaga:

I humbly submit my support for Odetta Fujimori's nomination to the Stadium Authority, for a term to expire 6-30-2016. I've known her for many years, mostly in the field of education. She was the first president of the Hawaii State Teacher's Association and the first president of the Hawaii State Teacher's Association - Retired. I am also a retired educator and trust her wholeheartedly.

Although she has been retired for a good number of years, she remains up to date with current affairs and continues to be sound in body and mind. I am confident that Odetta Fujimori will be a great asset to the Stadium Authority Board.

Mahalo,

/s/ Donna Higashi, member  
HSTA - Retired

Senate  
The Economic Development and Technology Committee  
Chair Carol Fukunaga  
Governor's Message 808- Appointment to the Stadium Authority

Chairperson Fukunaga and members of the committee;

My name is Joan Lee Husted and I am submitting testimony as an individual in support of Odetta Fujimori's appointment as a member of the Stadium Authority. I urge your committee to recommend confirmation to the full Senate.

I have known Odetta Fujimori for more than 40 years. I first worked with her when she was the first president of the Hawaii State Teachers Association. She was a calm, thoughtful leader who brought us through those turbulent times. Her commitment to the people she led HSTA to serve was culminated by her election as the first president of HSTA-Retired organization. In addition, I followed her career with the Department of Education and knew her as someone who cared about the job she did and the students and public she served. Everyone respected her and her willingness to speak for the issues she thought important.

Odetta will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Stadium Authority from her many years working with people. She is bright, articulate and after forty years, I am still learning from her.

I urge the committee to support the confirmation of Odetta Fujimori to the Stadium Authority.

Joan Lee Husted  
1615 Wilder Ave. Apt. 804  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
808.782.9666

M. NALANI FUJIMORI KAINA

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**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
G.M. 808 NOMINATION OF ODETTA FUJIMORI TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY**

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair**

**Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair**

April 2, 2012 at 1:15 p.m.

I would like to submit my personal testimony in support of my mother's nomination to the Stadium Authority. While many in the community know my mother as a former HSTA President, an advocate for labor, a trustee of the State of Hawaii Employees' Retirement System, and a regular testifier on employee retirement issues, many may not know of her undeniable passion for sports and especially for the University of Hawaii Rainbow Warriors.

Growing up in my family, we had season tickets to University of Hawaii football and basketball, went to baseball games when we could, and rarely missed volleyball games on television. I grew up watching the Warriors at Aloha Stadium and at the Blaisdell Area. My mother is a diehard fan, so much so that even when my father is out of town, she'll go to football and basketball games by herself, even catching the UH Football Express to the Stadium.

I've also grown up being in awe of her leadership, her ability to work with others, and her willingness to do the hard work. She is never shy about speaking up about what she thinks is right and always has the best interest of the cause, the project, or the people involved in mind when she does. She is a natural organizer and using these skills as a retiree, she helps her McKinley High School classmates put on annual get togethers and is an amazing travel planner creating novel itineraries when she and her friends travel to locations all around the globe.

For her, serving on the Stadium Authority is a lifelong dream. She remembered when it was first built and the promise that it held. It is the opportunity to serve and to contribute to the state and to ensure that there is a first class arena for sports and other events. She is excited about the opportunity and will bring her experience, committed, and enthusiasm to the Stadium Authority.

I ask for your support in recommending my mother for confirmation by the Senate as a member of the Stadium Authority.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

M. Nalani Fujimori Kaina

## fukunaga2 - Ashley-Jane

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**From:** Tom Katsuyoshi [lightformspace@hawaiiantel.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2012 12:13 AM  
**To:** EDTTestimony  
**Subject:** GM808: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Odetta Fujimori, for a term to expire 6-30-2016. Hearing Scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2012 at 1:15 PM in Room 016.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Economic Development and Technology Committee:

I write this message in support of Odetta Fujimori's nomination to membership on the Stadium Authority. I have known Odetta since we were classmates at McKinley High School. Even then Odetta was extremely bright, very popular and friendly, and immersed in many school and extracurricular activity. She was a fierce competitor on the tennis team, and a solid planner and organizer on the Prom Committee. Odetta's parents were community activists, and their involvement as leaders in the union labor movement and social organizations were strong influences in Odetta's childhood that would inspire her to similar pursuits in her adult life.

I lost track of Odetta after high school. We both went on to college on the mainland. I did not know that she returned to Hawaii to finish her schooling in Special Education at the University of Hawaii' College of Education. After graduation, Odetta moved to the mainland to teach for a year. She returned to Hawaii and taught in the public school system where she was a pioneer specialist in the education of mentally retarded and emotionally disturbed students.

A strong believer in the idea that better education depended on better conditions for teachers, it would not be long before Odetta immersed her energies toward the creation of the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA), and became its first president. With the same energy, passion, commitment and intensity that she displayed in her high school activities, she led the HSTA through almost insurmountable challenges to become a strong and respected organization in the state.

Such leadership never goes unnoticed, and it was not long before Odetta was directing her energies to the betterment of education---at the national level. She became a board member of the National Education Association (NEA), and during her 18 year tenure of the organization, she was the first Asian-American to be elected to its executive committee. During her NEA years, Odetta never tired of being the champion and advocate of better working conditions for teachers, and better programs for students. She was a major influence for reform and betterment within the NEA, and was awarded the NEA's first Silver Wings Award for her achievements and service.

After over 30 years in education, Odetta returned to Hawaii to retire. But as with all great leaders, she was as busy in retirement as when she was still at work. She became the vice president of the University of Hawaii College of Education's Alumni Association, was (and still is) an active committee member with the McKinley Alumni Association's Golf Tournament and Karaoke Show, is an active member of the McKinley Class of '57 Reunion Planning Group and editor of its newsletter, was a member of the state Employees' Retirement System's board of trustees, and a board member of the Hawaii Labor Heritage Council.

On Friday, January 27, 2006, Odetta was inducted into the McKinley High School Hall of Honor, an elite body of graduates from McKinley that includes Sen. Daniel Inouye, former Governor George Ariyoshi, the late former Sen. Hiram Fong, the late former Governor Samuel Wilder King, the late financier Chinn Ho, and many other notable personalities. For Odetta to be inducted into the company of such elite individuals speaks volumes of her own eliteness.

Odetta cares deeply about Hawaii and its people, and Hawaii is blessed to have such an experienced leader willing to continue to share her leadership skills with the Stadium Authority. Odetta is honest, sincere, caring, giving, and represents what makes Hawaii so great---the Aloha Spirit!

I fully and unequivocally support Odetta's candidacy for membership on the Stadium Authority's board. She will be an asset to that agency, and will serve it as she has served all of her previous positions;---with dignity, respect and humility.

Please do not hesitate to call me if there are any questions regarding this letter of support.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas S. Katsuyoshi  
7123 Hawaii Kai Drive  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
Ph.: 394-0509  
228-0954 (c)

Former President of the McKinley Alumni Association  
President of the McKinley Class of '57 Reunion Planning Group  
Director, UHM Office of Facilities and Grounds

Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Monday, April 2, 2012  
1:15p.m.  
Room 016

Testimony in support of ODETTA FUJIMORI (GM808) for a position on the Board of the Stadium Authority.

Senator Fukunaga and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology,

I have known Odetta for many years have always been impressed by her perseverance and commitment to excellence in whatever she does. Odetta never puts forth less than 100% of effort in all her undertakings.

I know that Odetta Fujimori will be an asset to the Stadium Authority when she is confirmed by the Senate. She is well versed in the workings of committees, boards, and associations and will, I am sure, use her knowledge and talents to help the Stadium Authority Board make decisions that benefit the public.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of Odetta Fujimori (GM808) for the Stadium Authority Board.

Vaughn K. Tokashiki  
Hawaii State Teachers Association-Retired  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President