

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1718

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 13 2021

RE: GOV. MSG. NOS. 548,
549, 550, 551, 552,
553, 554, 555

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-First State Legislature
Regular Session of 2021
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred Governor's
Message Nos. 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, and 555,
submitting for study and consideration the nominations of:

SCHOOL FACILITIES BOARD

G.M. No. 548	LAJUAINÉ SUIISO, for a term to expire 06-30-2021;
G.M. No. 549	LAJUAINÉ SUIISO, for a term to expire 06-30-2025;
G.M. No. 550	CHAD FARIAS, for a term to expire 06-30-2024;
G.M. No. 551	ALAN OSHIMA, for a term to expire 06-30-2021;
G.M. No. 552	ALAN OSHIMA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025;
G.M. No. 553	BETTINA MEHNERT, for a term to expire 06-30-2024;
G.M. No. 554	HAROLD EDWARDS, for a term to expire 06-30-2021; and
G.M. No. 555	HAROLD EDWARDS, for a term to expire 06-30-2025,



begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal histories, resumes, and statements submitted by LaJuaine Suiso, Chad Farias, Alan Oshima, Bettina Mehnert, and Harold Edwards for service on the School Facilities Board.

LAJUAINÉ SUIISO

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nominations for the appointment and reappointment of LaJuaine Suiso from the Governor; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Department of Transportation; and three individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Ms. Suiso's expertise, experience, and belief in and commitment to the community and education make her a valuable asset to the School Facilities Board. Ms. Suiso has devoted more than two decades to education in various roles including as a teacher, career consultant, and program director. Ms. Suiso has dedicated herself to creating more opportunities for students in the community she grew up in and continues to live. Your Committee further finds that Ms. Suiso developed Seariders Productions as a creative outlet for students at Waianae high school, which introduced a multitude of students to the world of multi-media. As a result of Ms. Suiso's efforts, Seariders Productions developed state of the art studio facilities and has received numerous awards. Ms. Suiso has also contributed to many organizations with different areas of concentrations that have made an impact throughout the State. Your Committee therefore recommends that Ms. Suiso be appointed to the School Facilities Board based on her knowledge, vision, commitment, and dedication to education.

CHAD FARIAS

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Chad Farias from the Governor, Department of Education, Department of Transportation, Honoka'a Elementary School, Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School, and fourteen individuals.



Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Farias' decision-making skills, experience, fresh perspective, and commitment make him a valuable asset to the School Facilities Board. Mr. Farias has twenty-eight years of experience working in various roles in education including as a teacher, counselor, activities coordinator, vice-principal, principal, athletics coach, and complex area superintendent. As the Complex Area Superintendent for Ka'u, Kea'au, and Pohoia, Mr. Farias implemented the State Strategic Plan and brought stability through natural disasters and continued operation of schools in that complex area. Mr. Farias also volunteered to be the Complex Area Superintendent for Hilo and Waiakea while he was the Complex Area Superintendent for Ka'u, Kea'au, and Pohoia, and successfully managed the two complexes simultaneously. Your Committee therefore recommends that Ms. Farias be appointed to the School Facilities Board based on his positive mindset, knowledge, experience, and dedication to the keiki.

ALAN OSHIMA

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nominations for the appointment and reappointment of Alan Oshima from the Governor; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Department of Transportation; and six individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Oshima's professional background, as well as his dedication and commitment to the interests of Hawaii's public school students, make him a valuable asset to the School Facilities Board. Mr. Oshima retired as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaiian Electric Company. Your Committee further finds that Mr. Oshima has an extensive history of service with organizations and bodies devoted to the benefit of Hawaii's public schools and students, including Hawaii 3Rs, Hawaii Institute of Public Affairs, and the Governor's Every Student Succeeds Act Team. Mr. Oshima has been recognized by numerous professional and community organizations for his leadership and volunteerism. Your Committee therefore recommends that Mr. Oshima be appointed to the School Facilities Board based on his professional background, as well as his dedication and commitment to the interests of Hawaii's public school students.



BETTINA MEHNERT

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Bettina Mehnert from the Governor; Department of Transportation; Architects Hawaii Ltd.; and three individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Ms. Mehnert's education, experience, vision, and leadership skills make her a valuable asset to the School Facilities Board. Ms. Mehnert is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Architects Hawaii Ltd. and is a visionary and leader in the evolution and innovation in Hawaii's architectural sector. Ms. Mehnert blends information technology solutions, firm culture, client cultivation, and community service as inseparable filaments of professional leadership. Taking community service beyond the annual donation and fundraiser template, Ms. Mehnert instituted a one percent pro bono program by which her architectural firm annually donates one percent of its billable hours to a worthy project. Your Committee therefore recommends that Ms. Mehnert be appointed to the School Facilities Board based on her strong leadership history, creative and innovative thinking, and commitment to the community.

HAROLD EDWARDS

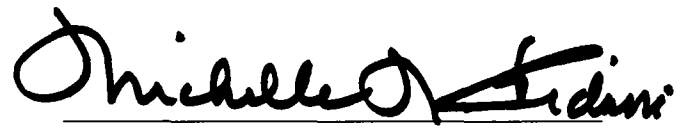
Your Committee received testimony in support of the nominations for the appointment and reappointment of Harold Edwards from the Governor and Department of Transportation.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Edwards' education, experience, and commitment to the community make him a valuable asset to the School Facilities Board. Mr. Edwards is the President and Chief Executive Officer of ITC Water Management, Inc., which is involved with design-build water infrastructure construction. Mr. Edwards was a senior vice president at Moloka'i Properties, Ltd. for twelve years and was responsible for real estate activities, which included planning, entitlement, design, construction, sale, and warranty. As a Development Director for the Hawaii Community Development Authority, Mr. Edwards implemented the Authority's affordable housing development program. Your Committee therefore recommends that Mr. Edwards be appointed to the School Facilities Board based on his development experience, expertise in water systems, ability to manage projects and meet goals, and strong leadership skills.



As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that are attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominees, has found the nominees to be qualified for the positions to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Education,

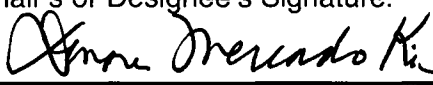
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michelle N. Kidani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-First Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* GM 552	Committee Referral: EDU	Date: 02/24/2021		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)	/			
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)	/			
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.		/		
KANUHA, Dru Mamo	/			
FEVELLA, Kurt	/			
TOTAL	4	1		
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes

