



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

February 24, 2021
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 229

In consideration of
Governor's Message 548 & 549
Submitted for consideration and confirmation as a member of the School Facilities
Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, LaJuaine Suiso

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and committee members:

I respectfully request your support in confirming the appointment of LaJuaine Suiso to serve as a member of the School Facilities Board.

Ms. Suiso earned a Bachelors in Liberal Arts from the University of Northern Iowa and Masters in Education from Chaminade University of Honolulu.

Her experience as the Director of Development for Kauhale O Wai'anae, will be invaluable to the School Facilities Agency as it works with communities to best plan and develop capital improvement projects. Ms. Suiso has more than two decades of experience in the classroom and from 2003 to 2020 was the program director for Searider Productions at Wai'anae High School where she was responsible for fundraising and public relations.

I'm confident that Lajuaine Suiso's breadth of education and experience will benefit the School Facilities Board as well as the students of Hawai'i.

This administration is committed to transforming the culture of government by embracing and accelerating change. Together, we can build a better home for our keiki, kupuna, and all the residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your consideration.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of

GM548 and GM549

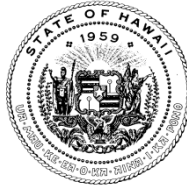
**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the School Facilities Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, LAJUAINÉ SUIO,
for a term to expire 6-30-2021, and a term to expire 6-30-2025.**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the Committee.

I am writing in **support** of Lajuaine 'Candy' Suiso, to serve on the School Facilities Board. There is no stronger candidate for the School Facilities Board that has the expertise, experience, vision and belief in the possibilities that education can have on students than Candy. Her professional career has been devoted to bettering students in the community she grew up in and continues to live. The development of a creative outlet called Seariders Productions introduced a multitude of high school students to the world of multi-media that expanded to include communities throughout the State of Hawai'i and the nation. Along with her contributions to education, she has also given to many organizations with different areas of concentrations that have made an impact throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Candy's belief and commitment to the community and education will help shape the future of education in Hawai'i and she will be a great asset to the Board.

I strongly support the confirmation of gubernatorial candidate, Lajuaine 'Candy' Suiso, to the School Facilities Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 24, 2021
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

G.M. 548 & G.M 549

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the School Facilities Board,
Gubernatorial Nominee, LAJUAINÉ SUIISO, for a term to expire 06-30-2021 and 06-
30-2025**

Senate Committee on Education

As the Administration's lead for setting up the School Facilities Agency (SFA), the Department of Transportation (DOT), Highways Division, **supports** the appointment of LaJuaine Suiso as a Board member of the SFA.

Ms. Suiso is the Executive Director for Searider Productions, which was formed to continue preparing youth to be storytellers, social advocates and entrepreneurs within our community. The Waianae High School's Searider Productions Digital program highlights its successes in enhancing and extending teaching and learning with thoughtful, innovative implementations of technology. Ms Suiso's commitment to Hawaii students is exemplified through her leadership to better our community, which will make her a valuable member of the SFA Board.

The SFA will provide the state a significant opportunity to support students and teachers with new facilities and resources. Ms. Suiso's passion and experience will be tremendous assets to the board.

For these reasons, the DOT requests your favorable consideration for the nomination of LaJuaine Suiso as an SFA Board member.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

February 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter of recommendation is written for Mrs. L. Candy Suiso for her nomination to the School Facilities Agency Board. I have known Mrs. Suiso since 2002 when I became the Director for Department of Education, Office of Curriculum and Instruction. This was during the time she was just beginning her work to develop the Searider Productions program at Waianae High School. I have witnessed her visionary leadership and commitment to the students, families and Waianae Community throughout the years. In 2012, I became the Complex Area Superintendent of the Nanakuli-Waianae (NW) Complex Area in the Leeward District. It was an opportunity to once again connect with Mrs. Suiso and the many school programs she has developed to ensure that her students have a pathway to higher education and are prepared with the necessary knowledge and skills to transition to the next level. She has expanded the digital media program throughout all of the NW schools from elementary to high schools and mentored many teachers to take on the continued support and training for this program to thrive not only in our district but across the state of Hawaii.

Mrs. Suiso is exemplary in developing partnerships with community organizations, higher education and businesses as she is always willing to meet and share the needs of the schools and propose ideas on how these groups can help in meeting the goals of the programs. She was instrumental in designing the career pathway for digital media with UH West Oahu through a GIA grant for Leeward District high schools and actively continues to support the initiative. She was able to lobby and secure the funds to create the facilities for the Searider Productions building in 2002 and in 2007 received a federal HUD grant to renovate and expand the facilities for the Graphic Arts and Animation classes. Finally in 2015 she received legislative CIP funding for the planning and design of the two Searider Production buildings and in 2017 received the CIP funding for the construction of the new building and classrooms. Mrs. Suiso is very well versed in the CIP process and through all of her efforts, the final walkthrough is scheduled for February 17, 2021.

Over all of the years as an educator, Mrs. Suiso has demonstrated the highest level of integrity and commitment in her duties and responsibilities and ensured that general operations and projects followed the rules and regulations set forth in Hawaii statute, Board of Education policies and Department of Education business rules and procedures.

In the years that I have worked with Mrs. L. Candy Suiso, she has always held to the highest standard of performance and is always willing to use her knowledge to support innovation and improvements that will assist our schools in providing the very best for our students. I have the utmost professional respect for her and know that she will always do her very best as a board member of the School Facilities Agency.

Sincerely,

Ann A. Mahi, Retired DOE Educator

February 18, 2021
Via email

The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
State Senate
Committee on Education

Dear Senator Kidani and Education Committee Members:

GM 551 and 552 – Alan Oshima
GM 548 and 549 – LaJuaine Suiso (Candy)

This letter is to support the gubernatorial nominations of Alan Oshima and Candy Suiso to the School Facilities Board.

- LaJuaine Candy Suiso – As a teacher at Waianae High School for many years and a recent retiree of the state DOE, Mrs. Suiso represents the user's end in a broken system. A school like Waianae High, which sits on beautiful oceanfront property, is especially prone to outdoor elements like salt air. Yet, there is not a lot of preventive maintenance measures used to protect the buildings from damage. For example, a measure that could help to avert long term and expensive repair and maintenance problems is painting, but it has been nearly 20 years since the school's facilities were painted.
- Alan Oshima – Mr. Oshima has been on the Hawaii 3R's board of directors since the organization's beginning in 2001 and has served as the board chair for at least the past 10 years. As a result, Mr. Oshima is well aware of the many challenges that affect the repair and maintenance of Hawaii's public school facilities. That knowledge will be valuable in identifying the needed solutions to improve the current operational and system processes, so that Hawaii's schools can hopefully reach a point where quick and decisive action can mean fewer costly repairs. The success of Hawaii 3R's over the past two decades is a direct result of a motivated and passionate board of directors who, like Mr. Oshima, have generously and selflessly volunteered their time to serve and help in this arena. I am certain that Mr. Oshima will bring this same level of passion and commitment to the School Facilities Board.

The DOE's current system of R&M does not take a proactive stance, but instead demonstrates a track record of "emergency repairs" which often wind up costing the department more money and is unnecessarily larger in scope than it should be.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this.

Very truly yours,
Kalouena Komeiji

Testimony in Support of GM 548 and GM549

Chairperson Kidani and Vice Chair Kim, my name is Joan Lee Husted, and I am the retired Executive Director of the Hawaii State Teachers Association. I am testifying in support of the appointment of Lajuaine (Candy) Suiso to the School Facilities Board.

Perhaps no one can match the influence that Candy has had on Hawaii public education. Almost every secondary school and some elementary have media programs and their creation can be directly traced to the Waianae High School Sea Rider program. Subsequently, there have spinoffs with Washington Middle Schools recording studio being the latest example. Ms. Suiso's media program students have won almost every national and international student media awards.

Candy's ability to persuade, cajole, direct, plan and envision is perhaps unmatched in the Department of Education. I believe that she will bring those skills to the Board. It is exciting to consider the future of school facilities with Alan Oshima, Bettina Mehnert and Candy Suiso working together on the Board.

I strongly urge the Committee to confirm Lajuaine Suiso as a board member of the School Facilities Board. Thank you giving me the opportunity to testify.