



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/28/2022

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Interim Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: GM 0751 Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHAD FARIAS, for a term to expire in 6 years after the confirmation date.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports GM 751, the submission of the gubernatorial nominee for the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board, Mr. Chad Farias, for a term to expire six years after the confirmation date.

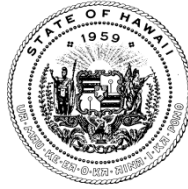
Chad Keone Farias has a deep understanding of Hawaii's public education system. Born and raised on Hawaii Island and a proud public school graduate, Mr. Farias has been a staunch supporter of our public schools and especially our marginalized and underserved communities. He has dedicated 29 years to the Department, with experiences that have exposed him to all aspects of our educational system. Mr. Farias has served multiple roles within the Department, having begun his career as a teacher at Hilo High School before becoming a Vice Principal there. He also served as Vice Principal at Keonepoko Elementary before taking on a larger role as principal at Keaau Elementary. Under his leadership, Keaau Elementary became one of the pioneers in digital device use among students which helped to elevate student achievement and reduce chronic absenteeism.

Mr. Farias is currently the Complex Area Superintendent for the Kau-Keaau-Pahoa Complex Area. As Complex Area Superintendent, he has continued his advocacy for the marginalized and underserved communities in his complex area and has supported

his schools with the challenges they faced, challenges which include natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions and a worldwide pandemic. Mr. Farias has also served the Department as a co-chair of the Committee on Weights.

His experiences within the Department will provide him with a deeper insight into what our schools and school communities need to be able to provide our students with optimal learning environments to facilitate greater student achievement. Mr. Farias has been an asset to the Department and will be an asset to the School Facilities Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 751.



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN



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

March 28, 2022
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 229/Teleconference

G.M. 751

Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHAD FARIAS, for a term to expire six years after the confirmation date

Senate Committee on Education

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this nomination of Chad Keone Farias as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority (SFA).

In Mr. Farias's thirty-year career in the Department of Education, he has served the students and families across Hawaii Island as a teacher, counselor, advisor, administrator, principal, and complex area superintendent. Mr. Farias currently serves on the SFA board. As such, he has a firm understanding of how to work with and within the department and he brings these insights to this leadership role. He is grounded in Hawaii and no doubt will act on behalf of the best interests of our state, our schools, and our students.

Over the past year, since the establishment of the SFA, the DOT has provided executive and staffing support to the SFA board. It has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Farias in this capacity, and our staff look forward to transitioning the SFA programming to the new executive director and his staff team.

The DOT respectfully urges your committee's favorable consideration of the nomination of Mr. Farias as the executive director for the SFA.

Alan OshimaYour Name

3274 Kaohinani Drive
Honolulu, HI 968173

March 25, 2022

Senate Education Committee

Attention: Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani

Dear Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am in strong support of the confirmation of Chad Keone Farias as the first Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority (SFA). I am writing as a private citizen and not representing the board of the SFA. Keone is a proven community and public education leader who has demonstrated a passion for helping our students, staff and faculty to attain excellence. He embraces change, not for disruption, per se, but when he senses that change will improve equitable access to excellent education and fiscal opportunities.

I know Keone as a result of my former role in the HEI Charitable Foundation that provided laptops to the East Hawaii schools to jumpstart the “one-to-one” laptop program with laptops for 1000 elementary and secondary public school students. Keone was at that time the Principal of Keaau Elementary School. He made the program a success by his personal commitment to technology and trust in his students and faculty.

More recently, Keone has served with us as a member of the SFA. He is a clear strategic thinker and brings years of Hawaii public education experience to the board. He continues to advocate for public education and all of its stakeholders. Keone will have to resign from the board if he is confirmed as the SFA Executive Director.

Sincerely,

Alan M. Oshima

841 Bishop St., Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Telephone: 808 926-1530
Contact@HEECoalition.org

Committee on Education
Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

March 28, 2022

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

We support GM 751, submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHAD FARIAS, for a term to expire in 6 years after the confirmation date.

HE'E Coalition supported the legislation that established the School Facilities Agency (SFA) in 2020, as we understood that there needed to be a dedicated entity to specialize in addressing public school development, planning, and construction, related to capital improvement projects. We are pleased that the Governor has nominated Chad Keone Farias, an educator, who has the deep understanding of the inner workings of the DOE. We hope that Mr. Farias builds an outstanding team of experts who will carry out the purpose of the of the SFA, which should be to:

- evaluate the school capital needs of Hawai'i schools
- establish standards for designs and construction
- repurpose and reposition underutilized facilities
- distribute monies and resources to school equitability to address existing deficiencies
- provide funds for building renewal and new school construction

Hui for Excellence in Education, or "HE'E," promotes a child-centered and strength-based public education system in which families, communities and schools are valued and empowered to help every student succeed. HE'E works to bring diverse stakeholders together to harness collective energy, share resources, and identify opportunities for progressive action in education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Our support represents a 75% consensus or more of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

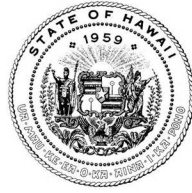
Cheri Nakamura
HE'E Coalition Director



Academy 21
Alliance for Place Based Learning
American Civil Liberties Union
Atherton YMCA
*Castle Complex Community Council
Education Institute of Hawai'i
*Faith Action for Community Equity
Fresh Leadership LLC
Girl Scouts Hawai'i
Harold K.L. Castle Foundation
*HawaiiKidsCAN
*Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
*Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice
*Hawai'i Association of School Psychologists
Hawai'i Athletic League of Scholars
*Hawai'i Children's Action Network
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition
* Hawai'i State PTSA
Hawai'i State Student Council
Hawai'i State Teachers Association
Hawai'i P-20
Hawai'i 3Rs
Head Start Collaboration Office
It's All About Kids
*INPEACE
Joint Venture Education Forum
Junior Achievement of Hawaii
Kamehameha Schools
Kanu Hawai'i

*Kaua'i Ho'okele Council
Keiki to Career Kaua'i
Kupu A'e
*Leaders for the Next Generation
Learning First
McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds
Native Hawaiian Education Council
Our Public School
*Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
*Parents and Children Together
*Parents for Public Schools Hawai'i
Punahou School PUEO Program
Special Education Provider Alliance
*Teach for America
The Learning Coalition
US PACOM
University of Hawai'i College of Education
YMCA of Honolulu
*Youth Service Hawai'i

Voting Members () Voting member organizations vote on action items while individual and non-voting participants may collaborate on all efforts within the coalition.*



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

March 28, 2022

3:00 PM, Conference Room 229

In consideration of

Governor's Message 751

Submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Chad Farias.

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Committee Members:

I respectfully request your **support** in confirming the appointment of Chad Keone Farias to serve as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority (SFA).

Mr. Farias is currently the complex area superintendent for Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa, a position he has held for seven years. During his time as superintendent, he has worked diligently to greatly increased the capacity of his district by establishing EOEL preschools in all East Hawai'i Title I schools and piloting projects centered on mentoring and a culture of care. He has also served the Department of Education for 12 years as an administrator, serving as a vice principal in Pāhoa at Keonepoko Elementary School and in Hilo at Hilo High School.

Mr. Farias was born and raised on Hawai'i Island; he earned his bachelor's degree in history and education from Loyola Marymount University in 1993 and later completed a master's degree in education administration from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Upon completion of his bachelor's degree, he began working as a teacher at Hilo High School and taught for 10 years before transitioning into education administration.

My administration is committed to ensuring that our students have access to school facilities that will contribute to their educational success. I am confident that Mr. Farias is the best candidate to make that happen.

Mahalo for your consideration.

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 1:11:37 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene Javar	Testifying for Na'alehu Elementary School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mar 27, 2022

I highly recommend Chad Farias be approved as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority.

Because of his leadership and insight, many people have CAS Chad Farias on speed dial. I do not. In 2015 Chad Farias became Complex Area Superintendent (CAS) of the Ka'u-Kea'au-Pahoa Complex Area of the Hawaii Department of Education and "my boss". I am Principal of Na'alehu Elementary School, one of the most challenged schools of HIDOE due to our demographics. CAS Chad Farias surrounds himself with intelligent individuals of high integrity. He initiates and implements systematic practices. When needed, I can reach out to his leads and personnel. I utilize documented resources created by his team. True leadership develops the skill set of many individuals. CAS Chad Farias is a leader of leaders. At the same time, when I need to, I can and do reach out to him directly. I rarely need to contact him directly, but when I do, he responds. On one such occasion I called him but he was busy at the moment. He doesn't know but he accidentally answered the phone and I could hear him speak with whomever he was with. I heard, "Oh, sXXt. It's Darlene. She rarely calls me. I gotta call her back." Within a short time he returned my call and provided guidance in addressing my issue.

CAS Chad Farias has a unique experience base for the position of Executive Director of the School Facilities authority. Besides the "normal" operations of a HIDOE complex area, CAS Chad Farias has had to manage the safety of facilities, staff, students and community in multiple short term and long term emergencies. This includes lava flows, hurricanes, wind storms, SO2, earthquakes, and most recently, COVID. In these tasks he has had to account for a range of facilities in age and condition as the KKP complex has both newer and older facilities, up to 100+ years old. The range of conditions of the communities he services includes geographically isolated schools and communities. CAS Chad Farias has the skill set, knowledge, integrity, flexibility, and decisiveness to guide his team of leaders and administrators to do what is needed on the day to day basis and in emergency situations. CAS Chad Farias also knows how to manage day to day operations (regardless of conditions) to be effective in the short term future and long term future.

As the proud parent of an engineer myself, I am also aware of Chad Farias knowledge and experience in engineering and construction. We've had private conversations in this area and his

passion and understanding of this work is evident. (Note- my son graduated from Ka'u High and Pahala Elementary School, one of KKP's nine schools.)

Most importantly, CAS Farias is balanced with both experience/intelligence and a strong love for community and culture. "Keone" puts his heart and hours into the work of taking care of the extended ohana of KKP and Hawaii. When he is visiting Na'alehu Elementary School, even if he is "my boss" I try to take a moment to check on how "he" is doing because I know his passion to show care for others drives him into countless hours of work. CAS Chad Farias is likely the most rounded individual for the position of Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority.

Darlene Javar, Principal

Na'alehu Elementary School

LATE

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 5:28:39 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Hallett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and EDU committee members:

Thank you for considering Chad Keone Farias for confirmation as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board, and the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support.

In the years that I have known and worked with him, Mr. Farias has consistently demonstrated a high level of integrity, deep commitment and passion to support public school students, intelligence, competence, and excellent communication skills.

Over the last six years Mr. Farias has served as a member, Vice-Chair, and Co-Chair of the Department's Committee on Weights. In these roles he has both contributed and facilitated committee deliberations on a wide variety of complex, controversial, and system wide issues, all the while modeling highly effective interpersonal communication skills.

It is also gratifying that someone of Mr. Farias' caliber and background is being considered for this position. Mr. Farias will be able to bring his years of experience working on behalf of public education, developing trusted relationships, and innovative and collaborative problem solving skills to bear to advance the mission of the School Facilities Agency.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Mr. Farias.

Sincerely,

Brian Hallett

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 4:34:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean Cevallos	Testifying for Kea'au High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Board of Education.

I am Dean Cevallos Principal at Kea'au High School.

I appreciate you reading my testimony.

I am writing to support both the position of Executive Director for School Facilities Board and the Governors Candidate Chad Keone Farias. It has been to long that the lack of organization for facilities has detered the state in doing what is in the best interest for our Keki. This position and Mr. Farias need to assist the State in creating a system that can truly guide the Legislature in creating prioities for improvements and know where the money is going and why. Mr. Farias comes from a ledership position that has given him experience in what is needed and he has shown is capability in being able to orgainze and move orgainations in a positive manner. He comes from an Engineering background and works with his families business in managing properites. With that he comes from the public and private sector and can represent both in this position. Please consider Mr. Farias for this Executive Director as he is the man to move the School Facilities Board in the right direction.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha Dean M. Cevallos Principal Kea'au High School

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 1:03:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Bello	Testifying for Kea'au Elementary School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony of Chad Farias

March 28, 2022 @ 3:00 pm

GM 751

Senator Kidani, Senator Kim and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on behalf of Gubernatorial Nominee, Chad Farias, for consideration to the position of Executive Director of the School Facilities Board under GM 751.

My name is Stacey Bello and I am the proud Principal of Kea'au Elementary School on the Big Island where Mr. Farias serves as the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pahoā Complex Area Superintendent (CAS). This is being written in full support of CAS Farias' nomination to the position of Executive Director.

CAS Farias is a true advocate for students in all that he does. As an educator and a leader, he has shown, time and time again, that all children deserve the best learning opportunities we can provide them. Every decision he has made or action taken has always been focused on what is in the best interest of our students. This includes their learning environment. As the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board, CAS Farias would seek opportunities to improve the learning environments of all children and ensure that each student has access to facilities that are not only safe, but are built and structured to optimize student learning.

CAS Farias is a much-needed problem solver in a time when education is in a constant state of change. As leaders, we are faced daily with unexpected shifts or changes and must work swiftly to find solutions to our ever changing surroundings. CAS Farias has the ability to think quickly on his feet, work with others, and brainstorm the best possible solutions to the challenges that arise. In my role as a school principal, CAS Farias is someone I've been able to seek support from when faced with these challenges. He has provided sound advice and ideas to help me work my way through unexpected situations. I've appreciated his calmness, support and guidance throughout the many years that I have known him.

In closing, I believe Chad Farias would perform the duties of Executive Director extremely well. He will continue to advocate for the students of Hawai'i, be a problem-solver in a time of change, and remain committed to serving the many communities around him.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

With Warm Regards,

Stacey Bello, Principal

Kea'au Elementary School

stacey.bello@k12.hi.us

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 6:04:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael P. Matsumoto	Testifying for SSFM International, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a long-time supporter of Hawaii's public schools system, I would like offer my recommendation for the appointment of Mr. Chad Farias as the Executive Director for the School Facilities Board.

In his tenure as DOE Area Superintendent for the Districts of Keeau-Puna and South Hilo, Mr. Farias has notable accomplishments.

His commitment to our public school system and his knowledge of the facilities and needs for the Department of Education make him well suited for this position.

Submitted by:

Michael P. Matsumoto, President/CEO, SSFM International

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 12:50:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Iwase	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

MEMO:

To: Senate Education Committee

Chairperson Michelle Kidani

Vice Chairperson Donna Mercado Kim

Senators Donovan Dela Cruz, Dru Kanuha, and Kurt Favella - Members

From: Jan Iwase

Re: Appointment of Chad Keone Farias, Executive Director of the School Facilities Board

Aloha:

I write this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Chad Keone Farias to be the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board.

I have known Mr. Farias for nearly twenty years. When we met, we were both principals of elementary schools who were at the forefront of providing our students with a 21st century education. Mr. Farias and I had long conversations about how we could leverage resources to provide our students with the tools they would need to be successful.

Few people know that Mr. Farias studied engineering in college. However, he realized that he wanted to work with young people so he changed his major, returned to Hawai`i island where he grew up and started as a teacher, earning his teaching credential and a Master's degree in Educational Administration. Mr. Farias has worked in the Hawai`i Department of Education for over thirty years, serving in many capacities including as a teacher, counselor, athletics coach, Student Activities Coordinator, Vice Principal, Principal, and Complex Area Superintendent.

Mr. Farias gets things done efficiently. He is the Complex Area Superintendent of an area of Hawai`i island which includes just nine schools but includes some of the most remote areas of

our state. When lava flow threatened Keonepoko Elementary School in 2015, CAS Farias worked with the Department to build a temporary facility in a portion of the parking lot at Ke`eau High School so students would not lose learning opportunities. When volcanic ash affected the air quality of the schools in his complex area, CAS Farias worked with businesses and the Health Department to find solutions to minimize the negative impact on student learning and attendance. More recently, the pandemic posed many challenges for schools, and CAS Farias was there to support the school communities in his area. This included helping schools to create outdoor learning spaces, ensuring that schools were able to physically distance indoors, and distributing food for the community.

As a military-impacted school principal, I was fortunate that the federal government realized the need to upgrade school facilities on military bases in our country. Daniel K. Inouye Elementary School (aka Hale Kula Elementary) received \$26.6 million from the federal government and \$6.6 from the state of Hawai`i to upgrade our school facilities, a project that took three years (2013-2016) to complete. At the time, I shared that all schools should be upgraded, not just schools on military bases. The main challenge continues to be funding.

I believe that Mr. Farias is the right person to be appointed as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board. He has served as a member of the SFB for one year, and he is an out-of-the-box educator/thinker with a can-do attitude. He is a risk-taker who recognizes the strengths of people around him and gives them opportunities to grow. He is a collaborator and a good listener who reaches out to the community to partner with the schools. A great example is Ka`u Dream, a partnership between the school, the community, businesses, and non-profit organizations and can be a model for other rural communities. More importantly, Mr. Farias understands the urgency to upgrade our school facilities. His focus will be on creating 21st century facilities, reimagining under-utilized assets, and creating facilities that can be used for multiple purposes including making schools the center of their communities. His background and his 30-year career with the Hawai`i Department of Education have given him the experience as well as the mindset to get things done.

I STRONGLY RECOMMEND Chad Keone Farias to be approved as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at jjwase1@gmail.com or call me at (808) 551-9924.

Thank you.

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 4:57:23 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janette Snelling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitting testimony in support of the confirmation of Chad Farias as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board. His extensive experience at school, complex, and state level within the DOE will contribute to both efficiency and equity to addressing school facility needs throughout the state.

MPayne-Arakaki_GM751 Testimony

My name is Michelle Payne-Arakaki, Principal of Pahoa Elementary School on Hawai'i island. As an educator for almost 30 years, with 28 years serving in the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Area, I am submitting testimony in support of GM 751 to confirm Chad Keone Farias as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Agency. I have worked closely with Chad Farias in a multitude of capacities throughout these years and believe that he has the knowledge and mindset to improve the effectiveness of schools that will improve the overall quality of the school community which will lead to an increase in student achievement. The Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Area is a high poverty area and has gone through multiple natural disasters in the past eight years. His sincere dedication to the community and collaborative leadership assisted in providing resiliency in our community. The success of his work was dependent on strong communication and interpersonal skills. I highly recommend Chad Keone Farias as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Agency. As a dedicated and knowledgeable leader, I know that he will perform his duties in a professional capacity to improve infrastructure in the State of Hawai'i.

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 8:44:09 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilma Roddy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Chad Keone Farias' nomination for Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority. I am currently a Principal at Mountain View Elementary school, and have been an educator in the Ka'u-Keaau-Pahoa district for almost 20 years. CAS Farias has always put our keiki first and has fought for and supported our community in numerous ways. CAS Farias is always finding ways to ensure KKP gets equitable access to numerous things (education, infrastructure, funding, vaccination and testing sites, and more). In KKP, we face many challenges, but CAS Farias has been that relentless force in helping us to work through them- he has this "we can and we will persevere" attitude that motivates and drives us to work even harder. We've also shared in many celebrations under his leadership. I am grateful and thankful to have worked alongside a leader who is a Champion for keiki and our communities. I believe that this nomination could shine a brighter light on the needs of our keiki and educators, our communities, and that he'll be able to find impactful solutions by doing what he does best, facilitating collaboration among public and private sectors. Mahalo for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

Wilma Roddy

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:58:47 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Meyers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 27, 2022

The Honorable Ronald Kouchi, President,

And Members of the Senate Thirty-First State Legislature

Hawai'i State Capitol

Dear Senate President Kouchi and Members of the Senate,

Our Complex Superintendent Chad K. Farias, has been nominated for Executive Director School Facilities Board. He has been an exceptional leader for our Ka'u-Kea'au-Pahoa Complex.

He serves his staff, teachers, students, and community members. Our East Hawaii Island is one of the growing populations. (how does this connect to why he should be considered for EDSFB?) Rapidly expanding communities bring both unforeseen opportunities and challenges. Through a great reserve of patience and flexibility Mr. Farias has risen every time to each challenge as it has presented itself. Additionally, he (created a food distribution network) had food distribution to the families (during the more challenging stages) of COVID-19. Also, facilitated the COVID-19 Vaccination site on the DOE campus. He also presided over the Pahoa and Keaau school districts during the 2017 volcano eruption when those schools had to be split.

Sincerely,

Sue M. Meyers

Secretary~ South Hawaii Special Education, KKP CA



March 25, 2022

Senator Michelle Kidani
Chair, Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 751 Nomination of Chad Farias as Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority.

In the short time I have known Chad (Keone) Farias since we were both nominated and subsequently confirmed to serve on the School Facilities Authority board, I have found him to be a committed, passionate, and knowledgeable advocate for Hawaii's public schools. With his extensive DOE experience, and get it done attitude, I have full confidence in his ability to lead this new authority to accomplish the goals and objectives set before it.

I urge your confirmation of Chad Farias as Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Edwards", is written over a horizontal line.

Harold Edwards
President & CEO

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 8:12:25 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to voice my support for the confirmation of Chad Keone Farias as Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority. He is truly the right person for this critical role. Throughout his career in the DOE, he has been a fierce advocate for our communities, working to ensure that families in our neediest areas receive the support they deserve. As the SFA works to reimagine the ways in which our school grounds are designed and utilized, I am fully confident that Mr. Farias will operate with those families in mind. I believe that Mr. Farias will also be able to leverage his background in engineering and construction, and his many connections to local industry, to move things forward in a way that is beneficial for everyone.

The Department of Education will sorely miss the vision and leadership of Mr. Farias. Nevertheless, I hope you will make the right choice by voting to confirm his appointment as Executive Director.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Andrew Scott

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 4:07:34 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Fliris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to strongly support this appointment. As an educator in the KKP Complex Area, I have worked under the leadership of Superintendent Farias for over 6 years and believe he has done an excellent job. Under his administration of the complex there was a clear vision for student success, accountability for professionals, and a great joy for the work that we do. Our complex area is massive, diverse, and has many challenges that Superintendent Farias handled with care. From responding to natural disasters, the pandemic, and servicing communities that span distances as large as our other Islands, our schools were in great hands and were open as often as possible. I believe he brings great experience with our schools here, that will translate to the facilities that our students will benefit from across the state. He understands the needs of our most challenged communities and schools.

Mahalo,

Brendan Fliris

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:12:14 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trini Hironaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I have served as Chad Keone Farias' School Renewal Specialist for the last seven years but have known him as a person and educator for over 10 years. Keone has been a public school teacher, administrator, and Complex Area Superintendent for almost 30 years, serving in the three complex areas of the Big Island. The experience he brings in forming partnerships, sharing resources, and his commitment to serving the community in the most challenging situations are reasons I support the appointment of Chad Keone Farias as Executive Director of the School Facilities Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

IHarris_GM751 Testimony

My name is Iwalani Harris. I am a resident of Hawai'i island, a public educator of 30 years and I have spent most of my career serving the haumāna of the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Area. I am submitting testimony in support of GM751 to confirm Chad Keone Farias as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Agency. I have worked with Chad Farias for the past 14 years, first when he served as Kea'au Elementary's principal and most recently as the Complex Area Superintendent for the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Area. Throughout the years, he has been a 24/7, 365 type of leader because the work does not pause. Hurricane Flossie, Iselle, Lane and the Eruptions of 2014 and 2018 directly impacted the areas that we serve. Our students and families also face other forms of trauma - crime, drug use, domestic violence, depression, homelessness, and so many other social determinants that have sentenced our keiki and ohana to lives of struggle. We are no strangers to nature's fury or to trauma but we are also at our best when we pull together to support our students, their families, our extended communities, and each other! This is the type of mindset that Chad will bring to the Executive Director position in order to improve the efficiency of the school construction while more directly addressing the education needs of students. He will serve our State as he has served Hawai'i island. The definition of a resilient community is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond, withstand and recover from adverse situations. All of our communities across Hawai'i nei will benefit from Chad's experience and his dedication to our students, from Eleele, Maili, Kaunakakai, Lāna'i, Hana or Na'alehu. While our students, educators and leaders of the Ka'ū-Kea'au-Pāhoa Complex Area will be losing an inspirational Complex Area Superintendent and leader, we know that Chad Keone Farias's collaborative leadership will do what is necessary to improve the conditions for Hawai'i's keiki to thrive! "No nā keiki mau a mau, For the children, forever and ever."

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 6:23:10 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Elaine Higa. I am a resident of Hawai‘i island, a public educator of 15 years and I have spent most of my career serving the students of the Ka‘ū-Kea‘au-Pāhoa Complex Area. I am submitting testimony in support of GM751 to confirm Chad Keone Farias as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Agency. I have worked with Chad Farias for the past 14 years, first when he served as Kea‘au Elementary’s principal and most recently as the Complex Area Superintendent for the Ka‘ū-Kea‘au-Pāhoa Complex Area. Chad is the type of leader that works alongside his people. As a Principal and Complex Area Superintendent he has always been visible on campuses, classrooms and amongst students. Chad would come into my classroom and work with my students on math problems or participate in running alongside them during p.e., those interactions have left a lasting impression on my students. The complex area would lose an inspiring leader, but the state would gain a visible and hard working Executive Director of the School Facilities Agency.

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 12:49:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Beck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Chad since 2003 while we were Vice Principals in training. We have worked with each other throughout the years and I have experienced his passion and his love for kids. When he became our Complex Area Superintendent, I was impressed with his knowledge of school operations, facilities, contracts, engineering and so much more. Chad "Keone" Farias has the experience, knowledge and heart and I am confident he will be an exceptional Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority.

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:21:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Williamson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Testimony in support of Chad Farias as Executive Director of the School Facilities Board.

I am writing this testimony in support of Chad “Keone” Farias as Executive Director of the School Facilities Board. I’ve known Keone for the past 10 years, first as principal of Keaau Elementary School and then as the Complex Area Superintendent of the Keaau Kau Pahoia Complex Area. He has functioned as my supervisor, but also as my mentor over the past 10 years. Keone has always inspired each of the people who works with him and for him and has always asked us to see what is best for the community and the children we serve. This dedication has rallied us to work with him and support this vision for the schools we lead and serve. But beyond the schools, he also has consistently looked to the whole community and how the schools of our community can be improved to bring us together and to improve all stakeholders lives. Through a variety of crises we have faced, Keone has been steadfast in this support and in developing the resilience of the community, improving what we do at the school level, and how the facilities of our schools can best serve everyone. By moving into this new position, he will be able to bring this same care and support to the entire state. He is the type of leader who inspires people and will lead this board with the same dedication he has given to the Big Island for the years I’ve known him. I am honored to have worked for Keone and look forward to this next step in his professional life. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 2:46:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Kauhi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I have served as Chad Keone Farias' School Renewal Specialist for 5 years but have known him as a person and educator for over 15 years. Keone has been a public school teacher, administrator, and Complex Area Superintendent for almost 30 years, serving in the three complex areas of the Big Island. The experience he brings in forming partnerships, sharing resources, and his commitment to serving the community in the most challenging situations are reasons I support the appointment of Chad Keone Farias as Executive Director of the School Facilities Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:40:39 AM
Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Miyamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: GM 751 – CHAD KEONE FARIAS

Please confirm Chad Keone Farias to Executive Director – School Facilities Programs. Mr. Farias has a long-standing excellent record with the Department of Education.

I have firsthand experience working with him to execute on a variety of emergency work to make sure the children are taken cared of. He worked day and night to ensure the children could get back to school safely when the lava was encroaching toward Keonepoko Elementary. He was a key member of the team coordinated building a school facility in 41 days! He knows what works and what doesn't. When flooding occurred on multiple campuses, he was there not just instructing others but getting his hands dirty cleaning to get the school functional again. This job is not just about every day needs of the facilities, it is also about staying ahead and being proactive.

Given what I know, Mr. Farias will not just do well in this position, he will inspire others as well.

Please confirm Mr. Chad Keone Farias. He is the right person for this position.

Thank you.

Stacey Miyamoto, PMP ENV SP

P.O. Box 256603

Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

miyamotostacey@gmail.com

808.497.5583

Monday, March 28, 2022

LATE

Re: GM 751 CHAD K. FARIAS

I am requesting that the senate confirm Mr. Chad K. Farias to the new position of EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL FACILITIES PROGRAMS.

The reasons I am in support of his appointment are as follows:

- He has held numerous positions within the Department of Education throughout his tenure. Regardless of the circumstances that could have proved challenging (such as the lava flow that closed many of his complex schools) he worked with his community to solve problems so that the keiki in his complex to continue to have an education.
- He has the passion for not only his school community, but ALL the students and staff with the school system. His passion is apparent in all activities he attends and participates in outside of the 8-5 workday. When schools were closed due to Covid, you could find him passing out food baskets to those in his community. Having witnessed his involvement firsthand, was inspiring to all.
- He is extremely positive in his interactions with everyone. He listens and communicates effectively with all people. This positive attitude will benefit this position immensely.
- He has a vast knowledge of the workings of School Facilities.

Please confirm Mr. Chad Keone Farias to this position.

Submitted by:

Jill Kubojiri
1069 Oihana Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
jkubojiri@gmail.com

(808) 989-2189

March 28, 2022

LATE

GM 751 – CHAD KEONE FARIAS:

REQUESTING THAT THE SENATE CONFIRM MR. CHAD KEONE FARIAS TO THE NEW POSITION OF :

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – SCHOOL FACILITIES PROGRAMS

REASONS IN SUPPORT OF THIS ARE:

1. He has a proven record of past performance in the Educational System for years.
2. He has held numerous responsible positions during that tenure.
3. To include his personal life, he has the background in Building, grounds and School Facilities.

HE WILL BRING A POSITIVE TO THIS PROGRAM AND THE BENEFITS WILL BE REALIZED.

PLEASE CONFIRM MR. CHAD KEONE FARIAS TO THIS POSITION.

Submitted by:



Corey Matsuoka, P.E.
2737 Dow St.
Honolulu, HI 96817

March 28, 2022

LATE

Senator Michelle Kidani
Chair, Committee on Education
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: GM751 – Chad Keone Farias

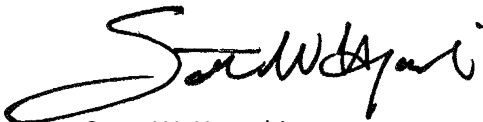
Dear Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee,

I support GM 751, Submitting for consideration and confirmation as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Chad Farias, for a term to expire in 6 years after the confirmation date.

Mr. Farias has a proven record of past performance in the educational system and has held numerous positions during his tenure. His experience and background in buildings, grounds and school facilities will provide tremendous benefit to the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Farias.

Regards,



Scott W. Hayashi
Vice President, Technical Operations
SSFM International, Inc.

March 28, 2022

Written Testimony of Chad K. Farias.

GM 751

LATE

Senator Kidani, Senator Kim, and Committee,

I am writing in support of Chad K. Farias's nomination for Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority. I am currently the Department of Education's Personnel Regional Officer for Hawaii District and have had the opportunity to work alongside Complex Area Supervisor Farias on many occasions. CAS Farias is a true advocate for students and will always do whatever means necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity learn in the most positive learning environment possible. This includes providing a safe environment where students have access to the best possible school facilities where students can lean and grow.

As the Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority, I am confident that CAS Farias will problem solve and plan for the much needed school improvement projects throughout the State of Hawaii and will ensure that each student will have access to the best possible facilities. The Keaau /Kau/Pahoa complex has many challenges with poverty and remote location areas. Through his leadership, The KKP complex has continued to thrive through a lava crisis and most recently through a worldwide pandemic. CAS Farias has demonstrated that he has the ability to stay focused, persevere through challenging situations and maintain a positive mindset through difficult times. I highly recommend Chad K. Farias to be approved as the Executive Director of the School Facilities Authority.

Thank you Kurt Kawachi

LATE

GM-751

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:47:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 3/28/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support CAS Farias to be confirmed. Thank you

Sunday, March 27, 2022



Dear Committee,

I have worked with Mr. Farias on past school projects and feel he would be a good fit for this position. I recommend his confirmation.

Thanks for your consideration.

Submitted by:

Austen W. Drake, P.E.
264 Edita Street, Hilo HI 96720
adrake@ssfm.com
Ph: 808-640-5285