



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

3:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of

GM 824 and GM 825

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority,
Gubernatorial Nominee, WILFRED OKABE,
for a term to expire 6-30-2022 and 06-30-2026.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and Members of the Committee.

I **strongly support** the appointment of **Wilfred Okabe** to serve on the Stadium Authority.

Throughout his professional career, Wil has been of service to Hawai'i's communities in his various positions in the public sector. As an employee of the State of Hawai'i he has taught students and worked with families within the state educational system, then as President of the Hawai'i State Teacher's Association he was able to collaborate closely with a large constituency statewide that included educators, families and government. His community engagement and issue solving continued while he was the Governor's liaison for East Hawai'i Island then as the managing director for the County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor. The skills of listening and collaboration gained during his many years of service will be a great asset for the Stadium Authority.

For these reasons, I urge the confirmation of Wilfred Okabe for the Stadium Authority for the State of Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 7:53:40 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harris Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Government Leaders,

i, Harris Nakamoto, fully support Wil Okabe for the Stadium Authority Board. Wil is a professional with Hawaii in his heart. His no-nonsense style as a leader is driven to represent the people of Hawaii. His work/life experience will greatly contribute to the critical thinking required on the Stadium Authority Board. I am confident that Wil will actively listen, engage, question and act on his duties on the board.

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/9/2022 11:35:59 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Ono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of Wilfred Okabe to serve on the Stadium Authority. I have known Wil since 1972 when we first met at Willamette University as students and we became fraternity brothers. We have remained in close touch since then. I have always admired Wil for his willingness to help others, his perseverance, his character, his humility, his intelligence, and his caring leadership style.

Wil grew up in Waianae and played football for the Seaside which provided a scholarship opportunity to play football for Willamette. Wil majored in education and returned home to teach and coach football and track on the Big Island where his wife Merle is from.

Wil's background is quite varied which will serve him well on the Stadium Authority if confirmed. Wil was elected president of the Hawaii State Teacher's Association where he served from 2009 to 2015. He was then appointed as Governor Ige's East Hawaii Liaison from 2015 to 2016. Mayor Kim approached Wil to become his Managing Director from 2016 to 2019.

Wil has also served on national, state, and local community organizations.

Wil is an experienced leader and manager, who has had to handle very complex and sometimes controversial situations with fair and thoughtful solutions.

I wholeheartedly support Wilfred Okabe to serve on the Stadium Authority. Please feel free to contact me at 808-282-4085 should you require additional information.

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 12:01:46 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Les Murashige	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Les Murashige and I would like to submit testimony in support of Wil Okabe to sit on the Stadium Authority Board.

I have known Mr. Okabe for over 10 years, I will vouch for his integrity, knowing that his input will be with the best interest of the State of Hawaii, the University, Hawaii high schools and the community at heart.

Please confirm Mr. Okabe to the Board, his selection will bring integrity and confidence that the decisions made have been well vetted. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

With much sincerity,

Les Murashige

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 12:26:56 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Eaglin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of the consideration and confirmation of Wilfred "Wil" Okabe to the Stadium Authority. I believe that Wil's exemplary work ethic combined with his varied work experiences, to include his continued tenure as a Governor's Representative, will be an asset to this position. Additionally, I feel that Wil's compassion, strong ties to the community of Hawaii, and understanding of our multicultural heritage ensure that he will help to safeguard the continued mutually beneficial relationship between Aloha Stadium and the people of Hawaii.

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 12:45:41 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Floyd Eaglin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of Wilfred "Wil" Okabe for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority. My relationship with Wil Okabe started when he was a color commentary announcer for the local high school football games. It was at that time that I learned about his unique interests in the many cultures and peoples of Hawaii. I found him to be an honest and forthright person. My next contact with him was when he served as the Managing Director for the County of Hawaii, a position which entailed budget management and personnel management. His keen sense of doing what was best for the community and government was beyond reproach. Although we differed on some issues we were always able to find common ground. I feel it is of the utmost importance that he be appointed to the Stadium Authority for it will help to diversify the board by providing and promoting statewide inclusion, as oftentimes we on the outer islands are made to pay for Oahu's projects through taxes without being given appropriate representation. Your appropriate consideration to his appointment is greatly appreciated. Mahalo nui loa.

April 10, 2022

Aloha Chairman Wakai, Vice-Chair Misalucha, and members of the Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism (EET) Committee,

RE: GM 824

My name is Dawn Raymond. I am a special education teacher at Chiefess Kapiolani Elementary School, the current Chair of the Liquor Commission for Hawai'i, a board member of the Hawai'i Teacher Standards Board (HTSB), and a trustee for the Hawai'i State Teacher Association Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association Trust (HSTA VEBA).

I have known Mr. Okabe since 1994. He has been my teacher, boss, colleague, and leader. Through the years of knowing Mr. Okabe, he has demonstrated what a good leader is and is always willing to "do more". Meaning he is always working to help where he can in the community. He is collaborative, dedicated, respectful, respectful, and stands up for what is right. With his variety of experiences, he will definitely be an asset to the Stadium Authority.

Please approve Wil Okabe.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely,

Dawn Raymond, M.A. Autism Spectrum Disorder
Special Education Teacher

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 4:28:56 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GM824

Committee: Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism (EET)

Chair: Senator Glenn Wakai

Vice Chair: Bennette Misalucha

Dear Chair Wakai and Vice Chair Misalucha

Re: Nomination of Wilfred Okabe for the Stadium Authority

I would like to speak in favor of the appointment of “Will” Okabe as a member of the Stadium Authority.

I have been acquainted with *Will* Okabe as he served as the President of HSTA and I served as one of the Honolulu District directors. During his HSTA presidency, he demonstrated leadership qualities which welcomed diverse points of views with aplomb and graciousness. His humility, integrity, and openness will be needed as the Stadium authority moves toward the building of a new stadium complex. We need people like Will who can restore the public trust in our governmental agencies.

Will Okabe is an excellent candidate in the tradition of a true public servant.

Mahalo,

Carrie N. Sato, Ed.D.

DOE teacher, retired with 30 years of service

08/10/2022

Aloha Senator Wakai, Chair, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism:

I am submitting written testimony in support of Governor Ige's nomination of Mr. Wilfred Okabe to the Stadium Authority.

My name is Gabriella Marie Cabanas and I have known Mr. Okabe for the last 6 years. I am a retired Human Resources Manager for the County of Hawai'i and worked with Mr. Okabe while he was the Managing Director for the County of Hawai'i under Mayor Harry Kim.

Mr. Okabe, as Managing Director, was responsible for supervising the administrative functioning of the 21 departments, agencies, boards and commissions of the County of Hawai'i for a period of 3 years from 2016 to 2019. He worked with department heads and their staff to manage the County's \$600 million budget. During this time, Mr. Okabe demonstrated his ability to collaborate with individuals and evaluate different challenging situations to arrive at appropriate solutions that would benefit the diverse groups on the Island of Hawai'i. He has demonstrated that he is a person of integrity and is forthright in his dealings with others for the benefit of the community.

While Mr. Okabe lives in Hilo, he also resides on O`ahu where he owns a second home. While some may view him as a Neighbor Islander, that perspective shouldn't diminish his nomination to the Stadium Authority. The Stadium itself will be used by all in the State for various events. Thousands from the Neighbor Islands have traveled to attend numerous events at the Stadium in the past and will do so in the future. We all have a vested interest in the future development of the Stadium.

Approving Mr. Okabe's nomination for the Authority will serve to enhance a diverse and well-balanced representation on the Authority. Taxpayers look to having persons in government and board/commission appointed positions that they can trust. Mr. Okabe is that person – very honest and trustworthy, capable of making decisions for the benefit of the community.

I highly recommend and support Mr. Okabe for the vacant position on the Stadium Authority. Please give Mr. Okabe the consideration and approve Governor Ige's nomination of him to the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to provide my written testimony.

Sincerely,

Gabriella Marie Cabanas

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 9:44:56 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilfred Keola Jr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Wilfred Keola Jr and I am writing in support of Wilfred Okabe as he seeks a position as a member of the Stadium Authority Board.

In my humble opinion, Wilfred would be a great addition to the Stadium Authority Board as he is a down to earth type of guy with a solid foundation in sports gained when he was as a teacher and coach on the Big Island. In addition, he also possess organizational leadership skills that he gained through his role as President of the Hawaii State Teachers Union.

I am sure these qualities and characteristics will serve him as a board member on the Stadium Authority Board. Mahalo.

SUSAN M. KIM
P. O. Box 1853
Kealahou, HI 96750
Email: mari@kinuekim.com

April 10, 2022

RE: GM 824 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, WILFRED OKABE, for a term to expire 06-30-2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am writing in support of Wilfred Okabe's nomination to serve on the Stadium Authority. I have known Mr. Okabe while he served as Managing Director for Hawaii County under Mayor Harry Kim and as Governor Ige's East Hawaii Representative. He worked diligently with the administration as well actively reached out to the community to discuss and resolve issues. As a leader, he demonstrated a genuine interest and commitment to improving our County and State and, most of all, did so with integrity. Even-keeled, he brought calm and reassurance in the midst of the many natural disasters and challenges we faced here on Hawaii island.

For these reasons, Mr. Okabe will be a valuable asset to the Stadium Authority, and I strongly recommend his confirmation.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Kim

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 5:54:16 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jon Taketa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have known Mr. Will Okabe since my high school football playing days in the early 1980's back in Hilo, Hawaii. Over the years since, he's become a good friend, mentor, and someone I could trust whether it be to help get me through my teaching career, or just to have an engaging, enlightening, and/or entertaining conversation with. There was never a dull moment with this guy.

I've admired the endless public service he's served from being our HSTA rep to becoming the statewide HSTA President. Then he went on to become government liasons for everyone and anyone, seemed like, was so many top government officials I lost track already. I know for sure that his passion for public service has benefitted thousands of people throughout your beautiful state (my former state as I have since moved upon retiring last year). He is a man of high integrity and possesses all the R's we educators preach: he's respectful, responsible, and reliable, just to name a few. And it is with highest regard that Mr. Wil Okabe comes highly recommended for this State appointed position.

Aloha

Jon Taketa

April 11, 2022

My name is Ethan Tomokiyo. I am in favor of Governor David Ige's recommendation in appointing Mr. Wil Okabe ("Wil") to the Stadium Authority.

I have known Wil for 52 years. We first met as Freshmen at Willamette University located in Salem, Oregon. He embodies the qualities of a dear friend. Bottom line, I would trust him with my life. The one quality that outshines the rest is his will...he doesn't give up. An example of this was his will to play a starting role on the Willamette football team. One season he suffered a leg injury that sidelined him for a long time. In the face of adversity, he was determined to return to the team. After months of rehabilitation, he was successful and regained his starting role. His determination reminded me of Tiger Woods and the recent injury he suffered, and made the cut in the 2022 Masters Tournament!

Wil will not give up on the Authority and he lives Kina`ole.

Respectfully,

Ethan Tomokiyo

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 11:26:47 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tomoko Matsumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I know Mr. Wil Okabe personally and have worked with him on several of our projects during his time at the County of Hawaii. He is a very nice person, vey helpful and knowledgeable with lots of experience. He helped our company, AG-WP Hapuna LLC in understanding the county system.

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 11:56:29 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Enjon Angelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr. Wil Okabe is a very hard working, conscientious and extremely knowledgeable person. He was always open, friendly and not too busy to answer questions and concerns. During his time in the administrative offices at Hawaii County, Wil made us feel important and deserving of attention.

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 12:43:50 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
WALLACE A ISHIBASHI JR	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of WIL OKABE to the Stadium Authority. He will be a great contributor to the process. Please approve Mr Okabe's nomination. Mahalo nui loa

Rennette K. Pacheco



141 Paipai Street Hilo, HI 96720
(808)989-3281
rkbpac@yahoo.com

April 11, 2022

RE: G.M. 824 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority Board, Mr. Wilfred M. Okabe – **In Support**

Aloha mai,

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and the members of the Committee, mahalo for this opportunity to provide this testimony on behalf of Mr. Wilfred M. Okabe to the Stadium Authority Board.

I have known Mr. Okabe for the past five years and as the former Managing Director of the County of Hawai'i, appointed by former Mayor Harry Kim, Mr. Okabe supervised and maintained administrative functioning of all county agencies, departments, boards, and commissions. His responsibilities entailed recommendations to the Mayor relating to the annual operating and capital improvement budgets of the County of Hawai'i. His added work experience as the State President of the Hawai'i State Teachers Association, an office held for six plus years, will prove to be a valuable resource to the Stadium Authority Board.

Mr. Okabe is trustworthy, his credibility is sound, and if confirmed to the board he will remain grounded to the task of completing the development and building of the New Aloha Stadium for all of Hawai'i people and visiting malihini to enjoy.

I respectfully request for the Committee's consideration in confirming Mr. Wilfred Okabe to the Stadium Authority Board, and I am grateful for this opportunity to provide this testimony of support for my friend.

Me ka ha'aha'a,
Rennette K. Pacheco



GM-824

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 4:58:30 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Kauka Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha - I fully support the nomination of Wilfred Okabe to the Stadium Authority.

I had the fortune of working closely with Mr. Okabe during his time as Managing Director at the County of Hawaii. During that tenure, I saw up close that Mr. Okabe is able to bring a comprehensive view to critical decision-making, considering all view points presented and potential consequences.

Mr. Okabe possesses the management skill set, knowledge of government processes, and understanding of organizational systems to be an invaluable asset and contributor to the Authority. Beyond his professional qualifications to serve, Mr. Okabe is collaborative, steadfast in his commitment to education, and recognizes the importance of providing equitable access to gathering places.

I respectfully urge you to confirm Wilfred Okabe to the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

April 12, 2022

RE: GM 824

To Whom it May Concern,

It is my pleasure to submit a letter of support for Mr. Wilfred Okabe's nomination to the Stadium Authority. I worked very closely with Mr. Okabe through one of the most challenging times of Hawaii Island's recent history, the Lower East Rift Zone (LERZ) lava flow of 2018 which began in the Leilani Estates Subdivision. Wil was the Managing Director for Mayor Harry Kim and I was the Deputy Director for the Department of Public Works (DPW) and in charge of DPW's emergency response to this event. This lava flow destroyed hundreds of homes, miles of roads and other infrastructure, Pohoiki Boat ramp, and other natural and cultural resources in East Hawaii. During this unprecedented prolonged emergency, he showed his capacity as an effective leader and compassionate person.

Wil Okabe demonstrated many of his skills during the emergency response to the LERZ lava flow of 2018. He made many decisions under extreme pressure and managed the county when Mayor Kim was not able to work due to medical reasons. Wil also made it a point to connect with the people, as demonstrated during our weekly public outreach meetings at Pahoia High School cafeteria. He would stay past the official meeting and listen to anyone who wanted to talk and hopefully find solutions to their situation or at least listen to what they had to say.

Mr. Wilfred Okabe is a person with an impressive, extensive professional career and has demonstrated skills necessary for a high-profile, potentially stressful position. He is also a person of the highest character and has personal qualities, such as compassion, integrity and trustworthiness. Please accept my sincere and humble letter of support for the nomination of Wilfred Okabe to the Stadium Authority.

Sincerely,

Merrick H. Nishimoto

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 9:03:52 AM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Misalucha and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism;

I submit this testimony in support of GM824 because I can think of no better nominee for the Stadium Authority than Wilfred Okabe.

While my work with Wil was through our shared commitment to public education, public school teachers and public workers, I know that Wil served in other capacities, both public and private, that provide him with the comprehensive experience needed for this position.

Starting as both a stand out collegiate player and a successful high school coach, Wil understands the athletic needs of our local players and teams. In terms of accessibility and practical realities, he understands both the theory and the application of what our stadium means to our community.

Wil has also both served and led the Fire and Police Commissions for Hawai'i County. In that work he has developed a working knowledge of what is necessary to provide safe spaces, events and activities. More, he understands it from the management level, the boots on the ground level, and from the community safety level.

In his capacity as both the Managing Director for Hawai'i County and as the Governor's Liaison for East Hawai'i, Wil successfully engaged with many groups, sometimes with seemingly competing interests, in addressing the needs of the people he served. That management skill will likely be necessary for any member of the Stadium Authority.

Finally, as I shared earlier, I worked closely with Wil for over a decade in support of Hawai'i's Public Schools, Public School Teachers, Public School Students, and Hawai'i's Public Employees. Wil's capacity to navigate and negotiate in a manner that demonstrates the very best of the Aloha Spirit was evident on a regular basis. If the phrase, "Don't mistake aloha for weakness" had a poster child, it would be Wil. He always understands his assignment, and he always uses that as his North Star to guide his work, his decisions, and his actions.

I have no doubt that the Stadium Authority's work will be even more challenging given the many ideas, needs, and possibly competing interests surrounding our stadium. I can assure you that in Wil Okabe, the Stadium Authority will have an outstanding utility player.

Sincerely,

Joan Kamila Lewis

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 12:47:39 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barett Otani	Testifying for County of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support Wilfred Okabe. It is a pleasure to recommend him for the Stadium Authority Board because of his leadership skills, tenacity and gift of rapport with people.

1. have served under Wilfred's leadership as Executive Assistant to Mayor Harry Kim from 2018 – 2020. Because of his mentorship and purpose driven leadership guidance, have earned the pleasure of currently serving as Mayor Mitch Roth's Executive Assistant.

Wilfred's skillset has been of great benefit to our workplace culture because each day, my colleagues and I, including all County of Hawai'i agencies, and departments can expect full transparency, respect/appreciation and decisive leadership to support our duties as public servants.

Wilfred is well qualified for this opportunity because he is a passionate, dedicated and confident leader who leads by example. I am confident he will be of benefit your organization in many ways.

Sincerely,

Barett Otani

LATE

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 3:44:21 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwight Takeno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dwight Takeno and I am submitting testimony in full support of Gubernatorial Nominee Wilfred Okabe (Wil) for the Stadium Authority Board for a term ending on June 30, 2022. I have had the privilege and opportunity to work with Wil during his term as HSTA President. Wil has the leadership experience, good business augment, and the political knowledge and know how to move organizations forward. Wil's integrity, work ethic, compassion and Aloha for local sport programs, combined with his long standing community involvement will provide another voice of reason and purpose to the Board.

Mahalo.

LATE

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 3:56:54 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clyde Hayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Misaluicha and members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism,

My name is Clyde Hayashi and I am speaking as an individual. I strongly support GM824 and the appointment of Wilfred Okabe to the Stadium Authority.

I have known Wil for years and Wiil will be a tremendous asset to the Stadium Authority. His experiences of being a teacher, coach, police commission member, HSTA President, the East Hawaii Governor's Liaison and Hawaii County Managing Director will be extremely valuable as the Stadium Authority transitions from the Aloha Stadium to a brand new stadium and the development of the entire stadium site.

Mahalo.

LATE

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 4:15:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wilbert Holck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalaucha, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support the appoint of Wilfred Okabe to serve on the Stadium Authority. Wil has dedicated his life to the service of his community and the state of Hawaii as a teacher, coach, President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association, member of the Hawaii County Fire Commission and Police Commission, as well as Managing Director of Hawaii County. As we transition to a new stadium, I believe Wil's insight and leadership abilities will greatly enhance the decisions of the Stadium Authority and ultimately the final product.

LATE

GM-824

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 8:03:05 PM

Testimony for EET on 4/13/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joe cho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Joe Cho and currently, I am a Teacher of World History at McKinley High School and also the Head Girls Basketball Coach at Roosevelt High School.

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Wilfred Okabe to sit on the Stadium Authority Board.

I have known Wilfred since College, at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. I started out my teaching career in Salem, Oregon. Although I am born and raised in Hawaii. I am a graduate of McKinley High School.

It was people like Wilfred you encouraged me to come back home and give back some of my knowledge of teaching in the mainland to the students in Hawaii.

So in that sense Wilfred has always thought about the students of Hawaii. He also is a fellow teacher and coach on the Big Island of Hawaii. In coaching, that in itself, is a total dedication to the student/athletes and their well being athletic wise as well as educational wise.

He also is a former President of our Teachers Union (HSTA) for 2 terms. That shows that the teachers also had tremendous confidence in a man like Wilfred to represent us in all facets of our teaching profession.

He also has done many different State related jobs for Governor Ige, throughout Governor's Ige term of Office.

So, I believe he really has a feel for how our government works in Hawaii. There could be no one better for this position.

Mahalo,

Joe Cho

