



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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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.**

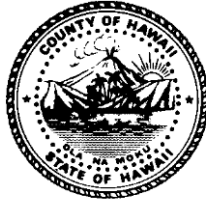
Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha and Members of the Committee.

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.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Paul K. Ferreira
Police Chief

Kenneth Bugado, Jr.
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai`i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8865

April 1, 2022

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee On Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Chair and Members
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 407
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: GM 825, Gubernatorial Nominee Wilfred Okabe, Stadium Authority

Dear Senator Wakai and Members:

My name is Paul K. Ferreira, currently the Police Chief for the Hawai`i Police Department, and I am writing in **strong support** of the appointment of Gubernatorial Nominee Wilfred Okabe to the Stadium Authority.

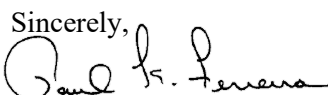
I have had the distinct honor and privilege of knowing Mr. Okabe for many years, beginning from when I was a patrol officer in the Puna District and he was a coach at the Pahoa High School in the 1980s. Then later on in my career, when Mr. Okabe was appointed to the County of Hawai`i Police Commission first as a member then subsequently as the Commission Chairperson.

In 2016, when I was appointed as the Police Chief of the Hawai`i Police Department, I worked directly with Mr. Okabe for several years when he was the Managing Director for the County of Hawai`i under Mayor Harry Kim. I came to appreciate his ethical and moral courage as he has consistently demonstrated that he is the type of individual that is not afraid to make decisions and is always willing to stand by those decisions, even when it is not the most popular choice.

Throughout all of my interactions with Mr. Okabe, I have always known him to be a man of honor, integrity, and of the highest moral character, earning him my respect and admiration. Therefore, I can state with absolute certainty that Mr. Okabe possesses the knowledge and skills that are necessary to be a very valuable asset to the Stadium Authority with the State of Hawai`i.

For the reasons above, I strongly urge this committee to approve the passage of GM 825, the confirmation of Mr. Wilfred Okabe to the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,


PAUL K. FERREIRA
POLICE CHIEF

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



William H. Farr
Executive on Aging

County of Hawai'i

OFFICE OF AGING

Aging and Disability Resource Center, 1055 Kino'ole Street, Suite 101, Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3872
Phone (808) 961-8600 ♦ Fax (808) 961-8603 ♦ Email: hcoa@hawaiiantel.net
West Hawai'i Civic Center, 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Highway, Kailua-Kona 96740
Phone (808) 323-4390 ♦ Fax (808) 323-4398

April 11, 2022

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice-Chair
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Support of GM825
3:00 P.M., April 13, 2022, Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

Dear Senator Wakai and Members of the **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM:**

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of Wilfred Okabe's nomination to the Stadium Authority submitted by David Ige, Governor of the State of Hawaii.

In the 31 years that I have been working for the Hawaii County Office of Aging, it has been my privilege to work with Wilfred Okabe when he served Hawaii County in the role of Managing Director. In the role of Managing Director Wilfred Okabe demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and patience necessary in directing both large and small departments within County Government. His six years of serving as President of the Hawaii State Teachers Association, demonstrated his ability to reach fair decisions for both parties at the table.

I believe Wilfred Okabe has the demonstrated skills that will make him a valuable and effective resource to the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit support for the consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee Wilfred Okabe.

William H. Farr
Executive on Aging
Hawaii County Office of Aging



An Area Agency on Aging

Hawai'i County is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

April 8, 2022

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair
Committee On Energy, Economic, Development, and Tourism

Hearing: Wednesday, April 13, 2022; 3:00PM
CR224 & Videoconference

**RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR GM825, Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee,
Wilfred Okabe**

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gail Kono, retired teacher and resident of Village Park in Waipahu, Hawaii, speaking as an individual. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify in strong support for GM825, Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee Wilfred Okabe.

One of the powers and duties under HRS 109-2 Stadium authority; powers and duties, is to maintain, operate, and manage the stadium and related facilities. I feel Wilfred meets these qualifications. He was, previously, a County Managing Director for Hawaii and served as Acting Mayor for a short time for Mayor Harry Kim. He was responsible for managing various County programs and emergency situations which is comparable to the powers and duties of the Stadium authority.

Wilfred Okabe is a former President for the Hawaii State Teacher Association. Part of his responsibilities, as President, was to negotiate contracts on behalf of over 13,000 teachers and collaborate with other community leaders. He was a member of the Hawaii State Teachers Associations Board of Directors and presided over all meetings. Part of his role was to write and assist in adopting and amending local and national Constitution and By Laws, and Operational policies. These skills are a part of HRS 109-2 Stadium authority: powers and duties which demonstrates his strong qualifications for the position of Stadium Authority.

Therefore, I urge the committee to support and pass GM825. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gail Kono

Gail Kono
94-477 Kuahui St.
Waipahu, HI 96797
gkono002@gmail.com

April 10, 2022

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

RE: GM 825

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

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-825

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 9:45:53 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.

GM-825

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 11:27:22 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-825

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 11:57:25 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-825

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 9:10:49 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 understand that this is the exact language of the previous testimony, but other than the self-recognition that I actually worked closely with Wil for over two decades rather than what I wrote earlier, there is nothing that I could say differently or better than what I wrote for GM824. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

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

LATE

GM-825

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 3:57:40 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 GM 825 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.