

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI  
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO  
P.O. BOX 2360  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

**Date:** 04/08/2024

**Time:** 03:00 PM

**Location:** CR 229 & Videoconference

**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Bill Title:** GM 0713 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY LO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027. (Expiration date amended to 06-30-2025 by GM734).

**Purpose of Bill:**

**Department's Position:**

As the Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) Superintendent, I support Wesley Lo's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education (Board).

Mr. Lo's career spans both the public and private sectors in Hawai'i. For the last two decades, Mr. Lo has been a healthcare executive on Maui as Chief Executive Officer of Ohana Pacific Health, CEO of Hale Makua Health Services, Chief Financial Officer of Maui Memorial Medical Center and as the Regional CEO of Maui's Health Systems Corporation. In these roles, Mr. Lo has developed and executed strategic plans while improving organizational performance. He has also partnered with the Department and the University of Hawai'i Maui College to develop a local healthcare workforce and to re-envision the system of workforce development.

I appreciate Mr. Lo's willingness to return to serve on the Board. He served on the Board from 2011 to 2013 as Chair of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee. I support Mr. Lo's confirmation to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education in the at-large seat and urge the State Senate to confirm his appointment.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of GM 713.



**Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Education**

To: Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim

From: Paige Heckathorn Choy  
AVP, Government Affairs  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**GM 713, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, Wesley Lo**

I am writing today to express my **strong support** for Mr. Wesley Lo's nomination to serve on the Hawaii State Board of Education. Wes has been an incredible asset to the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), especially in helping to guide our policy and advocacy efforts at both the state and federal level. Our organization represents many types of provider organizations, including acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospice agencies, and assisted living facilities.

The needs and priorities for each of these settings can vary, and finding common ground and consensus takes trust, hard work, and a willingness to compromise. Wes has been a proven leader in helping us to have sometimes difficult discussions to ensure that we are doing whatever we can to ultimately benefit the residents of Hawaii. This has been especially useful as we've had to navigate various crises, helping us to get through emergency periods while not losing sight of long-term goals, such as investing heavily in our workforce development programs.

Over the past few years that I've had the opportunity to work with Wes in a professional capacity, I have been incredibly impressed not just with his knowledge, but also his willingness to listen. He consistently takes the time to understand an issue fully and makes sure that every individual has the opportunity to express their point of view. He is an individual that I look up to, and I hope to emulate his respectful, integrity-driven style of leadership.

This position is demanding, and the Board requires members who are committed to public service. Wes has the qualities needed to carry out the immense responsibilities required by this position in spades. I would like to urge the committee to support Wes's confirmation to this position, and thank you for the opportunity to share my support.



david.miyashiro@hawaiikidscan.org  
hawaiikidscan.org

David Miyashiro  
Executive Director

April 8, 2024

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

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

**HawaiiKidsCAN supports GM713**, which submits for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Wesley Lo, for a term to expire 06-30-2027. (Expiration date amended to 06-30-2025 by GM734).

Founded in 2017, HawaiiKidsCAN is a local nonprofit organization committed to ensuring that Hawaii has an excellent and equitable education system that reflects the true voices of our communities and, in turn, has a transformational impact on our children and our state. We strongly believe that all students should have access to excellent educational opportunities, regardless of family income levels and circumstances.

The Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) is a critical organization for public education in Hawaii, with significant responsibilities including but not limited to formulating policy, ensuring oversight and accountability within the public education system, and monitoring progress on the State of Hawaii Public Education 2023-2029 Strategic Plan. Given the magnitude of issues facing the public education system, effective BOE members should be able to critically review data presented by the DOE, set a policy agenda that the DOE, legislature, and community partners can rally around, and look holistically at how schools are preparing kids for great careers and lives in Hawaii.

We urge all appointees consider the following questions:

- How will you find balance between supporting our public schools while holding leaders and schools accountable when students are suffering poor outcomes?

- How can the BOE better harness public charter schools and public libraries as part of our education system, given that the BOE also oversees the State Librarian and members of the State Public Charter School Commission?
- How can the BOE better engage families and community members?
- What is the ideal process for collaborative policymaking between the BOE, DOE, legislature, and community partners?
- How can the BOE and DOE better target supports to students to close achievement gaps and long-standing inequities?
- How can our education system better harness the abundant non-traditional learning opportunities in Hawaii offered by local non-profits, employers, and community organizations?

We support the nomination of Wesley Lo, as we believe he has the right background to be an effective BOE member. As CEO for 'Ohana Pacific Health and in other professional leadership positions, he clearly has experience managing large, complex organizations at a statewide level. He also understands the vital need to tackle workforce development as a partnership between schools and employers. Lastly, he has prior BOE experience, which is unique. We also pledge to be a partner as he and the rest of the BOE work to improve outcomes for students and our broader state.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro  
Founding Executive Director  
HawaiiKidsCAN



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

April 8, 2024

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

This testimony is submitted in support for GM713, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Wesley Lo, for a term to expire 06-30-2027.

As one of HE'E Coalition's priorities is influencing policy that affects public education, the Coalition staff attends Board of Education meetings on a regular basis. We continue to advocate strongly on family and community engagement as well as equity in education in our public school system.

HE'E remembers Mr. Lo's tenure on the BOE back in 2011-2013. We appreciate Mr. Lo's experience as a leader of large organizations. In particular, Mr. Lo has worked in health care, which has made tremendous strides in effective systems management. We are hoping that DOE can also benefit from the lessons learned in health care around a systems approach. We encourage the Committee to confirm his nomination.

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 for this measure represents at least a 75% consensus of our voting membership.

Sincerely,

Cheri Nakamura  
HE'E Coalition Director

## Coalition Members and Participants

Academy 21  
Alliance for Place Based Learning  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Atherton YMCA  
Education Institute of Hawai'i  
\*Faith Action for Community Equity  
Fresh Leadership LLC  
Girl Scouts Hawai'i  
\*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 Education Association  
Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition  
\* Hawai'i State PTSA  
Hawai'i State Student Council  
Hawai'i State Teachers Association  
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  
Special Education Provider Alliance  
\*Teach for America  
The Learning Coalition  
US PACOM  
University of Hawai'i College of Education  
\* 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.*

April 6, 2024

TO: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair Senate Committee on  
Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair Senate Committee on  
Education

Members Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Kate Stanley (retired)

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of confirming Governor's appointments to the Board of Education: GM 520, GM 710, GM 711, GM 712, GM 713, and GM 714

I am Kate Stanley testifying in my individual capacity in support of the confirmation of the Governor's appointments to the Board of Education (BOE).

I have retired once again and now volunteer to work on projects for the Department of Education and speak on other issues that effect the State of Hawaii. In past years I have worked as an analyst for the House Committee on Finance assigned to analyze the budget of the Department of Education and assigned to work with then Chair of the House Education Committee, Roy Takumi assisting in drafting Act 51 of the 2004 Session; and I have worked for Superintendents Pat Hamamoto, Kathy Matayoshi, and Keith Hayashi. I have assisted the superintendents with implementing Act 51, budget preparation, and working with the Legislature. In the course of these years I have had the opportunity to attend many BOE meetings including those of both an elected and appointed BOE.

Personally I have an undying commitment to public education. Public education and its improvement is an obligation we all have in order to secure the best possible Hawaii.

The reason that I am speaking for these particular appointments as a group is that I see them as a group bringing many diverse experiences and abilities to the BOE. They will create a strong Board that will move public education forward.

GM 520 Kahele Dukelow.

Kahele Dukelow brings continuity as she currently serves on BOE . Dukelow also brings the perspective of the island of Maui and concern for the Hawaiian community.

GM 710 Mary Hattori

Mary Hattori brings the perspective of the many Pacific Islander Communities whose children attend our public schools. Hattori's work with the East West Center and her other experiences as an author, poet, public speaker and philanthropist add to the diversity of experience that these new members bring to the BOE.

GM 711 Ken Kuraya

Ken Kuraya also brings continuity as he currently serves as an at-large member of the BOE. Kuraya brings his experience in working with the budget of the DOE. I have known Ken for many years having worked with him during my many years working full-time and part time with the DOE. His experience in administration makes his contribution to the BOE valuable.



### GM 712 William Arakaki

Bill Arakaki brings; continuity as he currently serves on the BOE , a neighbor island perspective (Kauai), and the experience of a teacher, Principal and Complex Area superintendent. Bill also brings a certain grace and steadfastness to the meetings of the BOE. He is conscientious, thoughtful and kind.

### GM 713 Wesley Lo

Wesley Lo brings his prior experience as a member of the BOE and his extensive experience in the health industry. As you know DOE serves students who have many physical and mental health challenges. I have known and worked with Wes since 2010 and know that he brings diligence, thoughtfulness, and persistence to everything he undertakes.

### GM 714 Elynne Chung

Elynne Chung brings many years of experience; as a student in our public schools and at UH and as a Principal of Mililani Middle School. The BOE and the Superintendent have recognized that the middle school years are often the make or break point for many of the DOE students. Chung's experience with middle school will be of great value to the BOE and the DOE as they strive to improve the performance and experience of the DOE middle school student.

In conclusion I wholeheartedly urge that the Senate Committee on Education recommend to the full Senate confirmation of all the above appointments to the Board of Education.

**GM-713**

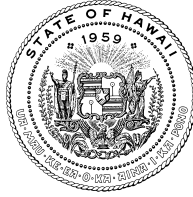
Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:40:17 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Ching	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support without reservation Wes Lo's nomination to the Board of Education. I have known Wes for almost twenty years. Wes is dedicated to making Hawaii a better place in which to live. This is evident not only through his time of public service as the Director of Finance for the County of Maui but also his experience over a decade leading the Maui Region of HHSC, most notably as its CEO. He believes strongly in the importance of education in creating healthy communities in Hawaii. I believe that Wes will serve on the Board of Education with distinction because of his love of Hawaii and his commitment to a bright Hawaii future through a strong education system.



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

Testimony of  
**Josh Green, M.D.**  
Governor, State of Hawaii

Before the  
**Senate Committee on Education**

Monday, April 8, 2024  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229, and Videoconference

In consideration of  
**Governor's Message No. 713**

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of Governor's Message No. 713, appointment of Wesley P. Lo to serve on the Board of Education.

Wesley P. Lo is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Ohana Pacific Health and Hale Makua Health Services. He is responsible for the overall performance of Ohana Pacific Health, a for profit company, and Hale Makua Services, a non-profit corporation affiliated with Ohana Pacific Health. The combined entity is the largest provider of post-acute care services in the State of Hawai'i, with operations on all four major islands.

Wesley is a civic minded individual who works with cross-industry, non-profit, for profit, and governmental executives. He has experience in developing and executing strategic vision and increasing organizational performances. Moreover, he has demonstrated leadership in addressing and managing challenging stakeholder, regulatory, and legislative agendas during tough labor and economic stakeholders.

Wesley earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration from the University of Colorado.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 10:59:28 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gil Keith-Agaran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Mercado Kim and members of the committee:

I wholeheartedly urge your committee to recommend the full Senate's confirmation of Wesley Lo to the Board of Education. I have known Mr. Lo for many years and have valued his friendship, sage and common sense counsel and advice. He has been a tremendous contributor to the Maui community -- as a banker, as Maui County Finance Director, and by heading two of the crucial health care organizations on Maui (the former Maui Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC)) and Hale Makua. At HHSC, Mr. Lo brought stability and helped transition the public Maui Nui hospital facilities (Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital and Lanai Community Hospital) to management and operation by a private partner, Maui Health Systems (an affiliate of Kaiser Permanente). While with HHSC, he also pushed the expansion of first neighbor island cardiovascular program. He currently oversees Ohana Pacific Health which includes Maui's primary longterm care facility, Hale Makua.

When he was up for confirmation as a member of the first appointed Board of Education (following the voters' decision to move from an elected board), he noted the importance of quality public education and health care as foundations for a thriving community. His work experience in the health care field explains why he included one; his personal knowledge of public education comes from his long marriage to a public school educator (his wife has been a counselor in Leeward Oahu and Hawaii Kai and in Central Maui, including Maui High School). She made Wes aware of the satisfaction she finds in learning, sometimes years later, the impact she and her colleagues have made in the lives of their students, something Mr. Lo recognizes as an employer and an active participant in non-profit and other civic activities. He also sent both of his children to Central Maui public schools-- one each to Baldwin High and Maui High.

Mr. Lo, incidentally, is a former Prep athlete who played basketball at Punahou, where he started ahead of a future President of the United States.

The only drawback from this appointment is he is being appointed to complete a term and not a full four year term.

Please vote in favor of Mr. Lo.

Mahalo,

Gil Keith-Agaran

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 2:36:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Curt Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim:

I am writing to you asking for your consider to confirm Mr. Wesley Lo to the Board of Education. I've known Wesley for over 30 years in various professional and career capacities. He is a compassionate individual who is committed to the community. He has had successful leadership assignments over the years at various companies and non-profit organizations. He is fair, smart and has vision. He will serve the State of Hawaii well as a member of the Board of Education. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



**Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Education**

To: Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim

From: Hilton R. Raethel  
President and CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**GM 713, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, Wesley Lo**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **strong support** for Mr. Wesley Lo's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Board of Education. Mr. Lo has been an active and integral leader in our HAH community, providing trusted leadership for our long-term care members and helping to guide HAH's policy and workforce efforts across the entire healthcare spectrum. Through challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic and the Maui wildfire disaster, Mr. Lo has demonstrated, time and again, his selfless commitment to public service, an incredible work ethic, and an ability to bring people together to achieve common goals.

It is evident that Mr. Lo has the professional experience and community service commitment that is needed to succeed as a member of the Board of Education. I would like to take a moment, then, to emphasize Mr. Lo's exceptional personal qualities. He has shown a remarkable determination in pursuing initiatives that benefit all people in Hawaii—from caregivers to residents, he has shown compassion and leadership in making sure we continue to be a leader in the space of providing high-quality, affordable care to the people of this state.

I have no doubt that Wesley Lo's exceptional leadership abilities, extensive experience, and unwavering dedication make him an ideal candidate for the Hawaii Board of Education. Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support Mr. Lo's nomination.



**Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 PM**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Education**

To: Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim

From: Robert Choy  
Director, Post-Acute Care  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**GM 713 – Submitting for Consideration and Confirmation to the Board of Education,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, Wesley Lo**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of the nomination of Wesley Lo to the Hawaii State Board of Education.

In my time at the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) as the Director of Post-Acute Care, I have had the honor of working with Wes in his role both as a member and as Chair of our Long-Term Care Leadership Committee. The COVID-19 pandemic, our recovery from it, and the Maui wildfires have made it clear that Wes has many outstanding qualities, but it is his vast pool of wisdom, visionary thinking, and remarkable selflessness that have most impressed me and will make him a strong member of the Board of Education.

During the pandemic, Wes was an important source of advice and knowledge. He repeatedly drew upon his extensive experience in healthcare to guide HAH's work in understanding, digesting, and communicating about the many issues that arose each day. Whether we had to coordinate the rollout of COVID vaccines in nursing homes when they first arrived, think creatively about ways to keep residents and staff safe, or contemplate tough decisions that needed to be made, Wes was only ever a phone call, text, or email away no matter how busy he was.

As many members on the committee know, the workforce shortage is one of the biggest issues currently facing healthcare. Wes and his team spearheaded many of the pioneering efforts that now serve as the template for HAH's various workforce development programs. For example, Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) can now become Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) through the CNA-to-LPN bridge program that was developed by Wes in collaboration with UH Maui College, Unite Here Local 5, and numerous other stakeholders. Now, CNAs who otherwise would not have access to traditional pathways for career advancement have an opportunity for job progression and earning a family-sustaining wage. The bridge program just recently graduated thirty-one new LPNs – with thirty more in upcoming cohorts – whose lives will forever be changed because of Wes and his leadership.

In response to the Maui wildfires, Wes was pivotal in efforts to decompress Maui Memorial. He brought in an army of new workers at no small expense to be able to accept patients into Hale Makua's facilities and services, thereby averting a secondary disaster at the hospital. He sent his teams to check in with



homebound seniors, creating a lifeline for those who were suddenly cut off from the services and resources they needed to remain safely at home. Despite all these demands, he still took the time to care for the people under his leadership, doing what he could to find missing staff in the immediate aftermath, provide a place to live to employees who had lost their homes, or otherwise be accommodating and empathetic to those who had suffered so much.

Just as these qualities have benefitted us at HAH and the many others whose lives have been positively affected, so, too, will they benefit the Board of Education. For these reasons, I strongly recommend the committee's favorable consideration of his nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Education**

To: Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim

From: Stacy Wong  
Senior Communications Manager  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**GM 713, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, Wesley Lo**

**This letter is in support of the appointment of gubernatorial nominee Mr. Wesley Lo, CEO of Ohana Pacific Health, to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.**

Wes is the chair of Long Term Care Committee within the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the nonprofit trade association for the hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living providers, home health agencies, and hospices. In this capacity he has leadership of an important group within the Association. This group provides care to the growing ranks of kupuna in Hawaii, in an environment that is challenging in terms of rising costs and changing reimbursements.

Against this background, Wes has taken on key tasks that include increasing the healthcare workforce. This is a big job, over and above his day jobs running Hale Makua, the largest nursing home on Maui, and Ohana Pacific, the parent company managing several skilled nursing facilities across the state.

On the workforce front, Wes' knowledge of the industry and his collaborative style resulted in creation of new programs that are turning out more nurses. The CNA to LPN Bridge Program, in particular, recently graduated 31 new licensed practical nurses (LPNs), and the next group of 30 just started. This effort took collaboration between UH Maui College, Good Jobs Hawaii, Ohana Pacific, Kaiser Permanente, and United Here Local 5.

For the first time, certified nurse aides (CNAs) can continue to work, and go to school at the same time. Their clinical instruction could be done at their workplace, and their tuition was covered by a federal grant via Good Jobs Hawaii. Now those CNAs can earn more as LPNs, and their employers have employees with higher levels of skill. People could have just complained

about the need for more nurses, but Wes collaborated with others and now more nurses are being created in an innovative way. He will take this can-do attitude to the Board of Education.

Also, as a longtime Maui resident and former CEO of Maui Memorial Hospital, Wes took immediate actions in August to assist people affected by the fires in Lahaina and Kula. He worked tirelessly and found placements for those patients who needed to be discharged to a nursing home bed, thus freeing up more hospital space. His Hale Makua Home Health services team checked on home-bound kupuna in the community, and assisted at the shelters set up after the fire. He was on daily calls convened by HAH with healthcare leaders, finding solutions to everything from replacing prescriptions to providing electricity to mobile health units.

Wes' work ethic, people skills, local knowledge and collaborative spirit would be great assets on the Board of Education. Thank you for considering him.

Stacy Wong  
Senior Communication Manager  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii



**Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 pm**  
**Conference Room 229**

**Senate Committee on Education**

To: Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim

From: Janna Hoshide  
Senior Director, Workforce Development  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**GM 713, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,**  
**Gubernatorial Nominee, Wesley Lo**

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH), established in 1939, serves as the leading voice of healthcare on behalf of 170 member organizations who represent almost every aspect of the healthcare continuum in Hawaii. Members include acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies, hospices, assisted living facilities and durable medical equipment suppliers. In addition to providing access to appropriate, affordable, high-quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing over 30,000 people statewide.

I am writing today to express my **strong support** for Mr. Wesley Lo's nomination to serve on the Hawaii Board of Education. In my capacity as the Senior Director of Workforce Development at HAH, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Wes on several successful education programs that have already produced positive outcomes for students and patients alike. Wes has consistently shown, time and again, his willingness to take on hard problems and work with all stakeholders in a respectful, collaborative manner to address them.

While I could list dozens of accomplishments that Wes has helped our organization achieve, I want to focus on his visionary leadership in helping to create new pathways for entry-level employees to continue their education and career progression. His willingness to try new, innovative programs to help certified nursing assistants engage in an earn-and-learn model to become licensed practical nurses has paid incredible dividends for the state, helping to strengthen our healthcare system and enhance access to quality care for all residents, especially Kūpuna. He has also been instrumental in supporting the entire nurse pathway through strong collaboration with education partners, which has pioneered new employer-education partnerships and solutions to address workforce barriers.

Wes has been an invaluable partner in our endeavors to address the critical shortage of healthcare professionals in our state and support students who have been underrepresented

with opportunities to advance. His innovative approach to education and workforce development has been instrumental in designing and implementing programs that not only equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in healthcare careers but also empower them to make meaningful contributions to our community's well-being. Thank you for the opportunity to provide strong support for Wes's nomination.



April 4, 2024

TO: HONORABLE MICHELLE N. KIDANI, CHAIR, HONORABLE DONNA MERCADO KIM, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR GM 713.** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY LO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027. (Expiration date amended to 06-30-25 by GM734)

HEARING

DATE: April 8, 2024  
TIME: 3:00 PM  
PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

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

My name is Lance Wilhelm and I am President of The Wilhelm Group. I have had the honor of serving several educational institutions over the past 30 years including Island Pacific Academy, Hawaii Pacific University and Kamehameha Schools where I served as both board member and chairman. I have also been involved in the construction and real estate development field for 35 years and in fact, came to meet and work with Wesley Lo in this capacity.

I am writing in strong support of Mr. Lo's appointment to the Board of Education. It has been my experience that within the world of education, whether primary, secondary or post-secondary, the best board members are those that come to the work with passion for students and the betterment of community as a whole, combined with a humility and appreciation for the profession of teaching and for institutions of learning. Boards need members who understand their role; the power and responsibilities that come with the position, but also the limitations and constraints. Academic governance requires understanding, patience and wisdom combined with passion and a sense of urgency. It takes leaders who are confident enough to act decisively, but humble enough to listen to the voices of their peers and the professional educators around them. Wesley Lo is just such a man.

Over the years, I've had the great good fortune of watch Mr. Lo express this kind of balanced approach to everything he does on Maui. It is his commitment to the broader community that drives him, but his humility and understanding that allows those who work for him and with him to do their best work. I find these leadership traits rare in general, and rarer still in those who reach the corner offices of the businesses. I believe that Mr. Lo is just



such a leader and the Board of Education should consider itself fortunate to someone of his character and quality joining its ranks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance Wilhelm". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lance Wilhelm  
President

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 10:00:06 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Grant Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson Kidani:

I am writing for the purpose of expressing my support for and highest recommendation of Wesley P. Lo for service on the Board of Education. Mr. Lo has been an outstanding advocate and supporter of public education in our community and state. He previously served as a member of the Board of Education, and has been directly involved with workforce development initiatives on the island of Maui, which speaks to his commitment to ensuring that education is relevant and responsive to the needs of our community. He has an extensive background in management and finance which makes him ideally suited for service to our State in this capacity.

Please give Mr. Lo your favorable consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Grant Chun, Executive Director, Hale Mahaolu





## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEM

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To: The Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair  
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Education

From: Rowena Buffett Timms, EVP and Chief Administrative Officer

Date: April 8, 2024

Re: Support for GM713 Gubernatorial Nominee Wesley Lo

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The Queen's Health System (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Wesley Lo to the Board of Education. Mr. Lo is the Chief Executive Officer of Ohana Pacific Health / Hale Makua Health Services and serves on the Board of Directors for the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i. Mr. Lo is a highly respected professional in the healthcare sector who has been recognized for his excellence in strategic execution, financial management, professional mentorship.

Wes's service both in the public sector and private sector provide him a powerful perspective with which to tackle the multi-faceted challenges facing the Board of Education. His volunteerism also demonstrates his deep roots and commitment to community service.

The Department of Education, our keiki, and our State will be well served by having Wes Lo on the Board of Education. On behalf of The Queen's Health System, we strongly support Mr. Lo's nomination and respectfully urge the Committee to recommend him for confirmation.

Mahalo.

*The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



**BOWERS + KUBOTA**

*Construction Management • A/E Design • Planning • Project Management*

April 6, 2024

The Honorable Michelle N Kidani, Chair  
And Committee Members  
Senate Committee of Education

Subject: GM 713 Relating to consideration and nomination of Mr. Wesley Lo to the Board of Education

Dear Chair Kidani and Members:

I am writing to offer my strong support for the confirmation of Mr. Wesley Lo to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

Over the course of 50+ years, I have had the privilege of observing Mr. Lo's successful career in both the private sector and public sectors. Among his many accomplishments, a standout highlight is his instrumental leadership in the successful privatization of the Maui Memorial Hospital system, transitioning to a robust Private Healthcare system. This transformative initiative, executed as part of the Maui Regional Health Systems Strategic Plan, secured the sustainability of excellent healthcare services on Maui. Mr. Lo's leadership in this endeavor underscores his ability to navigate complex challenges – an asset that will benefit the Board of Education as it continues its Strategic initiatives.

Along with his technical acumen and leadership skills, Mr. Lo has demonstrated a deep commitment to improving our education system and environment. During his tenure on the Board of Education in 2011, he has served as Chair of the Finance and Infrastructure and Vice Chair of the Audit Committees.

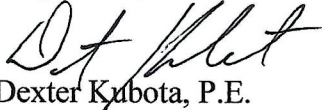
With all his experience, his greatest asset is in his continued passion and vision to create and realize an improved community. I can attest with confidence that Mr. Lo is an individual with outstanding character, professionalism, and integrity with a sincere dedication to the well-being and success of our students-the cornerstone of our future.

With the current challenges that face the Dept of Education, including staffing, funding, repair and maintenance backlog amongst them, Mr. Lo's extensive experience, especially in private sector, uniquely positions him to hold the Department accountable and drive meaningful progress for our students, faculty, and community.



I respectfully urge your support for the confirmation of Mr. Wesley Lo to the State of Hawaii Board of Education. His leadership, dedication and integrity make him an outstanding candidate for this vital role.

Respectfully;



Dexter Kubota, P.E.  
Chairperson





Imanaka Asato  
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

April 5, 2024

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

**RE: Governor's Message No. 713**  
**Hearing date: April 8, 2024 at 3:00 PM**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the committee,

I am writing to express my **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 713, confirming Wesley Lo to the Board of Education ("BOE"). Mr. Lo's exemplary record of leadership and accomplishment, speaks volumes about his dedication to public service and his ability to effect positive change within diverse organizations and communities. His extensive experience as a healthcare executive, as well as in the non-profit, and government sectors make him uniquely qualified to advance the educational interests of Hawaii's school aged keiki.

Throughout his career, Wes has demonstrated a keen ability to manage the strategic direction of large organizations. As CEO of multiple healthcare organizations, Wes has exhibited exceptional leadership in both strategic planning and operational execution. His role in doubling the size of operations through affiliation and acquisition strategies underscores his capacity to navigate complex organizational challenges and drive growth. Under Wes' leadership, these organizations have demonstrated superb financial recovery - a testament to his adept financial management skills.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Lo's extensive involvement in community service further underscores his commitment to fostering positive social change. His tenure as a director on various boards, including the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and the Maui Economic Development Board, exemplifies his dedication to advancing the wellness of local people throughout Hawaii.

Finally, as a former member of the BOE, Mr. Lo's prior experience uniquely positions him to provide valuable insights and leadership in his potential role as a board member once again. His exemplary track record of service on the Board, including his chairmanship of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee and vice-chairmanship of the Audit Committee, reflects his deep understanding of the complex issues facing Hawaii's education system.

I am confident that Wes' exceptional qualifications, leadership acumen, and steadfast commitment to public service make him an outstanding candidate for the Hawaii Board of Education. I strongly urge you to confirm his nomination.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michael Iosua



Law Office of  
**Lauren M. Akitake**  
LLLC

2317 Vineyard Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793  
(808) 868-4344  
lauren@akitakelaw.com  
www.AkitakeLaw.com

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April 7, 2024

Testimony of  
Lauren M. Akitake

Before the Senate Committee on  
EDUCATION

Monday, April 8, 2024 3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Video Conference

Re: **In Support of GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 713** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, Wesley Lo, for a term to expire 06-30-2027

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing in full **support** of Wesley Lo's nomination to the Board of Education. My family and I have known Wes and his contributions to our Maui community for as long as I can remember.

In particular, he was the Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Maui Region of Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) from 2004 until November 2016, and I started as local counsel for HHSC (then for Maui Health Systems) at the end of his tenure. As HHSC CEO, Wes led the most significant privatization effort in the history of the State, which included the passage of Act 103 (SLH 2015), which allowed Maui's public hospitals to enter into an agreement with private hospitals to ensure sustainability and delivery of healthcare services to the residents of Maui County.

Wes is civic-minded and very active in our Maui Nui community; I run into him several times a week on Maui and Oahu, representing Maui. In particular, Wes is a Director of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and current Chair of the Long-Term Care Committee. Wes has a demonstrated track record for achieving significant business turnarounds, and given his diverse skill set and education in business and finance and experience with public, private, and non-profit entities, there is no doubt he will be a positive asset to the Board of Education.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Monday, April 8, 2024 at 3:00 pm  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**Senate Committee on Education**

To: Senator Michelle Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **GM 713 – Testimony In Support**  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education,  
Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY LO.

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My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs for Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I write in **support** of the nomination of Wesley Lo to serve on the Board of Education.

Through the positions he has held, Mr. Lo has demonstrated that he is a hardworking, thoughtful executive who is able to successfully marshal private for-profit and nonprofit stakeholders as well as public sector entities to formulate initiatives for the benefit of the community. In his current position as Chief Executive Officer of Ohana Pacific Health and Hale Makua Health Services, Mr. Lo is at the forefront of modernizing operations and improving transitions in healthcare navigation with Ohana Pacific Health (a for-profit entity) and Hale Makua Health Services (a nonprofit entity). The combined entity is the largest provider of post-acute care services in Hawai'i with operations on all four major islands.

As the former Regional Executive Officer of the Maui Region of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC), recognizing the need to make healthcare more accessible to neighbor island communities, Mr. Lo led the most significant privatization effort in the history of the State. With the passage of Act 103 (SLH 2015), Maui's Public Hospitals entered into an agreement with private hospitals to ensure sustainability and delivery of healthcare services on the island of Maui.

Additionally, Mr. Lo is dedicated to workforce initiatives. He has developed and launched innovative workforce development pathways through the CNA to LPN "earn and learn"

Bridge Program in coordination with the University of Hawai'i and the Department of Education.

Having previously served as the Director of the Hawai'i Board of Education from 2011-2013, Mr. Lo is well versed in the processes and procedures governing Board activities. He has held leadership positions on a number of important boards, and through this role, has played a part in improving conditions in the State as well as for neighbor island communities.

I strongly support Mr. Lo's nomination and urge your committee to confirm his nomination to the Board of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



April 5, 2024

Senator Michelle Kidani  
Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Donna Kim  
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Education  
Members of the Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Senate

RE: GM 713 Nomination of Wesley Lo for the Board of Education  
Hearing: April 8, 2024 3:00 pm

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim and members of the Committee:

I write in strong support of the nomination of Wesley Lo to the Board of Education.

Mr. Lo served on the Board of Education when I was serving as Superintendent. I was always impressed with his sincerity, his commitment to public schools, and his thoughtful questions and comments during meetings.

More recently, I have worked with Mr. Lo in developing and supporting workforce learning opportunities and training for students throughout Hawaii. He has a future focused, selfless mindset that puts students at the center, with the desire for Hawaii kids to get the education and training they need to stay in Hawaii. He is a leader in developing and supporting a work-and-learn model for healthcare, and his innovative, student-focused mindset will be such an asset to the BOE.

In summary, I believe Mr. Lo will serve as a great member of the BOE, and ask for your support for his nomination. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn S. Matayoshi  
Kathryn Matayoshi  
[Kathryn.matayoshi@gmail.com](mailto:Kathryn.matayoshi@gmail.com)  
808-223-7893



# SHAN S. TSUTSUI

12<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawaii

Testimony of  
Shan S. Tsutsui

Before the Senate Committee on  
EDUCATION

Monday, April 8, 2024

3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Video Conference

**In Support of**  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 713

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial  
Nominee, Wesley Lo, for a term to expire June 30, 2025

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

Today, I am privileged to offer my highest recommendation in support of Wesley Lo's nomination to the Board of Education.

I have known Mr. Lo for over 30 years and have had the opportunity to work with him in his various executive leadership roles as Director of Finance of the County of Maui, Chief Financial Officer, and later Chief Executive Officer of Maui Memorial Medical Center, and Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Maui Region, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, including his previous tenure on the Board of Education from 2011 to 2013.

Mr. Lo's wealth of experience and unique qualifications make him a valuable asset to the Board of Education. His return to the board will keep Hawaii moving forward and bring about significant positive changes for our teachers, department leadership, and, most importantly, our precious students.

I am deeply grateful for your time and consideration in reviewing Mr. Lo's nomination. Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this matter.

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 2:49:29 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ernie K. Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that based on his experience, especially as an Executive in the healthcare industry, as well as my discussions with him about education., Les understands the need for a strong education system that prepares people for jobs within the healthcare field. As such, he would bring this understanding and focus to the DOE Board. I strongly recommend his confirmation to the DOE Board.

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:48:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Saedene Ota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Saedene Ota of Maui, and I fully support Mr. Wes Lo's appointment to the Board of Education. I have known Wes for nearly twenty years, personally and professionally. Besides being highly experienced in leading and managing large organizations, he is also a man of character. Whether at the County or our State hospital, Wes has always been thoughtful, creative, and strategic. He has always been able to use his financial skill set and progressive ideas to grow and strengthen government and community organizations.

We need Mr. Wes Lo's business mind and community heart. Now more than ever, with the aftereffects of COVID-19, our Keiki needs people like Wes Lo. His creative problem-solving skills, understanding of Government, and financial foundation make him an exceptional candidate. Please support Wes Lo for the sake of our Keiki and our Education System.

# **R. CLAY SUTHERLAND**

**Attorney At Law**  
A Law Corporation

173 Hoohana Street, Suite 101  
Kahului, Maui, Hawaii 96732  
(808) 249-2522 phone  
(808) 249-2523 facsimile  
e-mail: clay@rclaysutherland.com

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April 4, 2024

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Education  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Via Email

Re: Confirmation of Wes Lo to the State of Hawaii Board of Education

Dear Senators:

I write to you in support of the appointment of Wesley Lo as a member of the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

I have known Mr. Lo for almost forty-five years, having attended high school with him, but also through his work at First Hawaiian Bank, the County of Maui, Maui Radiology Consultants, Maui Memorial Medical Center, and currently with Hale Makua. Wes and I worked closely while he was the CEO of Maui Memorial Medical Center and I have continued to work with Wes over the years, consulting with him on various health and medical issues and opportunities here on Maui. I have known Wes to be a hard worker, and his experience and business skills have provided him the necessary tools to be an excellent advisor and businessman.

I believe Mr. Lo has developed the acumen and skills necessary to be an engaged and diligent board member. His experience working within the Maui community and managing various operations here on Maui will provide him with the necessary tools to be a valuable member of the Board of Education as it pursues its goals and objectives. He is also a supportive and dedicated husband and father, and he will bring a balanced and insightful perspective to his work. Wes's work ethic, his experience, and comprehensive skills make him an excellent candidate for this position and will provide the Board of Education with needed expertise and guidance.

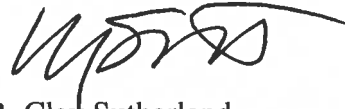
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice-Chair  
April 4, 2024  
Page 2

I have the utmost respect for Wes as a friend and colleague and strongly support his appointment to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

I thank you in advance for your anticipated support of Wesley Lo and would ask that his nomination as a member of the State of Hawaii Board of Education be confirmed by the Senate Education Committee.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of Mr. Lo.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Clay Sutherland', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Clay Sutherland

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 9:13:36 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bruce Uu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 5, 2024

Committee on Higher Education

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu Hawaii, 96813

**RE: GM17 - NOMINATION OF WES LO TO THE STATE OF HAWAII BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Kim, and Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of Wes Lo to the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

I have known Wes personally for over 15 years. I am impressed by Mr. Lo's unwavering dedication to our community, in any aspect, Be it Education and or Health to Housing and everything in-between, Wes is dedicated!

On a side bar, my unique perspective that strikes me is his HUMILITY. He has a humble approach coupled with good listening & Leadership skills, which which makes him an asset at any level and on any board.

In ending, I humbly ask for your support for Wes Lo, a local boy who's done good! We wont hold him accountable for being a graduate of Punahou, Just my 2 cents!

With Aloha,

Bruce U'u

April 5, 2024

Senate Committee on Education  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: GM 713 - Confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY LO, for a term to expire 06-30-2027

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Mr. Wesley Lo's nomination to the Board of Education.

I have known Mr. Lo for many years, both socially and professionally, and strongly believe that he has the commitment, perspective, and work ethic to be an asset to the Board of Education.

The State is very fortunate to have dedicated community members like Mr. Lo volunteering their time and experience to our boards and commissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Matsuda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and "M".

Eric M. Matsuda, P.E., L.S.  
162 West Lanai Street  
Kahului, HI 96732



Honorable Members of the State of Hawaii Board of Education,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the nomination and confirmation of Wesley P. Lo to the State of Hawaii Board of Education. Mr. Lo's extensive experience and outstanding achievements in various sectors, particularly in healthcare administration, finance, and community service, make him an exemplary candidate for this critical role.

Throughout his career, Mr. Lo has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, strategic vision, and a deep commitment to improving organizational performance and community well-being. As CEO of Ohana Pacific Health and Hale Makua Health Services, Mr. Lo's accomplishments are nothing short of remarkable.

Under Mr. Lo's leadership, Ohana Pacific Health and Hale Makua Health Services have flourished, becoming the largest providers of post-acute care services in the State of Hawaii. His strategic initiatives, such as the affiliation and acquisition strategies that doubled the size of operations, establishment of innovative healthcare navigation services, and development of workforce development pathways, exemplify his forward-thinking approach to addressing complex challenges in healthcare delivery.

Mr. Lo's financial acumen and stewardship are equally impressive. He led Hale Makua Health Services through a significant financial recovery, increasing its net assets from \$2.5 million to \$12.4 million within a three-year period. Moreover, amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Lo navigated both organizations through turbulent times, resulting in increased net assets for both companies.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Lo has been actively involved in numerous community organizations, including serving as Chairman of the Board for the Hawai'i Health Network and as a director for the Maui Economic Development Board and Maui High School Foundation, among others. His dedication to community service underscores his commitment to enhancing the well-being of Hawai'i residents beyond the confines of his professional responsibilities.

Furthermore, Mr. Lo's prior experience as a director on the State of Hawai'i Board of Education and other boards positions him well to understand the complexities of governance and the importance of education in shaping the future of our state. His tenure as Chair of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee demonstrates his ability to provide insightful oversight and strategic direction.

In conclusion, Wesley P. Lo's outstanding qualifications, demonstrated leadership, and unwavering commitment to improving the lives of Hawai'i residents make him an ideal candidate for the State of Hawaii Board of Education. I urge you to support his nomination and confirmation, confident that he will serve with integrity, diligence, and excellence.

Thank you for considering Mr. Lo's nomination, and please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

*Rich Kishaba*

Founder Ohana Pacific Health

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 10:42:12 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelley Withy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to offer my strongest support for Wes Lo to Hawaii Board of Education.

Wes Lo has done amazing things for the education and training of members of the health workforce on Maui and beyond through his program development and advocacy for modern and innovative on the job training programs. He is a forward thinker which is what we need helping our youth succeed by developing and launching the innovative workforce development pathways (CNA to LPN “earn and learn” Bridge Program) with the University of Hawai`i and Department of Education.

On the business front, Wes has led Hale Makua Health Services through financial recovery which saw its Net Assets increase from \$2.5 million at 12/31/20 to \$12.4 million at 12/31/23. This is very impressive in an industry that is struggling with hospital closures. He strategically led the affiliation Hale Makua Health Services with Ohana Pacific Health, which created the largest provider of post-acute care health services in the State of Hawai`i.

As HHSC Maui Director, he led the most significant privatization effort in the history of the State, which included the passage of Act 103 (SLH 2015), which allowed Maui’s Public Hospitals to enter into an agreement with Private Hospitals to ensure sustainability and delivery of healthcare services to the residents of Maui County.

I believe Wes has the skills and caring to do an excellent job on the BOE.

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 1:56:38 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Craig G Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have know Wes Lo for many years, both socially and in his work capacity as head of the Maui Memorial Hospital and Hale Makua. Wes is smart, dedicated and hard working. His two children attended public schools here on Maui and I am sure that Wes will use that experience, together with his experience in his work and in the community, to benefit the State if his appointment to the Board of Education is confirmed. Our public schools here are facing challenging times, especially with the State financial situation and the Lahaina wildfires, and Wes will have a lot to offer, with his financial experience and also understanding of the community health situation.

I strongly support Wes' confirmation to the Board of Education.

Craig G. Nakamura

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 1:00:08 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeanne Unemori Skog	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of Wesley Lo's confirmation to the Board of Education.

In 1984, I joined the staff of the Maui Economic Development Board focussed on strengthening and diversifying Maui County's economic future. In 1999, I was elected President & CEO. It is that role that I was introduced to and came to fully understand the value Wes brought as a member of MEDB's board of directors not just to MEDB's mission but also to Maui and the State as a whole.

Wes's heart is in serving the community; that is his North Star. He demonstrated this in how he invested his time in assisting and leading at MEDB as Director and then Chair of the board; in his decision to switch from banking to the County of Maui; and then applying his leadership in pivotal health care institutions on Maui. In all cases, his acumen in Finance and strategic thinking combined with a desire to better lives of residents has created lasting improvements in systems, governance, and innovations in career pathways.

It is remarkable--and telling--that in spite of demanding professional positions, he wove active and substantial volunteer roles into his schedule. Education has been an ongoing thread of interest as is exemplified in previously serving on the Board of Education, supporting MEDB's STEM programs, and serving on the Maui High School Foundation.

Hawaii's education strategies, systems, and poilcies will benefit from Wes's breadth of public, private, and nonprofit experience, his creativity, and his collaborative spirit.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Unemori Skog

GM713, Board of Education Gubernatorial Nominee

Wesley Lo

It gives me great pleasure to write in support of nominee Wesley Lo's confirmation to the State of Hawaii Board of Education. My name is Eileen Wachi and I have worked with Mr. Lo for nearly seven years as a Hale Makua board member.

As an education board member representing the community, Mr. Lo has well demonstrated his ability through his past experiences working collaboratively with groups at all levels. As an example, Mr. Lo led the successful privatization of Maui Hospitals to meet Maui's changing community and can be attributed to his collaboration with various groups from government legislators to community working groups.

Mr. Lo is a well accomplished and respected leader. As shown in his resume, his finance experience enabled the implementation of best practices that led to increased revenues and ensured continued viability of the company. His direct involvement in organizational development to secure the next generation of leaders and as a key player in developing strategic initiatives to meet the future needs of our kupuna and those needing rehabilitation to return to normal life activities are commendable.

Your favorable consideration to confirm Wesley Lo as member of the State of Hawaii Board of Education will benefit our communities as demonstrated by his previous experiences resulting as an asset to the board. Mahalo for your vote.

# LAW OFFICES OF ALFREDO EVANGELISTA

A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW COMPANY

24 CENTRAL AVENUE ♦ WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

TELEPHONE 808.242.8100 ♦ MOBILE 808.294-5510 ♦ FACSIMILE 888.411.0834 [AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com](mailto:AlfredoGEvangelista@gmail.com)

April 7, 2024

Senate Committee on Education  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chairperson  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chairperson  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: GM 713-Gubernatorial Nominee Wesley Lo, Board of Education

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Aloha Senators Kidani, Kim and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

I am writing in support of GM 713, the nomination and confirmation of Wesley Lo to the Board of Education.

I have known Wes for over ten years in a number of professional and social capacities and have always found Wes to be dedicated, caring, trustworthy, hard working and professional.

I have several relatives and friends who are/were employees at either Maui Memorial Hospital or Hale Makua under Wes' leadership. They all have expressed the highest respect for Wes.

One of the relationships I have with Wes is serving with him on the Maui High School Foundation Board of Directors. When I served on the Board, Wes was dedicated to the students of Maui High School, innovative in addressing the needs of Maui High School, and always placed the needs and priorities of the students first.

Wes' track record not only at Maui Memorial Hospital and Hale Makua but more importantly at the Maui High School Foundation (as well as his many other community activities) is testament to his dedication and ability to be able to serve on the Board of Education.

Mahalo,



Alfredo G. Evangelista

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 1:11:41 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Takitani Leahey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate President Ronald Kouchi and Esteemed Members of the Senate,

I am writing to offer my strong support for Wesley Lo's nomination to the State of Hawaii Board of Education. I have known Wes for over two decades and having worked closely with him at Hale Makua Health Services and Ohana Pacific Health, I can attest to his unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and profound commitment to the community.

During my tenure as the Director of Communications and Development under Wes's leadership, I have witnessed firsthand his tireless commitment to enhance the quality of healthcare and education. Wes's role as the CEO of Hale Makua Health Services and Ohana Pacific Health exemplifies his exceptional leadership abilities and his profound understanding of the complex issues facing our healthcare and educational systems in Hawaii and beyond.

Under Wes's guidance, our team worked diligently to ensure that Maui and Hawaii continued to have access to a well-trained and dedicated healthcare workforce in long-term care. His visionary approach and steadfast commitment to improving the continuum of care for Maui County have set a benchmark for excellence in healthcare delivery. Wes's strategic initiatives have not only transformed healthcare services in Maui County but have also served as a model for the entire state, inspiring the creation of impactful healthcare workforce programs that have expanded statewide.

Wes's dedication to serving the community, coupled with his extensive experience in healthcare leadership as the previous CEO of Maui Hospital System and current CEO of Hawaii's largest long-term care company, Ohana Pacific Health, uniquely qualify him to serve on the State of Hawaii Board of Education. His visionary leadership, innovative ideas, and unwavering commitment to educational excellence will undoubtedly make a significant and positive impact on the future of Hawaii's educational system.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Wesley Lo's nomination for the State of Hawaii Board of Education.

Mahalo,

Ashley Takitani Leahey



ashleyleahey@gmail.com

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 12:29:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoa Leahey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha President Kouchi and members of the Senate,

My name is Kanoa Leahey and I am submitting this written testimony to wholeheartedly endorse Wes Lo for appointment to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I have had the privilege of working closely with Wes during his tenure as the CEO of Hale Makua, where I served on the board. His exemplary leadership, dedication to healthcare excellence, and unwavering commitment to community welfare make him an exceptional candidate for this esteemed position.

During Wes's tenure as CEO at Hale Makua, I witnessed firsthand his remarkable ability to navigate complex healthcare challenges while prioritizing the well-being of our community's most vulnerable members. His strategic vision, coupled with his compassionate approach to care, resulted in significant improvements in patient outcomes and organizational efficiency. Beyond his professional achievements, Wes has consistently demonstrated a profound commitment to supporting individuals and families facing healthcare-related difficulties. In my personal experience, Wes extended invaluable support to my family during a difficult time, providing guidance and empathy as we navigated challenging decisions regarding my parents' health complications. His compassion, expertise, and genuine concern for the welfare of others are qualities that set him apart as an exceptional leader and advocate.

As the CEO of Ohana Pacific Health, Wes continues to exemplify excellence in healthcare leadership, fostering innovation, and promoting collaboration to address the evolving needs of our community. His extensive experience in the healthcare industry, coupled with his proven track record of leadership and service, uniquely qualify him to contribute meaningfully to the Hawaii State Board of Education. His vision for equitable education, combined with his passion for community empowerment, will undoubtedly make a positive impact in the lives of students, families, and educators across our state.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Wes Lo for appointment to the Hawaii State Board of Education and respectfully urge you to consider his candidacy with the highest regard.

Mahalo,  
Kanoa Leahey

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/6/2024 8:41:41 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Holly Irimata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am writing in support of Wesley Lo's nomination to the Board of Education. As the CEO of Hale Makua and Ohana Pacific Health, Wesley has demonstrated exceptional leadership, dedication, and a profound commitment to serving the community. His extensive experience in leading large organizations in healthcare and finance, coupled with his previous tenure on the Board of Education, makes him uniquely qualified for this role.

During his time as CEO at Hale Makua and Ohana Pacific Health, Wesley has consistently shown a deep understanding of the needs and challenges facing our community, particularly in the realm of education and healthcare. He passionately shares his strategic vision for more education and opportunities for the youth in Hawai'i, and collaborates with schools and the university to help make the vision come to fruition. His leadership and advocacy have significantly improved the lives of many individuals and families across our state.

Wesley's previous experience serving on the Board of Education from 2011 to 2013 further demonstrates his capacity to effectively navigate the complexities of education policy and governance.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Wesley has served the community on numerous boards and organizations. He is known for his innovative vision and ability to foster collaborative partnerships.

As an employee of Hale Makua, I have witnessed firsthand his passion for the community, and I have no doubt that he will bring the same level of commitment and enthusiasm to his role on the Board of Education.

With that said, I would like to endorse Wesley Lo's nomination to join the Board of Education. His proven track record of leadership and his deep-rooted connections within the community truly make him an outstanding candidate for this key position.

Sincerely,

Holly Irimata



Michael Munekiyo  
757 Maalahi Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

SUBJECT: GM713 -- Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, WESLEY LO

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of Mr. Wesley Lo's nomination to the State Board of Education. I have known Mr. Lo for more than 35 years, dating back to his time in the banking industry. More recently, as a member of the Hale Makua Health Services (HMHS) Board of Directors, I have worked closely with Mr. Lo in policy making, organizational development, and strategic visioning for the HMHS.

Over the course of these many years, he has consistently demonstrated the leadership traits so important in bringing trust and integrity to any organization...that of courage, humility and an unwavering commitment to community betterment.

May I respectfully urge your confirmation of Mr. Lo's appointment to the State Board of Education.

Very truly yours,

Michael Munekiyo

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 2:59:42 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jayson Watts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and members of the Senate Committee on Education.

I write today in support of Governor's Message 713, Wesley Lo, Gubernatorial nominee to the Board of Education.

Wes is no stranger to executive leadership. He has successfully led large government and private sector institutions and served on the Board of Education from 2011 to 2013. A review of his qualifications and experiences demonstrates that Mr. Lo will provide much-needed leadership and business expertise to the Board and Department of Education.

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of this matter.

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 2:35:48 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith Mikami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony to fully support Wesley P Lo's appointment and confirmation to the Hawai'i State Board of Education (BOE) by Governor Josh Green, GM713. I initially met and worked with Mr Lo in his capacity as CFO at Maui Memorial Medical Center (MMMC) and later as Regional CEO of the Maui Region of the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation (HHSC). He had established the first and only comprehensive cardiovascular program that expanded to the neighbor islands, including Molokai. He was instrumental, at that time, to provide Na Pu'uwai, Native Hawaiian Health Care System, on Molokai and Lanai, educational materials on CVD health care and how we could work with our providers to partner with MMMC for further CVD evaluation and care. Then, when Mr Lo became CEO at Hale Major Health Services, we again reached out Mr Lo for his expertise in kupuna care. In addition, Mr Lo became CEO of both Hale Makua and Obama Pacific Health and we were able to work with him as he led the "earn and learn" Bridge Program at the University of Hawai'i and the Department of Education to develop workforce development pathways for our Molokai and LANAI CNA and later LPN students.

Thought these years of partnership with and learning from Mr Lo in different venues that have benefitted our Molokai and Lanai communities in especially health education and health care, he has remained a constant and consistent supporter of our efforts to improve the quality of life of our kupuna, our families, and our students, through his innovative methods and strategies.

I fully support GM713, Wesley P Lo's nomination and confirmation to the State of Hawai'i Board of Education (BOE) by Governor Josh Green. Mr. Lo will be an asset to the BOE as it continues to formulate statewide educational policies that will directly impact our students, teachers, and community on Molokai and the rest of the state. His expertise in having a viable strategic vision in organizational planning and development, his business acumen, and his skill in addressing challenges in health care, especially during the pandemic, is necessary in today's educational climate.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my testimony and support.

Aloha, Judy Mikami

Molokai resident



**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 2:23:40 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Valerie Janikowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing to recommend Wes Lo for the Board of Education seat in Hawai'i. Having had the privilege of working closely with Wes while advocating for elder care services on Lanai I have admired his qualities, and dedication to the betterment of services available in rural communities.

I met Wes in 2019, since I have witnessed his compassion, exceptional leadership skills, tireless work ethic, and commitment. His extensive experience in long term care services and community needs of Maui County, combined with his understanding of the challenges facing our state education system, uniquely qualify him for this important role.

He is a strategic thinker with a keen ability to analyze complex issues, identify solutions, and implement effective strategies. His collaborative approach, coupled with his strong communication skills, enables him to build consensus and bring diverse stakeholders together towards agreeable and goals. He deeply demonstrated to be invested in addressing the needs of undeserved communities and advocating for policies that promote inclusivity, diversity, and success.

Wes's integrity, and genuine concern for the welfare of others make him an exceptional candidate for the Board of Education. He leads by example, consistently demonstrating honesty, transparency, and a steadfast commitment to serving the best interests of others.

I wholeheartedly endorse Wes Lo for the Board of Education seat in Hawai'i. I am confident that he will bring invaluable insights, leadership, and dedication to the role. I urge you to give full consideration to Wes's candidacy, as I am certain that he will make a positive and lasting impact.

Thank you for considering Wes Lo for this important position.

Sincerely,

Valerie Janikowski

April 7, 2024

Re: GM713  
Wesley Lo Confirmation

I am writing to offer support for the appointment of Wesley Lo to the Hawaii Board of Education. Wesley Lo grew up in Honolulu and attended Punahou High School. His background in Honolulu and now as a resident of Maui is pertinent as it gives him knowledge of two major communities of Hawaii. This is critical to The Hawaii Board of Education.

I have known Mr. Lo for many years and find him to be extremely trustworthy and diligent in his duties and responsibilities. Mr. Lo's vast experience in fiscal and health care management and will be a true and positive addition to the Hawaii Board of Education. In fact, I do not know of any better candidate for this position that could bring this background, quality of education, and knowledge to The Hawaii Board of Education.

Mr. Lo and I have served on The Hale Makua Board of Directors since the time that he transitioned from his position as Regional Chief Executive Officer of The Maui Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation responsible for the overall performance of Maui Memorial Medical Center, Kula Hospital and Lahai Community Hospital.

It appears to me that there is no better person for a position on The Board of Directors of The Hawaii Board of Education than Wesley Lo.

Sincerely,



Roy Sakamoto

Managing Director

Coldwell Banker Island Properties Kapalua

Phone: (808)870-7060

E-mail: roy@sakamotoproperties .com

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/7/2024 10:17:52 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Josiah Nishita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for allowing me to provide testimony in strong support of the appointment of Wes Lo to the Board of Education. My name is Josiah Nishita, and I am the Managing Director for the County of Maui, but am testifying today in my personal capacity.

I have known Mr. Lo for many years, and have worked with him on a variety of community projects. I know Mr. Lo to be honest, compassionate, hard working and community focused. He will be an excellent addition to the Board, and I ask for your full support of his nomination.

Mahalo,

Josiah Nishita

**GM-713**

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 8:48:55 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/8/2024 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony Takitani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of Wes Lo regarding his nomination to the Board of Education.

I have know Wes for over 40 years and worked closedly with him for a period of approximately 15 years while he was the CEO of Maui Memorial Hospital. To be blunt and cut to the chase, Wes is creative, thoughtful and unique. He gets things done where one might have thought it was not possible. There is no doubt taht he would be a strong asset to the BOE.

Please consider his nomination favorably for Hawaii's sake. mahalo, tony takitani