



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

Date: 04/11/2025

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: GM 0778 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the School Facilities Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROBERT DAVIS, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) is in support of Robert Davis for the School Facilities Authority (SFA) Board. Mr. Davis' extensive and varied experience within the Department demonstrates a profound understanding of the needs of our schools and the communities they serve, making him an ideal candidate to contribute to the SFA.

Mr. Davis has served the Department for nearly three decades, holding positions of increasing responsibility and impact. Most recently, he served as the Complex Area Superintendent for the Leilehua-Mililani-Waialua Complex Area from January 2017 to December 2024. In this role, he focused on transforming school design and learning experiences through strong leadership and collaboration with the community. His experience in interfacing with relevant state offices to resolve matters of fiscal and resource management, school safety, and educational design is directly relevant to the operational aspects of the SFA.

Prior to his role as Complex Area Superintendent, Mr. Davis served as a principal, vice principal, regional officer, counselor, and teacher. These experiences have provided him with expertise on school level impacts to help guide the SFA's decision making and impact on our classrooms.

The Department recommends the confirmation of Robert Davis for the SFA Board.

GM-778

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 11:19:47 AM

Testimony for EDU on 4/11/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Tokioka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my **enthusiastic support** for the appointment of Robert Davis to the Hawai'i School Facilities Authority as a Board member. Mr. Davis brings a critical perspective and understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing schools and their facilities. His insights will allow for a more comprehensive and effective management of school physical spaces and priorities. I believe he will be an outstanding member of the Board.

I have known Mr. Davis for the past 15 years. During that time, he has consistently demonstrated his passion for education and his belief in the need to create interactive and exciting learning environments for our keiki. He understands that not only are the people important, but the environment that our children learn in is impactful as well. Mr. Davis is knowledgeable and will prove helpful in SFA's three key objectives: building preschools, building central Maui schools, and building workforce housing for teachers.

From his time as Principal of Ka'ala Elementary, he understands the importance of preschools to Hawaii's keiki. Mr. Davis knows that the more interactive and safe learning environments that 3 to 5-year-olds have to attend, the more these children gain over the long run in terms of social and economic advancement.

From his time as a Complex Area Superintendent for the North Side Central District (including Leilehua, Mililani, and Wailua areas), he knows that overcrowded schools can result in distractions, less personalized learning, and poorer student outcomes. Mr. Davis recognizes the urgent need for more schools and classrooms to accommodate students and ensure that each child receives the attention they deserve.

From his time as an educator, Mr. Davis also understands the deep commitment teachers have for their students and their desire to support the communities they live in. He recognizes that

failing to provide teachers with affordable housing means that fewer teachers will see teaching as a viable career, resulting in higher student-to-teacher ratios and poorer student outcomes.

All of these insights will allow Mr. Davis to move forward with conviction in providing Hawaii's communities with modern learning environments and affordable housing for teachers and other school supporters. Mr. Davis is dedicated to ensuring that communities get the school facilities they need to support their children and that teachers can find affordable housing so that they can focus on supporting their students. It is for these reasons that Mr. Davis would be an excellent addition to the SFA Board.