



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 0781 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the School Facilities Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, DAMIEN KIM, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) supports the nomination of Mr. Damien Kim to the School Facilities Authority (SFA) Board. The SFA plays a key role in school facilities projects, and the Department's ability to work effectively with the SFA is critical to ensuring that schools are built to support the needs of students and educators.

Mr. Kim brings over 30 years of leadership experience in the construction and electrical industries. As Business Manager and Financial Secretary of IBEW Local 1186, he oversees 3,000 members and manages multi-million dollar operations. His leadership of the Hawaii Electricians Trust Funds, which stewards over \$900 million, highlights his expertise in fiscal management and large-scale project oversight.

In addition to his technical and financial expertise, Damien Kim is deeply committed to education and workforce development. His involvement in organizations like the Waipahu High School IET Advisory Board and Adult Friends for Youth demonstrates his dedication to improving educational opportunities for Hawai'i's students.

We are confident that Mr. Damien Kim will bring valuable insight and strong leadership to the SFA Board. We respectfully urge the Senate to confirm his nomination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

GM-781

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 8:01:54 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall Nishimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Kidani and members of the Senate Committee on Education.

I am in favor of GM771 and whole heartedly support the nomination of Damien Kim to the School facilities Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Randall Nnishimura

GM-781

Submitted on: 4/9/2025 6:01:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Maafala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of GM781.

GM-781

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 6:49:52 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Al Itamoto	Testifying for Electrical Contractors Association of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Electrical Contractors Association of Hawaii fully supports the appointment of Damien Kim to the School Facilities Authority. His experience as the current Business Manager demonstrates his leadership and commitment to perform on the authority. In addition, his past experience on the HART Board including serving as the Chairman positions him as a well versed member of the Authority.

GM-781

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:24:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean mcIntosh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge support for DAMIEN KIM for Bill M&*!. Damien

is a highly respected union leader and has serve on

many high profile board. I know Damien because we

serve together on the board of Adult Friends for Youth.

Damien cares deeply about our youth and schools.

He will be a real asset in caring for our school facilities.



Adult Friends for Youth

"Redirecting lives to stop Violence"

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*Deborah L.K. Spencer-Chun,
M.S.W.*

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**Past Chair of the Board*

Testimony on GM 781

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

From: Debbie Spencer-Chun, President and CEO of Adult Friends for Youth (AFY).

In Strong Support of GM 781- Consideration and Confirmation of Mr. Damien Kim

Adult Friends works with many of the highest-risk youth in our communities, many of whom are involved in destructive behaviors often stemming from traumatic events in their lives. When trauma is not addressed and healed, negative behaviors manifest, causing destruction in our communities and affecting the lives of many citizens. We need champions to help us understand that redirecting the negative behaviors of these youth takes time, but is possible. Damien Kim is one of those champions.

He has served on the Board of Adult Friends for Youth for sixteen years and has been the Chair for the past three years. He understands that, in order to create peaceful and healthy communities, all youth must be valued and given opportunities to thrive. Damien is deeply committed to serving in all capacities to make Hawaii a better place to live.

For these reasons, I strongly support Damien Kim for consideration and confirmation to the School Facilities Authority. Mahalo for your time and for allowing me to testify.



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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
HEARING: APRIL 11, 2025, 3:00PM, ROOM 229**

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF GM 781 – NOMINEE: DAMIEN KIM

Honorable Chair Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim, and Members of the Committee Education:

I am honored to submit this testimony, both as a colleague and friend, in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination of Mr. Damien Kim as Board Member for the School Facilities Authority (SFA).

Mr. Kim's extensive experience in construction, management, and community leadership makes him an excellent candidate to help oversee the construction and maintenance of Hawaii's public schools.

Mr. Kim has been a Licensed Electrician in the State of Hawaii since 1990. His hands-on experience in the field, including his time as an Electrician Foreman at Wasa Electrical Services, provides him with the practical understanding of the construction process.

For nearly two decades, Mr. Kim has held leadership roles with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1186 (IBEW 1186), currently serving as Business Manager/Financial Secretary. In these positions, he has demonstrated his ability to manage complex operations, oversee large memberships, and handle significant financial responsibilities. Furthermore, he is the Chair of the Hawaii Electricians Trust Funds, managing over \$900 million in investments. This experience is directly relevant to the fiscal responsibilities of the SFA. His past service on the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART), illustrates his experience with large-scale public works projects.

Mr. Kim also has a commitment to the community as is evident in his involvement with organizations such as Adult Friends for Youth, and the Waipahu High School IET Advisory Board. These roles highlight his dedication so serving Hawaii's youth and education, aligning with SFA's mission.

On a personal note, Mr. Kim is one of the "good guys". His demeanor and personality make him easy to work with, and he has an ability to build positive relationships and foster collaboration, which will be invaluable in working with diverse stakeholders involved in the SFA.

In conclusion, Damien Kim possesses the experience, leadership skills, and community dedication necessary to excel as a Board Member of the SFA. I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** his nomination and urge this committee to support his confirmation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Takahashi
Director of Compliance

GM-781

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 3:42:57 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Shimizu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my earnest support for Damien Kim for confirmation to the School Facilities Authority. I have known Damien for several years as he is a fellow board member and the current board Chair of Adult Friends for Youth. I am continually inspired by his passion and dedication to serving the underprivileged youth in our community. Despite his busy schedule (and even prior to his selection as Chair), he attends every meeting, even hosting at times. He donates much of his free time, which i'm sure is very limited, to helping AFY in every way possible.

On a personal level, Damien is kind, outgoing, giving, compassionate, and is simply a good person. I am honored to know him and be able to call him a friend. His energy, character and expertise make him a perfect addition to the School Facilities Authority.

Mahalo nui for your time in reading this testimony.

Respectfully,

Jason Y. Shimizu, Attorney, Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters