



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

Date: 04/04/2025

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: GM 0775 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Education, Gubernatorial Nominee, MICHAEL MAGAOAY, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Purpose of Bill:

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) strongly supports GM 775, which nominates Mr. Michael Magaoay for the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE). His extensive experience in public service, engineering, and education advocacy will be an invaluable asset to the BOE.

With over forty years of leadership in engineering, facilities management, and project oversight, Mr. Magaoay understands infrastructure, budgeting, and strategic planning. His decade in the House of Representatives, including leadership roles as Vice Speaker and Committee Chair of the Legislative Management Committee, highlights his legislative expertise and dedication to public service.

Beyond his professional career, Mr. Magaoay has been deeply involved in education and community service, serving on boards such as the Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation and the University of Hawaii College of Engineering Dean's Council. He has also served as Chairman of the Hale Kipa Board of Directors, and the President of the Catholic Charities Hawaii Development Housing Corporate Board. His leadership experience and commitment to student success make him an excellent candidate for the BOE.

The Department urges the committee to confirm Mr. Magaoay's nomination. His experience and dedication will greatly benefit Hawaii's students and schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on GM 775.



ASHFORD + WRISTON
A LIMITED LIABILITY LAW PARTNERSHIP LLP

RYAN M. TOYOMURA
Direct: (808) 539-0492
Fax: (808) 533-4945
toyomura@awlaw.com

April 4, 2025

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

Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of GM 775; Michael Magaoay

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

My name is Ryan M. Toyomura, and I am an attorney with the law firm Ashford & Wriston, LLP, testifying in my personal capacity in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the nomination Mr. Michael Magaoay to the Hawai'i State Board of Education ("Board").

The Board was established by the Hawai'i State Constitution, which grants the Board the power to formulate statewide educational policy. The Board appoints the executive officers of the public school system and public library system, as well as the members of the State Public Charter School Commission. The Board leads the public education system through policymaking and oversight.

My Magaoay and I have known each other for many years, dating back to his service in the State House of Representatives. I consider him a good friend with outstanding character and a proven record of public service. His technical expertise as an engineer and vast knowledge of State government and the legislative process will bring incredible value and experience to the Board as it navigates the many challenges of our public schools.

Therefore, I respectfully ask the Committee to support Mr. Magaoay's nomination to the Board.

Respectfully,
ASHFORD & WRISTON
A Limited Liability Law Partnership LLP

By

RYAN M. TOYOMURA

RMT:lms

MAILING ADDRESS

Post Office Box 131 / Honolulu, HI 96810

STREET ADDRESS

First Hawaiian Center / 999 Bishop Street, Suite 1400 / Honolulu, HI 96813
T 808 539 0400 / F 808 533 4945 / E atty@awlaw.com / www.ashfordwriston.com



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
1822 KE'EAUMOKU STREET, HONOLULU, HI 96822

Testimony of Denise Iseri-Matsubara
Executive Director
Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation

Before the Senate Committee on Education
GM # 775
April 4, 2025

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Mercado Kim, and Members of the committee:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Mr. Michael Y. Magaoay to be considered for the Board of Education. He has a long history of giving back to the community, having served on more than a dozen boards including ours.

The Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation (CCHDC) is a non-profit developer, with nearly 500 affordable units in inventory, that is focused on serving seniors and the economically and socially disadvantaged in our community. The bulk of these units were completed during Magaoay's time on the board.

His extensive experience in engineering design work, dealing with cost estimates, and negotiating construction contracts, was very instrumental in the delivery of homes for our seniors. He can do the same for teachers should the BOE desire to pursue the development of affordable housing on its underutilized lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise Iseri-Matsubara
Executive Director

GM-775

Submitted on: 4/1/2025 2:13:42 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nolan Kawano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully and strongly support Michael Magaoay's selection to the Board of Education.

Mike is a true servant leader who only has the best interest of those he represents and advocates for, in this case public school students, in mind at all times.

He is a more than proven leader who listens and learns from all sides before embarking on a path towards reolution, innovation, and success for all parties.

As a past Board of Education member, I strongly support Mike in his selection to the Board of Educaiton.

GM-775

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 11:31:42 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Janowicz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and the Senate Education Committee,

I strongly support GM775, the appointment of Michael Magaoay to the Hawaii State Board of Education. I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Mr. Magaoay over the past 20+ years, and find him to be a thoughtful, caring, knowledgeable man with high integrity and morals.

Mr. Magaoay will be an asset to the Board of Education.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support.

Theresa "Tracy" Janowicz

GM-775

Submitted on: 4/2/2025 12:19:11 PM

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

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

Comments:

i fully support Michael Magaoay as a Gubernatorial nominee to serve on the Board of Education. As a Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation trustee and co-chair of the Iris Okawa Design for Civic Leadership, Michael has demonstrated a commitment and passion in serving Hawaii's public schools.

GM-775

Submitted on: 4/3/2025 5:43:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth T Hiraki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please accept my strong support of Board of Education nominee, Michael Magaoay.

I have worked together with Mike for over twenty-five years when we both served in the legislature and later as trustees serving on the board of the nonprofit Public Schools of Hawaii Foundation. Mike truly believes that one of the greatest gifts you can provide a child is the gift of a quality education.

While serving as the co-chair of the Foundation’s annual Design Thinking Bootcamp, he has helped to train a countless number of public school teachers and students how to think boldly and creatively to help solve life’s most difficult problems. Mike is always pushing to provide students with the latest technology and training. For example, the most recent Bootcamp paired Design Thinking with Artificial Intelligence for the first time, which allowed students from 12 public schools to build chatbots designed to help their peers with academics and essential life skills. The results far exceeded our wildest expectations.

Students as young as the 6th grade created ingenious chatbots to help tackle the problem of chronic absenteeism, teach financial literacy and help connect peers with college scholarships. Mike played a key role in helping to make this event a reality. With so many outstanding ideas arising from this initiative, the goal is to scale many of the student prototypes for possible use in schools statewide.

Based on my working relationship with Mike, I believe he is a visionary leader who is not afraid to seek new approaches and ideas to help improve Hawaii’s public school system. I humbly ask for the committee’s strong support of Michael Magaoay’s nomination to the Board of Education.