

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

Sylvia Luke
Lt. Governor

James Kunane Tokioka
DBEDT Director

Dane K. Wicker
DBEDT Deputy Director

Walter Thoemmes
Stadium Authority Chair

Michael R. Yadao
Stadium Authority Executive Director



Statement of
MICHAEL R. YADAO
Stadium Authority
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Tuesday, March 03, 2026
01:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
G.M. 618
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STADIUM
AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOEL KAWACHI,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority.

Mr. Kawachi serves as the Athletic Director at Moanalua High School, where he has led the athletic program for more than two decades. His experience reflects the type of practical, on-the-ground perspective that is essential to the work of the Stadium Authority. His responsibilities have included athletic facility operations, capital improvement planning, Title IX compliance, and youth development through education-based athletics, all of which closely parallel the operational and community-serving mission of the stadium.

As a resident of the stadium area since 2001, Mr. Kawachi also brings a personal connection to the surrounding neighborhoods and a clear understanding of how Aloha Stadium affects nearby residents. He has firsthand knowledge of traffic patterns, event impacts, and the role the stadium plays in local school athletics and community activities.

Throughout his career, Mr. Kawachi has hosted numerous athletic events at the stadium and coordinated statewide tournament logistics. He has worked collaboratively with the Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i, and the Oahu Interscholastic Association to ensure equitable and efficient use of shared athletic facilities. This

experience gives him a strong understanding of scheduling, access, safety, and fairness, key considerations as the Stadium Authority plans for future operations and programming.

The Stadium Authority will benefit from a member who understands both facility management and the student athletes and families the venue serves. Mr. Kawachi's background in education-based athletics, his operational experience, and his longstanding connection to the community make him uniquely qualified to help guide the stadium's future as a place that continues to support youth, schools, and statewide events.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Mr. Kawachi.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

Sylvia Luke
Lt. Governor

James Kunane Tokioka
DBEDT Director

Dane K. Wicker
DBEDT Deputy Director

Walter Thoemmes
Stadium Authority Chair

Michael R. Yadao
Stadium Authority Executive Director



Statement of
STEPHEN R. LEE
Stadium Authority
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Tuesday, March 03, 2026
01:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
G.M. 618
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STADIUM
AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOEL KAWACHI,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee.

I respectfully submit this additional testimony in strong support of the confirmation of **Joel Kawachi** to the Hawai'i Stadium Authority from the perspective of Stadium Authority Events and Operations Manager.

In our line of work, we regularly deal with scheduling coordination, participant flow, safety planning, and the logistical needs of large athletic events. As the longtime Athletic Director at Moanalua High School, Mr. Kawachi is a reliable and knowledgeable resource, providing practical experience managing athletic facilities and coordinating interscholastic competitions for our operations team.

As planning continues for the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED), the Authority will benefit from a member who understands how facility policies translate into actual operations. Mr. Kawachi's familiarity with event logistics, safety considerations, scheduling demands, and communication with schools and families will help ensure the future stadium is designed and operated in a way that effectively serves youth athletics and community events. His collaborative approach and willingness to assist operations staff make him uniquely qualified to help guide the stadium's future use.

G.M.618 (EDT)
March XX, 2026
Page 2

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Joel Kawachi to the Hawai'i Stadium Authority and thank you for the opportunity to provide this additional testimony.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Tuesday, March 3, 2026
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

GM 618
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STADIUM
AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOEL KAWACHI,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), **supports** the confirmation of **Joel Kawachi** to the Hawai'i Stadium Authority.

Mr. Kawachi's decades of leadership as Athletic Director at Moanalua High School provide him with a strong understanding of how major public facilities serve youth, schools, and the broader community. His experience coordinating large-scale athletic events, working collaboratively with the Department of Education, the University of Hawai'i, and the O'ahu Interscholastic Association, and managing facility use and operations offers practical insight that will be valuable as the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) moves toward future operations.

His community ties, operational perspective, and commitment to student-athletes align with the State's goals of ensuring the new stadium serves as both an economic driver and a community asset.

For these reasons, I respectfully support his confirmation.

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:31:35 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Jack Sur	Testifying for OIA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

Joel Kawachi has been a coach and AD at Moanalua HS for over thirty years. Throughout the years, the majority of stadium authority members were not affiliated with high school sports. Joel understands the complexity of getting things done in this state. He will definitely be a positive addition to this committee/authority.

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:13:49 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gillian Yamagata	Testifying for OIA Athletic Directors	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to offer my strongest support for Joel Kawachi’s nomination to the Aloha Stadium Authority.

Joel will be an outstanding candidate for this important position. With more than 30 years of experience in athletics as a Coach, Athletic Director, and Administrator, he brings extensive knowledge in planning, design, and the successful execution of major projects. Throughout his career, Joel has demonstrated a clear vision, a commitment to excellence in facilities development, and the ability to turn ideas into well-organized, high-quality outcomes.

His leadership style is rooted in strong communication, thoughtful planning, and high standards. He understands not only the operational needs of athletic programs, but also the long-term impact that well-designed facilities have on student-athletes, communities, and stakeholders. Joel demands excellence and delivers results.

If you want this project done — and done right — Joel Kawachi is the person to help lead it. I highly recommend him without reservation for the Aloha Stadium Authority position.

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 11:50:15 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylee Oshiro	Testifying for Moanalua High School Softball	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi in continuing to advocate for high school athletics as a Stadium Authority.

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 7:37:10 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonavann Kaululaau	Testifying for Moanalua High School Paddling Coach	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi Mahalo nui

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:44:40 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Cantero	Testifying for Oahu Interscholastic Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of Joel Kawachi being part of the Stadium Authority. Joel is a thoughtful, solutions-oriented leader who understands the importance of athletics and community spaces in shaping young people and bringing communities together. He recognizes that stadium facilities are not just structures; they are gathering places where families connect, student-athletes grow, and memories are created.

Joel brings integrity, accountability, and a clear commitment to serving Hawai'i's schools and communities. He understands the responsibilities that come with overseeing public facilities, as well as the need for transparency, safety, and long-term planning.

I fully support his involvement and believe he will represent our community with professionalism and care.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:10:06 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laynie Sueyasu	Testifying for Oahu Interscholastic Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi for this position. His experience and dedication to Hawaii athletics will provide valuable insight to the committee.

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 11:49:14 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent Komar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Joel's leadership at Moanalua has been second to none. It is also important to have of an education-based perspective on the Stadium Authority. I strongly support this appointment.

Aloha,

Vincent Komar

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 11:44:57 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harold Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Joel Kawachi will a great fit for the seat for Stadium Authority. He is a true leader and component for Athletics in Hawaii.

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:15:03 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nelson Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi's nomination to the Stadium Authority. With over 30 years of experience managing players, spectators, facilities, and support staff in stadium settings. He has a deep understanding of how large scale athletic events operate. He also knows the unique challenges faced by Hawaii's student-athletes, and I believe he is the right person to advocate for our schools and community.

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:23:49 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Allen Lane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

David Lane Athletic Director Aiea High School Aiea, Hawai‘i

2/28/2026

The Honorable Josh Green, M.D. Governor, State of Hawai‘i Executive Chambers State Capitol Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Dear Governor Green,

I am writing to express my strong support for the nomination of **Joel Kawachi** to serve on the Hawai‘i Stadium Authority. As the Athletic Director at Aiea High School, I have had the privilege of working with Joel for many years and have seen firsthand the dedication, integrity, and community-minded leadership he consistently demonstrates.

Joel has been a steadfast advocate for youth athletics and community recreation in our region. His deep understanding of the needs of Hawai‘i’s student-athletes—particularly those in Central O‘ahu—comes from years of direct involvement with local programs, families, and schools. He approaches every challenge with thoughtfulness and balance, always considering how decisions will affect students, coaches, and the broader community.

With the redevelopment of the Aloha Stadium site representing one of the most significant public projects in our state, it is essential to have leaders who understand both the operational realities of athletic facilities and the long-term vision required to create a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable district. Joel brings that combination of practical experience, collaborative spirit, and commitment to public service.

I am confident that Joel Kawachi will serve the Stadium Authority with professionalism, fairness, and a genuine dedication to improving opportunities for Hawai‘i’s youth and residents. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of his nomination.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, **David Lane** Athletic Director Aiea High School

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 2:31:41 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryce Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Joel Kawachi would be a great addition to the stadium authority and I support this nominee 100%.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Bryce Kaneshiro

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 4:17:02 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob Morikuni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly support Joel Kawachi!

-Sincerely,

Bob Morikuni

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF JOEL KAWACHI TO THE STADIUM AUTHORITY

February 28, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Jensen Ball, and I am writing to express my strongest support for the confirmation of Joel Kawachi to serve on the Stadium Authority.

I have had the unique privilege of knowing Joel for many years, first experiencing his leadership when I was a student and he served as our Athletic Director. Today, I have the distinct honor of working alongside him as a colleague at Moanalua High School. Having witnessed his dedication from both a student's perspective and now as a fellow colleague, I can confidently attest to his character, work ethic, and vision.

Joel is an advocate for public education and student athletes across Hawaii. He deeply understands that the new stadium should not merely be a venue for collegiate or professional events, but a vital community asset that serves our youth. He is committed to ensuring that all public school students have equitable access to top-tier sports facilities and the educational activities that surround them. On the Stadium Authority, Joel understands the needs of Hawaii student athletes and how the stadium can best support our students across the state so they have a place to compete, grow, and be proud of.

Furthermore, Joel brings a crucial, ground-level perspective regarding the neighborhood where the new stadium is being built. He actively lives in, works in and supports this community on a daily basis. Because of his deep ties to the area, he understands the impacts, needs, and hopes of the local residents and businesses. He will be an essential voice in ensuring that the stadium district development is a good neighbor that uplifts and benefits the surrounding community.

Joel Kawachi possesses the integrity, local knowledge, and dedication required to excel in this role. His lifelong commitment to Hawaii's youth and his deep roots in the community make him an ideal addition to the Stadium Authority.

I strongly urge the committee to confirm his nomination. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Jensen Ball

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 6:01:07 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aven Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel's appointment to this position. Mahalo

GM-618

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 6:22:02 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Kalma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Joel has been a strong and consistent leader for our athletics at Moanalua. It's also important to have an education-based perspective on the authority. I strongly support this appointment.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:18:43 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Murakami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been fortunate to see the work and efforts of Joel Kawachi for high school athletics and supporting our local communities. He's the perfect fit to be on the stadium authority to provide great insight to such an important group of people. I am in full support of Joel Kawachi as a member of the stadium authority.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:56:09 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nadine Villarmia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi for appointment to the Stadium Authority. Joel has dedicated 30 years to high school athletics and continues to be a powerful advocate for our students. His experience, leadership, and clear vision for high school athletic programs will help ensure thoughtful decision-making and a continued commitment to serving our student-athletes at the highest level possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:41:22 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaclyn Kaya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this appointment. Joel Kawachi's leadership at Moanalua has positively influenced all student athletes, coaches and staff.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:11:04 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair; Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair; and Members of the Hawaii State Senate

Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology

Re: Support for GM 618, Gubernatorial Nominee Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority

Dear Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee,

It is a privilege to submit this letter of support for Joel Kawachi’s nomination to the Stadium Authority board. Having known and worked alongside Joel for over two decades—first during my tenure as the information director at the Hawaii High School Athletic Association (HHSAA) and currently in my second year as the Associate Athletic Director at Moanalua High School—I can attest to his unparalleled expertise in athletic administration and facilities oversight.

Having seen Joel’s work from both a statewide perspective and now as a colleague, I can tell you that he is exactly the kind of leader we need for the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED).

In my time working directly with Joel, I have seen firsthand that he is a leader who builds for the future, not just for the "now." He is exceptionally forward-thinking and innovative when it comes to facility improvement, staying ahead of modern design trends and meticulously studying the flow of foot traffic to ensure spaces are optimized for the user experience. This vision is essential for a board member tasked with overseeing a once-in-a-generation entertainment district.

Joel’s hands-on experience with major projects is extensive. He has successfully managed a wide range of capital improvements at Moanalua High School, including the construction of a new weight room and fitness center upgrades, the resurfacing of tennis courts, and gym re-roofing projects. He also directed major upgrades to the baseball and softball fields, which culminated in the development of a multimillion-dollar multipurpose batting cage and multi-sport structure, as well as significant improvements to the track and field facilities.

Aside from the technical construction aspects, Joel is a veteran administrator who manages one of the largest public school athletic program in Hawaii, supporting over 1,000 student-athletes

and more than 20 different sports. He knows how to manage a multimillion-dollar budget, navigate complex state systems, and work effectively with contractors and legislators alike.

Importantly, as a veteran high school athletic administrator, Joel has seen firsthand the negative impact that losing the use of Aloha Stadium has had on our athletic events and education-based activities. He understands that this facility is more than just a stadium; it is a vital venue for highly-attended sporting events, graduations, and the large gatherings that mark the most important events for our state.

Joel is more than a veteran administrator. His ability to combine high-level strategic planning with a genuine understanding of the user experience makes him an ideal fit for the Stadium Authority. He is a visionary who understands that these facilities are a legacy for our community.

I strongly urge your committee to confirm Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority board.

Mahalo,

Natalie Iwamoto, Associate Athletic Director, Moanalua High School

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:57:22 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Okano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority.

As the Athletic Director at Moanalua High School, Joel has dedicated over three decades to the students and families of Hawai'i. He is not just a veteran administrator; he is a leader who understands the intricate "domino effect" that the closure of Aloha Stadium has had on our community. From displaced athletic championships to the logistical hurdles facing our performing arts programs, our schools have felt the absence of a central venue deeply.

Why Joel Kawachi is the Right Choice:

- **Deep Institutional Knowledge:** With 30+ years of leadership at both the school and state levels, he brings a historical perspective that is vital for long-term planning through 2029.
- **Voice for Education-Based Athletics:** His presence ensures that the needs of our student-athletes and youth activities remain a top priority in the development and management of the new stadium.
- **Proven Collaborative Leader:** Joel has consistently navigated complex challenges across the OIA and HHSAA, making him uniquely qualified to sit at the table where these critical decisions are made.

Having "one of our own" on the Stadium Authority is a significant win for Hawai'i's students. Joel Kawachi has the integrity, experience, and vision to ensure the new stadium serves the next generation effectively.

I respectfully urge the committee to confirm his appointment.

Mahalo,

Joy Okano

Moanalua High School Educator (23 years)

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:13:22 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CAL EVANS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly support Joel Kawachi for confirmation to the Stadium Authority. With over 3 decades of service to the Hawaii athletic community, Joel's experience will provide valuable insight in making the critical decisions that will ultimately affect the entire state.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:31:30 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Yoshida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the nomination of Joel Kawachi for the Stadium Authority.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:57:05 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Bernard-Reantas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Joel Kawachi is the perfect person for this Stadium position. I have known Joel for more than 20 years because of the work we do at Moanalua High School. He has done so much from molding young minds to transforming our athletic program to a top notch state organization helping countless students to be their best. He is the one that people trust. I support GM618.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:29:34 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Okuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I support the appointment of Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority Board/Committee.

Mr. Kawachi has been a coach and leader in Hawaii Athletics for over 30 year and is currently the Athletic Director of Moanalua High School. I believe Mr. Kawachi will be a strong contributor as he represents the largest body of sports in Hawaii (high school) and will be a voice of reason.

I support Joel Kawachi and I humbly ask for your consideration in appointing him to the Stadium Authority Board/Committee.

Sincerely,

Leiliani Y. Okuda, Educator, President William McKinley High School

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:52:35 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this appointment.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:58:51 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracie Koide	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi in this effort to help with the safety of our high school events.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:24:57 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iris McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi as a member of the Stadium Authority. I've known and worked with Joel for the past 20yrs as an Athletic Director. Joel has the knowledge and skills to help develop the best plan for our communities.

Date: March 2, 2026

To: The Stadium Authority Selection Committee

From: Rory Pico, Campbell High School Athletic Director

Dear Selection Committee of the Stadium Authority,

I am writing to express my support for the appointment of my esteemed colleague, Athletic Director Joel Kawachi, to the new Stadium Authority Committee. Having worked closely with Joel, I can confidently attest to his exceptional leadership, dedication, and deep understanding of the sports and entertainment landscape.

Joel's qualifications for this role are anchored in two distinct areas that make him an ideal fit for the committee:

- **Over 30 Years of Athletics Experience:** Joel has dedicated over three decades to the field of athletics. This extensive, hands-on background provides him with an unparalleled understanding of sports administration, facility management, and the complex logistics involved in running successful programs. He understands the needs of athletes, staff, and fans alike.
- **Expertise in Special Events Management:** As the new stadium prepares to host a wide array of activities, Joel's specific expertise will be an invaluable asset. He carries highly valuable, practical experience in coordinating and managing multiple large-scale special events. He knows precisely what it takes to ensure these events run smoothly, safely, and successfully from a logistical and community standpoint.

The success of the new stadium will rely heavily on its ability to serve as a multi-purpose venue that goes beyond standard athletic competitions. Joel's strategic vision and proven track record in event execution will help the committee maximize the stadium's potential as a premier destination for our community.

Joel is a dedicated professional, a strategic thinker, and a proven leader who always keeps the best interests of the community and the programs he serves at heart. I strongly urge the committee to appoint him to the new Stadium Authority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Rory Pico
Athletic Director
Campbell High School

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:41:52 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Venabel Agullana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this appointment.

March 2, 2026

To: The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 618, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Joel Kawachi

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure.

Joel is an innovative and dynamic athletic and educational leader and his continued service on the Stadium Authority would be an asset to the State of Hawaii.

As Moanalua High School's Athletic Director, he's successfully grown and developed the athletic program into a robust, multi-sport powerhouse. The school now succeeds in a variety of sports and offers an array of extracurricular outlets to its students.

Over the years, I've watched, as an alumnus and area State Representative, how Joel has tirelessly engaged alumni, community, and the business sector to help make Moanalua's athletic program so dynamic. He thinks outside the box and can achieve creative feats in the athletic program because he engenders great respect from students, parents, alumni, and the community. Through this creativity, he's not only upkept Moanalua's aging athletic infrastructure but also renewed and refreshed much of it. And although the community and alumni contribute greatly to Joel's strategy to keep up Moanalua's athletic physical plant and resources, Joel is also not afraid to roll up his sleeves and do the hard work himself. He inspires all—students and adults alike—by his humble, tireless work to provide quality facilities and opportunities for the entire Moanalua community.

It's this kind of creative, can-do mentality that makes Joel perfectly suited to continuing to serve on the Stadium Authority. He inherently understands athletic needs of athletic facilities for athletes, spectators, and community. The way he's turned Moanalua's athletic facilities into a hub for the whole community is exactly the kind of experience and vision that will aid in making the NASED development and its many components an overall success.

I have known Joel since I was a student at Moanalua High School. He faithfully serves whatever he's entrusted with—students, coaches, faculty, facilities, and the community. The entire Moanalua legislative delegation regularly consulted him for his perspective and his counsel. He is respected by all.

His creativity, vision, and faithful stewardship will continue to be an asset on the Stadium Authority.

I wholeheartedly urge the Committee to **support** Joel Kawachi's nomination to continue to serve as a member of the Stadium Authority.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Ling Johanson
Former State Representative, Moanalua to Aiea

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:02:19 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Matsukawa	Testifying for Department of Education: Mililani High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support the appointment of Joel Kawachi. Joel comes with a wealth of knowledge, expertise, fairness and is a man of high integrity. He will be an assest to the Governor's Stadium Authority Team.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:46:30 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly support Joel Kawachi for this position.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:47:36 AM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dane Canida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this appointment of Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority. As an Assistant Athletic Director at Moanalua High School, I have worked closely with Joel Kawachi for over a decade. I have watched the nominee continue to build and develop the athletic program into one of the top high school athletic departments in the state. He supports his staff and coaches while also effectively managing various stakeholders (i.e. student-athletes, parents, administrators, etc.).

He is a visionary, always looking for ways to improve our athletic department. From incorporating new sports into the athletic department (e.g. flag football, surfing, etc.) to making various improvements to our facilities (e.g. rubber track, gym video board, softball and baseball dugouts, turf field, etc.), he is constantly doing whatever he can to make the student-athlete experience the best possible. He has added so much to not just the Moanalua High School community but also to the greater Moanalua and Salt Lake community as a whole.

I can only imagine the impact he can have on the state level. He will work tirelessly on seeking out the best options for this next step with the new stadium project. With all of his experience as an administrator as well as his vision, he will be an integral and essential member of the Stadium Authority.

Please accept this testimony in support of the Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority.

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:59:34 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ivan Tamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi. I know that he is the right person for the position.

LATE

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 2:58:51 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raymond Fujino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi to the Stadium Authority. He brings extensive knowledge and expertise as well as experience as a long time high school athletic administrator.

LATE

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:15:50 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Shimoda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr. Joel Kawachi would be a great addition to the Stadium Authority. He has decades worth of experience in the DOE as a leader. He understands the needs of athletics; he himself wrestled in college. He is organized and dilligent. He has good ties to the community and would be a great asset.

Mahalo,

Cynthia Shimoda

LATE

GM-618

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:21:36 PM

Testimony for EDT on 3/3/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tricia Apana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support Joel Kawachi's appointment to the Stadium Authority. With over 20 years as Moanalua High School's athletic director, he will offer a valuable education based perspective and will bring a voice that represents our high school students and all athletes across the state.