

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. 619

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STADIUM
AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CLAIRE TAMAMOTO,
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 Claire Tamamoto to the Stadium Authority.

Ms. Tamamoto is a dedicated community volunteer leader for the 'Aiea district and currently serves as President of the 'Aiea Community Association. She is well known and widely respected among residents, and her appointment would provide an important community voice to the Authority during a critical period for both the stadium and the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) project.

The communities surrounding the stadium are directly affected by construction activity, future development, traffic patterns, and long-term operations. Ms. Tamamoto has consistently served as a trusted bridge between government initiatives and neighborhood residents. Her experience listening to concerns, sharing accurate information, and facilitating constructive dialogue will help ensure community members remain informed and engaged as the project moves forward.

The Stadium Authority benefits from members who understand not only policy and planning, but also how decisions impact nearby families and small businesses on a daily basis. Ms. Tamamoto's longstanding involvement in 'Aiea demonstrates her commitment to transparency, communication, and community partnership. Her

presence on the Stadium Authority will help strengthen public trust and improve communication between project leadership and the people who live closest to the project area.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Claire Tamamoto to the Stadium Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Ms. Tamamoto.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

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Lt. Governor

James Kunane Tokioka
DBEDT Director

Dane K. Wicker
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Walter Thoemmes
Stadium Authority Chair

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Stadium Authority Executive Director



Statement of
SAMANTHA L. SPAIN
Stadium Authority
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

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FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

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

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of the confirmation of **Claire Tamamoto** to the Hawai'i Stadium Authority from the perspective of communications and community relations.

As a leader within the 'Aiea community, Ms. Tamamoto has been an invaluable resource in helping us understand neighborhood concerns and perspectives as planning for the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASSED) moves forward.

She has consistently supported our outreach and marketing efforts by sharing information within the community, offering thoughtful suggestions, and helping ensure messaging is clear, relevant, and responsive to residents. Her familiarity with the area and trusted relationships allows communication efforts to be more effective and transparent, which is especially important as the project advances toward future development and operations. Her willingness to engage, provide feedback, and serve as a constructive partner has been extremely helpful, and her presence on the Authority will strengthen communication between the project and the surrounding community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Ms. Tamamoto.



**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

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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 619
**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE STADIUM
AUTHORITY, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CLAIRE TAMAMOTO,
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 **Claire Tamamoto** to the Hawai'i Stadium Authority.

As President of the 'Aiea Community Association and a longstanding community volunteer leader, Ms. Tamamoto brings a trusted neighborhood perspective that will be essential as the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) advances.

Her strong relationships within the surrounding community and her commitment to communication and public engagement will help ensure residents remain informed and involved as development progresses. Her ability to bridge community interests with statewide economic development objectives will support the project's long-term success and strengthen public confidence in the process.

For these reasons, I respectfully support her confirmation.



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

Subject: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of GM 619, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Claire Tamamoto

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

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** on this important measure.

The 'Aiea Community Association (ACA) is a non-profit community-based organization dedicated to serving the 'Aiea community. We wholeheartedly support Governor's Message 619, which nominates Claire Tamamoto to a second term as the 'Aiea community representative of the Stadium Authority pursuant to section 109-1(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

During her first term as a member of the Stadium Authority, Claire has worked tirelessly to make sure the interests of 'Aiea and Hālawā residents were consistently represented as the Authority forged ahead with the development of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED). For the last four years, Claire has been in consistent contact with area residents as NASED's planning progressed, and she worked diligently with other Authority members, stadium staff, and NASED's private stakeholders to ensure that the voices of 'Aiea and Hālawā residents were heard.

Beyond Claire's track record as an Authority member, we also support Claire's nomination because of her relevant experience and expertise in athletics, multi-generational community engagement, community development, government relations, and fiscal management. We also support her nomination because of the exemplary spirit of Aloha that she practices in all of her actions. For an institution that bears the name "Aloha" to live up to that name, its members should manifest the traits of character that expresses the charm, warmth, and sincerity of Hawai'i's people, as articulated in section 5.75, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Claire embodies this philosophy.

As a second-generation leader in athletics and community service, president of the 'Aiea Community Association for decades, and the inaugural recipient of the 'Aiea and Pearl City "Community Heroes Award," Claire has brought and will continue to bring a depth of respect, awareness, and connection to the area that will ensure that the Authority successfully advances its goals.



Based on Claire's extensive knowledge and leadership in the community and across Hawai'i Nei, we believe that she is eminently qualified for this important role.

We urge the Committee to **support** Claire Tamamoto's nomination to continue service as a member of the Stadium Authority.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,

Karen Higa
Vice President
'Aiea Community Association

GM-619

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 12:03:34 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Lum	Testifying for Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club

99-045 Nalopaka Place

‘Aiea, Hawai’i 96701

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

Subject: Testimony in SUPPORT of GM 619, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Claire Tamamoto

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

Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club is pleased to offer our wholehearted SUPPORT of GM 619, which nominates Claire Tamamoto to a second term as the ‘Aiea community representative of the Stadium Authority pursuant to section 109-1(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to share our deepest respect for her esteemed service.

Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club was founded in 1973 and is a chartered member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Our practice is to perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture, education, health, mālama ‘āina, and efforts that ensure the well-being of our community. We are headquartered in the ‘Aiea ahupua’a and are deeply involved in restoration of area wahi pana (important places), including Loko I’a Pā’aiua, the historic

Royal Fishpond attributed to Queen Kalanimanu'ia 500 years ago, through a MOU with the U.S. Navy.

Our relationship with Claire reaches back deeply over three decades, as she inspired our community to protect and preserve the spirit of 'Aiea, while working with public and private entities to manifest projects grounded in harmony and mutual benefit: 1) Resurrecting the 'Aiea Community Association, to respond to the challenges of the closing of the once-dominant Sugar Mill; 2) Visioning a fully-restored operational fishpond and cultural education and healing space that reconnects people to sacred space and each other, with the U.S. Navy; 2) Lifting the greatness of Kalauao as the thriving center of government under Mō'ī Wahine Kalanimanu'ia, at the new Skyline station; 3) Transforming the former sugar mill site into a learning, living and community gathering space for all generations; 4) Putting 'Aiea on the federal empowerment zone map; 5) Caring for our youngest keiki and our precious hulu kūpuna; and much more.

We echo the sentiments of the Aiea Community Association, which noted that during her first term as a member of the Stadium Authority, "Claire worked tirelessly to ensure the interests of 'Aiea and Hālawā residents were consistently represented as the Authority forged ahead with the development of the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED)." Through her fair and peaceful manner, for the last four years, Claire has cultivated consistent and close contact with area residents as NASED's planning progressed, while she worked diligently with other Authority members, stadium staff, and NASED's private stakeholders to ensure that the voices of 'Aiea and Hālawā residents were heard.

We further applaud Claire's nomination in light of her subject matter expertise in athletics, multi-generational business, community engagement, community development, government relations, and fiscal soundness. Moreover, we recognize and draw inspiration from the exemplary spirit of Aloha that she practices in all of her actions, to all people, especially, the traits of character that expresses the charm, warmth, and sincerity of Hawai'i's people, as articulated in section 5.75, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Born and raised in 'Aiea, with two generations below her, Claire's renown accrues priceless benefit to the Authority in the form of depth of respect, recognition, kindness, gratitude and connection to place that is essential to the advancement of its goals.

We are grateful to Claire for her trustworthy and tireless service and believe that she is eminently qualified to serve a second term.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support Claire Tamamoto's nomination to continue service as a member of the Stadium Authority.

Aloha aku, aloha mai. Love is given, Love is received.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kehaulani Lum

President

GM-619

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:07:08 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walden Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your consideration of Ms. Tamamoto. She has proven to be an effective and thoughtful community leader.

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 619, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Stadium Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, Claire Tamamoto

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

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

Claire has been an excellent and needed presence on the Stadium Authority. When we drafted the inclusion of community representatives in the originating legislation of the Stadium Development District, it was always my hope that Claire would serve as the Aiea representative. She uniquely embodies both Aiea roots and community advocacy coupled with a broader vision for regional and state success—a rare combination needed in large, complex, and hopefully transformative developments.

I have known Claire for the past 17 years as an advisor, advocate, and friend. When I served in the Hawaii State Legislature, every elected official representing the Aiea region would regularly consult Claire for her institutional knowledge and her pulse on the community. In addition to her lifelong Aiea residency, she is the President of the Aiea Community Association, Director of the Aiea Hongwanji Preschool, Aiea Pony Baseball leader, and Friends of Aiea Library leader. Her lifelong advocacy for Aiea makes her not only a highly respected community leader but also a wealth of institutional and historical knowledge.

Years ago, when we broke ground for the long-hoped-for new Aiea Library, I was struck by the fact that every elected official who spoke, from then Governor Neil Abercrombie to Senator David Ige to the many State Representatives, everyone referenced Claire as a driving force in bringing the library to fruition. She is a constant driving force for positive change within the community and the State of Hawaii.

And that very spirit, courage, and vision is a priceless asset on the Stadium Authority that needs to be preserved.

I wholeheartedly urge the Committee to **support** Claire Tamamoto'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