

**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**  
Interim Stadium Manager



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

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Friday, April 17, 2026  
01:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**G.M. 805**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEITH AMEMIYA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2031.**

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee.

The Stadium Authority respectfully submits testimony in **strong support** of the confirmation of Keith Amemiya to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i. Mr. Amemiya brings decades of leadership across Hawai'i's legal, business, education, and athletic communities.

He previously served as Executive Director of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association (HHSAA), where he strengthened statewide athletic programs, expanded opportunities for student-athletes, and successfully led fundraising efforts to sustain school sports programs during challenging financial periods.

His career has also included leadership roles in the private sector and community service on numerous boards, reflecting a longstanding commitment to supporting education, youth development, and civic engagement throughout the state.

Importantly, Mr. Amemiya previously served as a member of the Aloha Stadium Authority Board, where he contributed thoughtful leadership and collaboration on matters related to stadium operations, athletics, and community use of public facilities. His understanding of how major public institutions support students, athletics, and community development will serve the University of Hawai'i well.

As a proud graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a leader deeply connected to the state's education and sports communities, Mr. Amemiya brings a valuable perspective that will help strengthen the university system and its role in preparing Hawai'i's future workforce.

For these reasons, the Stadium Authority respectfully supports the confirmation of Keith Amemiya to the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

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



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**Executive Officers**

**Kit Okimoto**, Okimoto Corp., *Chair*  
**Jayson Watts**, Mahi Pono, *Vice Chair*  
**Jill Tamura**, Tamura Super Market, *Secretary/Treas.*  
**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *President and Executive Director*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Advisor*  
**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Education  
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: April 17, 2026

TIME: 1pm

RE: GM805 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH AMEMIYA, for a term to expire 06-30-2031.

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is pleased to support the Nomination of Keith Amemiya to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii. Central Pacific Bank has been a member of HFIA for many years and are the Official Bank of the Made in Hawai'i Festival. Keith's leadership has helped enable this amazing support for our local small businesses. We know that he would excel in this role and bring a wealth of valuable experience to the Board of Regents. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# Iron Workers Stabilization Fund

T. George Paris  
Managing Director

April 17, 2026

Members of the House Committee on Finance  
Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026

1:00 PM  
Conference Room 229  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**Re: Support for GM805, Consideration and confirmation to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, KEITH AMEMIYA, for a term to expire 06-30-2031.**

Aloha Chair Mercado-Kim, Vice-Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Education.

I, T. George Paris, am writing to express my strong support for the confirmation of Keith Amemiya to the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.

Mr. Amemiya possesses an impressive and diverse professional background, having excelled in various fields first as an Attorney and through his significant contributions to education, sports, and finance. I firmly believe that his extensive skills and experience qualify him to be an asset to our university system. His appointment will help improve the quality of higher education for the entire State of Hawaii.

Respectfully,

T. George Paris  
Managing Director

# BRYAN K. MICK

47-420 HUI IWA STREET #204  
KANEHOHE, HI 96744

April 17, 2026

Dear Chair Kim and committee members,

I would like to submit my strong support in my personal capacity for GM 805 and the appointment of Keith Amemiya to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

I became aware who Keith was because I coached High School basketball from 1999 to 2007, which overlapped with his tenure as the Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association. I was impressed by his ability to launch a true football championship tournament, the expanded opportunities for girls' sports, and his leadership of the Save our Sports campaign that saved public school athletic programs from Governor's Lingle's budget cuts.

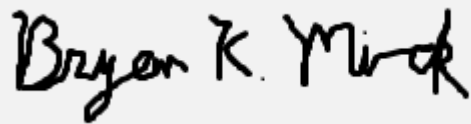
I know Keith because in 2019 a mutual friend asked me to have lunch with him as he prepared his run for Mayor. I had previously spent 12 years as a mayoral appointee and participated in many campaigns. My friend later asked me what was my impression of Keith, and I replied, "he seems earnest and motivated to run for the right reasons, but he has a lot to learn about the City and how it operates." Within a month, Keith had learned every City department's operating and capital budgets, how they related to one another, their historical growth trends, and—most importantly—what each department did in practice, not just on paper. A month after that, Keith had become knowledgeable about many smaller budget details and programs in the departments and had learned who the key people were in various City departments. He often had met with them to hear their perspectives on City issues. And a month after that, he had started to meet with community leaders across the island, earning the support of many of them along the way.

Keith will bring this same laser focus, capacity to absorb large amounts of information, and willingness to engage with the community to the Board of Regents. However, he will

have a head start in this role, since he previously served as Executive Administrator and Secretary to the Board of Regents. He is already familiar with the structure of the University and with many of the key people who make it run. I have no doubt he will prove to be a valuable member of the Board of Regents and an inspired choice.

As a proud alumnus of UH Manoa, I would like to thank Govern Green for nominating Keith and urge the Senate to confirm him.

Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bryan K. Mick". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bryan K. Mick

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Danson Honda, and I am writing in strong support of the nomination of Keith Amemiya to serve on the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents.

I would like to share a personal story that speaks to Keith's character, leadership, and lasting impact on the next generation of leaders in our community.

As a young high school student, I had the honor of serving as the student representative on the Hawai'i State Board of Education. While I was grateful for the opportunity, I often felt intimidated, out of place, and unsure of how to find my voice in rooms filled with experienced professionals and decision-makers.

During that time, Keith took the initiative to support and mentor me. He did not treat me as "just a student," but as someone whose voice mattered. He encouraged me to speak up, to engage, and to lean into the responsibility I had been given. More importantly, he took tangible steps to help me grow—connecting me with stakeholders, helping facilitate meetings, and guiding me as I worked to advance the initiatives I cared about.

That experience changed the trajectory of how I show up in leadership spaces today.

In recent years, I have become a strong voice at the Hawai'i State Legislature, actively advocating on issues that impact our communities. The confidence to testify, to engage with policymakers, and to stand firm in what I believe in did not come naturally to me—it was developed over time. And it started with leaders like Keith who took the time to invest in me when I was still finding my footing.

Because of his mentorship, I learned that feeling out of place is not a reason to stay silent—it is a reason to step forward.

This is what sets Keith apart. His leadership is not just about decisions at the highest level, but about empowering others along the way. He understands how to bring people into the process, how to develop confidence in young leaders, and how to create space for voices that might otherwise go unheard.

The University of Hawai'i has a responsibility not only to educate students, but to help shape leaders who will contribute to our state for generations to come. Having someone like Keith Amemiya on the Board of Regents—someone who has demonstrated a deep commitment to mentorship, leadership development, and community engagement—would be an incredible asset to the institution and the students it serves.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support his nomination.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Danson Honda

TESTIMONY FOR THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
THE HONORABLE DONNA KIM, CHAIR, AND THE HON. MICHELE KIDANI, VICE CHAIR  
17 April 2026  
Dylan P. Armstrong (*Individual Capacity*)

Aloha Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering my testimony in support of Keith Amemiya for the University of Hawai‘i (UH) Board of Regents (BoR), via Governor’s Message 805.

The BoR is a topic of critical importance for the future of the state’s workforce, through its governance of the UH. I am proud to be a UH alumnus and former student employee. In former capacities such as Mānoa Neighborhood Board Chair (2019-2022), I have some additional exposure to UH structure and function.

As you can see in Mr. Amemiya’s resume, he appears well qualified for the BoR due to his extensive volunteer service within education, as well as his professional experiences, which include serving as Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association and as Executive Administrator for the UH BoR. Beyond these assets he is well-rounded generally. An attorney by education with litigation experience, Mr. Amemiya now has a successful leadership career with Central Pacific Bank, where he is a familiar and comforting sight to bank customers and members of the downtown community.

Having known Mr. Amemiya for several years now, some of his personal attributes which have impressed me include his tactfulness, his sense of public service, and his willingness to take worthwhile risks.

It’s still only one year into the administration of UH president Wendy Hensel, by all appearances serving capably and with esteem. This is a special opportunity to unite the Senate and administration of UH through your power to confirm Regents for the BoR.

With key questions like the future of UH Athletics and System deferred maintenance present before you, Mr. Amemiya’s qualifications as both a businessman and athletics expert seem to be a welcome gift for UH’s volunteer governing Board. I hope you see the good in Mr. Amemiya that I do, and find yourself moved to vote Aye in support of the measure.

Mahalo nui loa,  
DYLAN P. ARMSTRONG  
Individual Capacity

Testimony Presented to the Senate Committee on Education  
Friday, April 17, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

GM805 - FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEITH AMEMIYA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2031.

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Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee -

I am writing in **strong support** for the confirmation of Keith Amemiya to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Keith brings a rare combination of local roots, broad leadership experience, and a lifelong commitment to education and community service. As a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the William S. Richardson School of Law, he understands firsthand the transformative role that the University plays in shaping Hawaii's future.

As Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association, Keith oversaw and raised funds to support the athletic programs of all Hawaii high schools during a time of need.

Keith also brings direct, inside experience with the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. As Executive Administrator and Secretary to the Board, he worked closely with Regents, the UH President, and leadership across all ten campuses. He understands how the system operates, where it can improve, and how to help move it forward.

The University of Hawaii is a complex, statewide institution that requires not only academic leadership, but also strong governance, financial discipline, and strategic decision-making. Keith's private sector experience, including his current role at Central Pacific Bank, brings that critical perspective.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to confirm Keith Amemiya to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Brandon Kurisu

[brandonkurisu@gmail.com](mailto:brandonkurisu@gmail.com)

Hearing Date: 4/17/2026  
Conference Room 229  
In consideration of Governor Message No. 805  
Keith Y. Amemiya  
Gubernatorial Nominee to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

April 15, 2026

Chair Senator Donna Mecado Kim  
Vice Chair Michelle N. Kidani  
Senate Committee on Higher Education

Re: Support Keith Y. Amemiya's nomination

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and  
members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education,

This letter is being submitted in strong support of Keith Y. Amemiya's nomination to the Board of Regents, University of Hawaii.

I am a former member of the Board of Regents and served from 2009 to 2014. During my time on the Board of Regents, I served as vice chair from 2011 to 2014, chair of the audit committee and chair of the committee for technology and innovation. I am currently a member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Hawaii Foundation and has chaired the Association of Emeritus Regents. I have had the opportunity to work with Keith when he was the executive administrator and secretary for the UH Board of Regents.

I have known Keith on a professional basis since the 1990s when he was the executive director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association. In my opinion, Keith will be an excellent regent. He is a proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the William S. Richardson School of Law. He understands finances, law and board governance. He has excellent analytical and communication skills.

Keith cares deeply about the University of Hawaii and its success in educating its students. He has a passion for the University of Hawaii and higher education. He understands that the University of Hawaii is the only publicly funded institution of higher education in the State of Hawaii and understands the need to have a very good university system. I am confident that Keith, as a Regent, will do his very best to make sure that the University of Hawaii continues to be one of the best universities in the country. It is my sincere hope that you confirm Governor Green's nomination of Keith Y. Amemiya to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Very truly yours,

*James H2 Lee*

James H.Q. Lee

Catherine Camp  
360 Lanipo Drive  
Kailua, HI 96734

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of Keith Amemiya for the University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the appointment of Keith Amemiya to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents.

Keith brings a compelling combination of governance experience, operational insight, and statewide leadership. His prior role as Executive Administrator and Secretary to the Board provides him with a strong understanding of Regent responsibilities, governance processes, and system-wide priorities—enabling him to contribute immediately.

As Executive Director of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association, Keith led a complex, statewide organization serving more than 33,000 student-athletes. His tenure was defined by measurable outcomes, including expanded access and increased opportunities for smaller schools and female athletes, as well as meaningful financial support for neighbor island programs.

In his current role as Senior Vice President of Community Relations at Central Pacific Bank, Keith continues to demonstrate strong public-private partnership capabilities, aligning corporate resources with community priorities and advancing initiatives that strengthen education and youth development statewide.

Keith's ability to operate at both a strategic and execution level, combined with his deep relationships across Hawaii's communities, positions him well to help guide the University through an increasingly complex environment.

A proud graduate of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and the William S. Richardson School of Law, he brings both personal commitment and professional discipline to this role.

I respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Camp', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Catherine Camp  
EVP, Facilities and Community Impact  
Central Pacific Bank

**GM-805**

Submitted on: 4/15/2026 4:45:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 4/17/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Howard H Karr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senators:

Re: Written Testimony in Support of Keith Amemiya for the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents

It is my pleasure to recommend the appointment of Keith Y. Amemiya for one of the Honolulu County seats on the University of Hawaii's (UH) Board of Regents (BOR). I have known Keith for over 40 years. He is a graduate of a local private school, and a UH graduate with degrees in Finance and Law. Amemiya has an extensive background as an attorney in both public and private practice, as a business executive with two local companies in the banking and insurance sectors, and as an executive administrator (also, "donor/fund raiser") to the Hawaii High School Athletic Association. On a personal note, I secured Amemiya's services as the Executive Administrator and Secretary to the UH BOR during my two terms (2009-2010 & 2010-2011) as Chairman of the BOR. He did an exceptional job in this capacity.

Amemiya is committed to community and public services, sports activities, and educational development. He has the ability to collaborate and build consensus among diverse people and groups.

Amemiya understands the Hawaii Legislative system and would be instrumental in assisting the UH system and BOR in this regard.

Amemiya is known throughout the State and can be very helpful to the UH Foundation in the latter's fund raising activities.

In conclusion, I strongly support Keith Y. Amemiya's appointment to the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. He has the passion, vision, commitment, character and cooperative spirit to accomplish his goals for the UH and BOR.

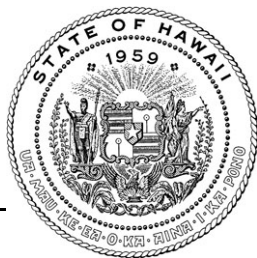
Mahalo for your support of Keith Y. Amemiya,

/S/ Howard H. Karr

Vice Chairman and Chief Financial Officer (Retired) First Hawaiian Bank

Member and Chairman of the University of Hawaii's Board of Regents (2009-2011 and Vice Chairman ((2008-2009)

Chairman of the University of Hawaii Foundation (1997-1998 and 2003-2005)



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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA  
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Testimony of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

Friday, April 17, 2026  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**GM 805**  
Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the  
Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee,  
**KEITH AMEMIYA, for a term to expire 06-30-2031.**

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

I **strongly support** the confirmation of Mr. Keith Amemiya to the University of Hawai'i (UH) Board of Regents.

Mr. Amemiya is a proud UH graduate, holding a BBA in Finance from UH Mānoa and a J.D. from the William S. Richardson School of Law. Born and raised in Hawai'i, he has dedicated his career to serving our communities and expanding opportunities for Hawai'i's youth. His commitment to education, equity, and Hawai'i's long-term success makes him exceptionally well suited for this role.

His professional background reflects a unique blend of legal, public, nonprofit, and private-sector leadership. As a litigation attorney, he was active in the Hawai'i State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and later served as its President.

Mr. Amemiya went on to serve with distinction as Executive Director of the Hawai'i High School Athletic Association, supporting all 95 high schools and more than 33,000 student athletes statewide. During his tenure, he expanded athletic opportunities — particularly for smaller schools and female athletes — and helped more than double the

number of state championships, placing Hawai'i among the national leaders. His work with educators, families, and community stakeholders across every island gives him deep insight into the diverse needs of our state.

Most recently, I have worked closely with Mr. Amemiya in his role as Chair of Governor Green's Sports Task Force under DBEDT. He is leading efforts to develop statewide sports strategies that create new opportunities for Hawai'i and generate positive community and economic impacts.

Mr. Amemiya also brings direct experience with the UH System and the Board of Regents. As the Board's Executive Administrator and Secretary, he worked closely with Regents, UH leadership, and stakeholders across all 10 campuses.

His private-sector experience — including his executive work at Island Holdings and his current role as Senior Vice President of Community Relations at Central Pacific Bank — has strengthened his ability to build partnerships and support underserved communities. He collaborates regularly with numerous UH programs, including COP, PACE, UHERO, Shidler, Richardson Law, UH Maui College, and UH Athletics.

Following the Maui wildfires, Mr. Amemiya spearheaded a fundraising campaign to support the 450 Lahainaluna High School student athletes and 50 coaches displaced by the fires. Funds helped replace lost equipment, support coaches who lost their homes, and cover state tournament travel costs.

His long-standing dedication to education is also evident in his service on statewide boards and commissions, including the Hawai'i State Board of Education, Teach for America, Assets School, The Learning Coalition, HHSAA, and the Advisory Commission on Gender Equity in Athletics.

Mr. Amemiya's experience, statewide relationships, and lifelong commitment to Hawai'i's youth and educational system make him an outstanding choice for the UH Board of Regents. His appointment would be a tremendous asset to the University and the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer my strong support.