

January 15, 2020

Members of the Board of Education

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify against the proposed plan to move Kaahumanu Elementary School to the McKinley High Campus.

My name is Neal Takamori, retired educator and administrator from the DOE. I served as a teacher, coach, and counselor for twenty years at Dole Intermediate and McKinley High School. I became an administrator and Athletic Director twenty-five years ago at Likelike Elementary and McKinley High School. I currently serve as president of the McKinley High School Foundation.

The social, emotional and physical needs of elementary school students are vastly different from the needs of high school students. The physical facilities of each school reflects the programs addressing the needs of the students. As a former administrator at Likelike Elementary and McKinley High School, I believe that placing Kaahumanu Elementary on the Campus would be a big mistake.

First, there will be increased security problems. Especially between the campuses. Did anyone talk to the school personnel to get feedback?

Second, I can see potential problems with bullying of elementary students by high school students.

Third, the possibilities of delinquent behavior targeting elementary students would be increased.

Fourth, the delinquent behavior of some high school students would serve as a negative model for elementary students.

Fifth, It would be a waste of money to relocate Kaahumanu Elementary School onto McKinley High School.

There are better alternatives to explore rather than putting Kaahumanu Elementary onto the McKinley High School campus.