

## General Business Meeting

### Name

Carissa Tafuna

### Agenda Item

V. Report of the Superintendent

### Position

Comments only

## Written Testimony

### Write Testimony

TO: Hawai'i State Board of Education

FROM: Carissa Tafuna

DATE: April 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Written Testimony Regarding Extended Teacher Absences and Investigation Procedures in Kaiapuni Schools Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Board,

My name is Carissa Tafuna, and I am a parent of four keiki in the Hawai'i Department of Education. I am writing to testify about a critical systemic issue: the detrimental impact of prolonged administrative investigations on our students, specifically within the Ka Papahana Kaiapuni (Hawaiian Immersion) program.

Currently, my 2nd-grade student and his classmates at Hau'ula Elementary have been without their certified, Hawaiian-speaking teacher for over a month following an incident on February 22. In the interim, the class has been led by English-speaking substitutes. For immersion students, this is not just a change in personnel; it is a total disruption of their core learning environment. My child is now expected to learn core subjects in English, which directly undermines their language acquisition and academic progress for the entire 4th semester.

This is not an isolated incident. In the 2023-24 school year, my 4th-grade student at Kahuku Elementary spent over six weeks at the start of the year with a substitute due to a similar investigative delay.

Complex Area Superintendent Izumi has indicated that resources for these investigations are limited, necessitating prioritization. However, the current pace of these "outdrawn" investigations has a direct, negative effect on entire classrooms of students. It is unacceptable that a single complaint—often from parents of students already causing major disruptions—can effectively remove a certified teacher from a classroom for months without a swift resolution or a linguistically qualified replacement.

I propose that the Board of Education initiate a formal review of investigative procedures with the following goals:

**Mandatory Timelines:** Establish strict, expedited timelines for preliminary investigations to minimize the time a teacher is out of the classroom.

**Linguistic Continuity:** Create a contingency requirement for Kaiapuni classrooms ensuring that if a teacher is removed, a Hawaiian-speaking substitute or temporary reassignment must be prioritized to maintain the immersion environment.

**Resource Allocation:** Allocate necessary resources to the investigative units to ensure they can meet these expedited timelines without compromising the quality of the inquiry.

Our keiki deserve a learning environment that is stable, culturally grounded, and academically rigorous. The current administrative delays are failing them. I urge the Board to prioritize these procedural reforms to ensure our teachers can return to their students sooner and our immersion programs remain intact.

Mahalo for your time and for your commitment to our keiki.

Sincerely,

Carissa Tafuna

Parent, Hau'ula Elementary & Kahuku Elementary

carissa.tafuna@gmail.com

612-840-4784

## General Business Meeting

### Name

Susan Pcola-Davis

### Organization

Self

### Agenda Item

V. Report of the Superintendent

### Position

Comments only

## Written Testimony

### Write Testimony

My request to The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz,

I would like to have a short meeting with you. Please help me understand. No longer than 10 minutes to discuss the following;

My in person testimony: WAM/EDU April 6 @ 10:39  
Bill: HB2567 SD1 proposed

I was the one that testified that the BOE would need to be trained to do performance reviews of the CAS's.

1. How would they get their information based on the criteria.
2. How do you train them to do evaluations of 27 complex area superintendents? To be objective?
3. It's a logistical nightmare!

What makes the BOE able to evaluate the Superintendent?

1. On a monthly basis the BOE convenes meetings in which they can gather objective information to fairly do his annual evaluation.
2. He is also measured by attaining goals in the Strategic Plan.

Where is the BOE at these hearings? Do they want to do CAS evaluations?

Susan A. Pcola-Davis  
808-387-3061

I regularly attend BOE meetings and testify.

## General Business Meeting

### Name

Kalea K.

### Agenda Item

VIII. Student Achievement Committee oral report on March 12, 2026, meeting

### Position

Comments only

### Written Testimony

#### Upload Written Testimony Here

- [Testimony3.pdf](#)

# Please Help Our School

## Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Wai'au

Aloha,

My name is Kalea and I go to Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Wai'au. I love my school and my Kumus. I hope to stay in Pearl City for middle school. My mom has a disability and cannot drive. Will you please help my school stay together in Pearl City?

Mahalo,  
Kalea