

General Business Meeting

Name



Agenda Item

II. Report of the superintendent

Position

Comments only

Written Testimony

Write Testimony

Dear Chair Takumi and Board Members,

I am a parent of a student at Washington Middle School, and my second child will be attending WMS next year. I wanted to reach out directly to share some thoughts as a parent.

As you know, WMS is a unique school. Many WMS families work long hours, and our kids come from many different backgrounds. For my family and many other families, WMS is more than just a place where our kids go to school. It is also a safe and stable place for them.

Right now, though, it feels like the school is stuck.

I want to first say how grateful we are for our interim principal and the teachers who continue to show up every day and do their best to keep things normal for our kids. We really appreciate everything they are doing.

At the same time, it is difficult to see the administrative review continue month after month without knowing when there might be an update. Principal Harano has served WMS for more than 20 years, including during COVID when so much was uncertain. It is also difficult for our school community to see this situation continue for so long.

As parents, we try to teach our children about fairness, honesty, and doing the right thing. School is also a place where they see those values in real life. I hope our kids can see that difficult situations can be handled fairly, clearly, and within a reasonable amount of time.

Our kids notice more than we sometimes realize. With WMS approaching its 100th anniversary, I think our school community needs some clarity about what comes next and stable, long-term leadership.

I am not asking for any confidential details about the case. I simply hope the Board can help move the review forward, or at least ask HDOE if there is a general timeline they can share with the school community. Even having some idea of what to expect next would mean a lot to our families.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message and for everything you do for Hawaii's students. As a parent, I just want our kids and our school to have the stability and support they need.

Sincerely,

Parent, Washington Middle School

(Note to BOE Secretary: Please list this submission in the public testimony packet as "Parent, Washington Middle School" for privacy. Mahalo)

General Business Meeting

Name

Raymond Chun

Agenda Item

V. Action on designation of Board Members to an investigative committee (a permitted interaction group pursuant to paragraph 92-2.5(b)(1), Hawaii Revised Statutes), concerning a comprehensive audit of Board of Education policies and policy framework

Position

Support

Written Testimony

Upload Written Testimony Here

- [Chun-Testimony-to-the-Hawai'i-State-Board-of-Education-combined.pdf](#)

Testimony to the Hawai'i State Board of Education

Aloha Chair and Members of the Board,

My name is Raymond Chun, a parent of a kindergartener at Wilcox Elementary. I am demanding a state investigation and disciplinary action against State Superintendent Keith Hayashi, Complex Area Superintendent Leila Kobayashi, and Principal Corey Nakamura for severe administrative negligence and open records violations.

I have submitted photographic and video evidence proving unsupervised five-year-olds regularly run out the exit gate into moving traffic. I personally witnessed a kindergarten girl get knocked into the street during dismissal. After I met with the school, they temporarily deployed an additional Vice Principal and teachers walked students to the exit gate—proving they have the resources. Yet, safety remains a temporary performance.

Principal Nakamura stated teachers have no contractual obligation to supervise dismissal, leaving five-year-olds to navigate traffic because, quote, *"we will teach them how."* Superintendent Kobayashi defended this in writing, stating there is *"no guarantee that operational changes will be implemented based on individual suggestions"* and that the Principal holds *"full managerial authority."* I escalated this to Superintendent Hayashi; he completely ignored me.

This negligence is a pattern. The administration rushed to reopen post-hurricane, ignoring a crushed, sharp perimeter fence that Kobayashi falsely claimed was *"safely contained."* Furthermore, they are hiding data. My September 14th UIPA records request is now at 15 business days—well past the 10-day legal deadline.

Please do not dismiss me as a complaining parent. I am terrified a child will be harmed or kidnapped. I demand a formal review of this leadership and an immediate state mandate forcing Wilcox Elementary to maintain secure, adult-supervised gate dismissals all year.

Mahalo.

School Pick-up Safety

From: Joseph Hedstrom (joseph.hedstrom@k12.hi.us)

To: chun.raymond@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 10:53 AM HST

Dear Mr. Chun,

Thank you for reaching out with your concerns regarding our kindergarten dismissal process. I appreciate you taking the time to share your perspective, and I wanted to follow up in writing to outline our procedures. Ensuring our youngest students are safe and getting into the correct vehicle is our top priority, and I appreciate your vigilance as a parent.

While a curbside line can look informal from the outside, our process relies on strict, overlapping layers of safety:

- **Direct Teacher Oversight:** For the first quarter, kindergarten teachers personally accompany students outside, ensuring children are only handed off to recognized, authorized rides.
- **Issued Car Placards:** For vehicle pickup, personnel retrieves students by using the school-issued placard.
- **Student & Staff Verification:** Staff actively check with each child to confirm they recognize their ride before they enter the vehicle.

To give you an idea of how strictly this is enforced: last year, a student's grandparent arrived for pickup, and because the parent hadn't pre-notified us, we held the student with staff until we reached the parent for direct confirmation—even though our team recognized the grandparent. We do not make exceptions when it comes to student release.

Furthermore, our campus undergoes unannounced safety audits conducted by state inspectors to evaluate our security practices in real time, and our school consistently scores well on these checks.

Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school community safe, and please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

--

Joseph Hedstrom, M.Ed.
Vice Principal
Wilcox Elementary School
808.274.3150

"Partnering with others to reach our greatest potential together."

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Re: safety concerns regarding kindergarten dismissal

From: Joseph Hedstrom (joseph.hedstrom@k12.hi.us)

To: chun.raymond@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 02:48 PM HST

Mr. Chun,

Thank you for following up in writing and for taking the time to speak with me in the parking lot this morning. I appreciate your candid feedback and your shared commitment to the safety of our students.

I understand your concerns regarding verification of adults and student pick-up procedures. While our dismissal model is structured to balance campus logistics, staffing, and multi-layered supervision, please know that we treat all safety feedback seriously.

Administration will use your observations as we conduct our daily supervision and reinforce active monitoring expectations with all duty personnel and student helpers at the gate. We will also continue to monitor traffic flow in the parking area to keep our drop-off and pick-up zones secure for everyone. Your concerns will also be provided to our Safety Committee for consideration.

Thank you again for sharing your perspective with us and for partnering with Wilcox to keep our campus safe.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hedstrom

On Thu, Sep 3, 2026 at 1:14 PM Raymond Chun <chun.raymond@yahoo.com> wrote:

Aloha,

I am writing to formally report a safety concern I have regarding the after-school dismissal and pick-up procedures for the kindergarten students. On a few occasions, my child's classroom teacher has not walked out with the students to supervise their dismissal. I have noticed this from other classroom teachers as well. While there are other staff members present in the general area, they are not actively managing the students from our specific class, nor are they verifying the identities of the adults picking the children up.

As a parent, I have been able to walk up and take my five year old without a single staff member checking. The first time this happened I waited a good amount of time for the teacher as I did not want anyone to panic that my child was missing. As the days have progressed I realized there will be no panic, no follow up, no concern.

I do my due diligence to make sure I am waiting for my son to exit the gate everyday so no issues can arise. My concern is if I am ever late for any reason, my child will not be safe. Yesterday I stood back to watch what would happen if I was not there and I watched my kid sit down as he was supposed to, but he then saw some friends, ran to their group and was giving other kids hugs as young kids do. I did not see any other staff member guide him back to his designated area to sit down. This also raises the question of safety as I have noticed many cars rushing to get in and out of the parking lot. I don't believe it is unreasonable to think a five year old might run out into the street and get hit by a car as well for any number of reasons.

I spoke to Vice Principal Joseph Hedstrom this morning and am appreciative of his time listening to my concerns. He explained that with time there will develop a pattern recognition for the teachers, students, and parents to pick up the children safely. As I explained, if there is not anyone there to verify that the kids are being picked up by the proper adult, no safety measures are being enforced.

He explained that contractually the teachers are not obligated to walk the children out. While I understand contractual hours and staffing issues, the school should have an obligation to ensure the safety of the children. I do want to clarify that I believe Jaxon's teacher cares for her students and has been open in her communication with me and my wife. My intention is not to single her out, but to address the general safety of all the students.

VP Joseph Hedstrom told me he was open to feedback. As I told him, my suggestion would be to not allow the kids to leave the gate at all and rather stand behind it in their designated area after school until their parent has been identified. I personally believe the parking lot gate should be closed off to parents as well until pickup time, being that parents park in that lot over an hour early contributing to the inefficiency of pick up.

I have included the email Mr. Hedstrom sent me today after our conversation and would like to note that it states "Student & Staff Verification: Staff actively check with each child to confirm they recognize their ride before they enter the vehicle." If this is the procedure Wilcox has in place then it is not being followed.

My questions in regards to that email are

1. Direct Teacher Oversight: If for the first quarter, kindergarten teachers accompany students outside to ensure children are handed off to authorized adults, does this mean after the first quarter there will be even less safety procedures put in place for the kids as they will no longer have teacher supervision?

2. Student & Staff Verification: When will this be implemented and will there be steps taken to ensure each child is safely handed off to their proper approved family member? I have seen the older kids/helpers wearing yellow vests who simply look at the "placard" which is a laminated construction paper with the child's name and class number on it and guide the kindergartners to that car. Having a child verify a name on a random car and sending another child to that car does not instill confidence for safety in my opinion.

Thank you for your consideration, I hope all who read this will understand that I am simply asking for preventative measures to be put in place to avoid any potential tragedies

I look forward to your response

Sincerely,

Raymond Chun

808-213-8451

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Joseph Hedstrom, M.Ed.
Vice Principal
Wilcox Elementary School
808.274.3150

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Fw: FORMAL COMPLAINT: Student Safety and Security, at Elise H Wilcox Elementary School

From: Raymond Chun (chun.raymond@yahoo.com)

To: keith.hayashi@k12.hi.us

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 10:46 AM HST

Dear Superintendent Hayashi,

I am writing to file a formal complaint regarding a systemic lack of transparency, administrative deception, and a complete failure of responsiveness from Complex Area Superintendent Maeda-Kobayashi.

Three days ago, on September 14, 2026, I sent an urgent report to Ms. Maeda-Kobayashi detailing active structural and security hazards at Wilcox Elementary School following the hurricane. Despite the severity of these physical risks to five-year-old students, I received zero communication or acknowledgement from her office.

This issue is part of a deeply concerning pattern of administrative misconduct and a lack of accountability:

- **Deceptive Reopening Practices:** The school administration's official ParentSquare communication explicitly and falsely claimed that all post-hurricane damages "have been taken care of." In reality, the campus was rushed open while a major perimeter fence was entirely collapsed and sharp concrete debris was left exposed next to a primary kindergarten play area and overhanging the public walkway children used to walk home. The school administration actively misled families to resume normal operations, entirely disregarding student safety in the process.
- **Ignored Public Records Requests:** In an effort to seek transparency regarding internal decisions and previous safety issues on this campus, I have filed formal document requests through the Department of Education. The department has failed to provide a response, leaving me with no choice but to escalate this lack of institutional accountability directly to your office.

While the school finally repaired the physical perimeter fence yesterday, the cultural and administrative issues remain entirely unaddressed. A parent bringing emergency safety vulnerabilities to district leadership should never be met with total silence, nor should school administrations be allowed to falsify safety statuses to rush a reopening.

I urge your office to intervene, investigate why the school prioritized speed over child safety, address Ms. Maeda-Kobayashi's failure to provide oversight, and ensure my outstanding DOE document requests are processed immediately.

The original report, timeline of events, and relevant communications are attached below for your review.

Sincerely,

Raymond Chun
chun.raymond@yahoo.com

808-213-8451

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Raymond Chun <chun.raymond@yahoo.com>

To: leila.maeda-kobayashi@k12.hi.us <leila.maeda-kobayashi@k12.hi.us>

Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 10:32:12 AM HST

Subject: Re: FORMAL COMPLAINT: Student Safety and Security, at Elise H Wilcox Elementary School

Given that I have not received a response after three days I believe that it is safe to assume that the issues with transparency, communication, and lack of concern for safety come from the top down. I have submitted an information request to the DOE for various forms of proof of whether or not the school was rushed to open while disregarding the safety of its students and will escalate my concern.

Raymond

On Monday, September 14, 2026 at 03:45:01 PM HST, Raymond Chun <chun.raymond@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Complex Area Superintendent Maeda-Kobayashi,

I am writing to formally report an immediate student safety and campus security hazard at Wilcox Elementary School, and to express grave concern regarding the lack of transparency from the school's administration. Following the recent hurricane, the school reopened today (September 14, 2026). I drove by campus today to visually assess damages and saw a fence completely blown over as well as much tree debris. Reopening the campus with active, exposed hazards gives the strong impression that resuming normal operations was rushed and prioritized over the physical safety of the children. Furthermore, the school's official ParentSquare communication (Point 3 of attached email) explicitly acknowledges, "We had downed trees and damaged buildings," yet states these issues "have been taken care of." The structural damage to the fence directly contradicts the school's administration claiming that all damage had been taken care of.

The physical reality of the campus perimeter presents immediate dangers that require your district's direct, emergency intervention: The chain-link fence on top of the retaining wall along the public sidewalk is severely crushed, detached

from its support posts, and leaning heavily over the pedestrian path. This poses an immediate collapse risk and leaves sharp, exposed wire mesh right at student height. Crucially, this compromised fencing drastically weakens campus security, creating an open vulnerability where unauthorized individuals could trespass onto school grounds or young children could wander off. I have learned that this specific section of the lawn is a primary outdoor play area used by the youngest students on campus, including 5-year-old kindergarteners. Expecting young children to remain safely out of a play zone directly adjacent to crushed, sharp metal and an unstable, collapsing fence—separated only by non-rigid, easily bypassed orange plastic netting—is an extreme and unacceptable safety failure.

Broken debris, and concrete fragments remain scattered directly across the active public sidewalk used by students walking to and from school. While interior areas near classrooms may have been superficially sectioned off, the public perimeter and active play areas remain highly hazardous and entirely uncontained. Given a past history of this administration downplaying critical safety issues at this campus—specifically regarding unattended kindergarten dismissals—I struggle to trust the school's internal oversight or self-reporting. I urge the district to immediately intervene today, inspect the public perimeter, and ensure this collapsing fence is safely secured and repaired before a student is seriously injured or campus security is breached. I have attached photographic proof of the current hazards and the conflicting ParentSquare notice for your immediate review. Thank you for your prompt attention to ensuring the physical safety, security, and administrative accountability of Wilcox Elementary.

Sincerely,
Raymond Chun
808 213 8451

Re: Response to your email

From: Leila Maeda-kobayashi (leila.maeda-kobayashi@k12.hi.us)
To: chun.raymond@yahoo.com
Cc: celeste.bailey@k12.hi.us; corey.nakamura@k12.hi.us
Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at 02:46 PM HST

Aloha Mr. Chun,

I have received your email.

Leila Kobayashi

Complex Area Superintendent
Kapa'a-Kaua'i-Waimea
email: leila.maeda-kobayashi@k12.hi.us

On Mon, Sep 28, 2026 at 6:53 AM Raymond Chun <chun.raymond@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Complex Area Superintendent,

I have received your response regarding the ongoing safety concerns at Wilcox Elementary School. While I acknowledge that my public records request is being processed under the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA), I am writing to formally object to your office's defense of current operations. Your letter is completely inaccurate. It also downplays real physical dangers to our children by pretending these safety issues are just an "individual expectation" on my part.

1. Factual Inaccuracy Regarding Communication Timelines

You state that communication from both your office and Principal Nakamura has been appropriate, timely, and grounded in facts, this is entirely false. A multi-week delay is an unacceptable administration response to an active child safety issue.

- **Principal Nakamura's Timeline:** I originally emailed Principal Nakamura on September 3rd, 2026 and received zero response. I only spoke to him after I had to physically go to the school office to request a meeting.
- **The Complex Area Office Timeline:** I addressed this issue to your office on September 14, 2026. Following no response, I sent a follow-up on September 17, 2026. I received no answer until I called your office on September 22, 2026.

Characterizing a 19-day delay from a principal and an 8-day delay from a superintendent as "appropriate" is a blatant misrepresentation of the facts.

2. Factual Inaccuracy Regarding the Perimeter Fence Timeline

You claimed that the perimeter chain-link fence was repaired; however, it was not repaired BEFORE students were welcomed back, which was my entire point. The timestamped photograph attached to my original email explicitly shows the broken fence heavily overhanging the public walkway alongside scattered concrete debris on opening day. The permanent fence was not repaired until the day after school opened. Leaving a primary pathway compromised left students exposed to active hazards and potential wander risks.

3. Clear Evidence of Substandard Dismissal Procedures & Policy Contradictions

By hiding behind the "full managerial authority" of the administration, you are ignoring a flawed dismissal process. I possess explicit photo and video evidence showing kindergarten children running through the gate entirely unsupervised, only feet away from the path of moving vehicular traffic.

This active hazard directly contradicts the official, written kindergarten dismissal protocols sent to me by your own administration. The school's Vice Principal previously stated in writing that the process relies on "strict, overlapping layers of safety," explicitly promising **Direct Teacher Oversight, Issued Car Placards, and Student/Staff Verification.**

While the school has successfully issued placards, my physical evidence proves that the system doesn't work due lack of personnel. When a teacher is absent or distracted, the required student verification stops completely.

The danger of this lack of supervision is completely present and not just a hypothetical. As I explained directly to Principal Nakamura, I personally witnessed two kindergarten students running unsupervised at the gate and one bumped into the other, causing a young girl to fall directly into the active street. She was fortunately able to get up and walk away, but it was purely a matter of luck that a vehicle was not passing at that exact millisecond. This near-miss is the exact scenario I am trying to prevent and when I mentioned this it was met with silence.

The validity of my concerns was proven, September 22, 2026—the exact day after my meeting with Principal Nakamura. At dismissal, an additional Vice Principal was deployed to the gate, and teachers were noticeably more structured and uniform in their protocols. In fact, my son's teacher actively intervened when he attempted to run toward me, instructing him to step back until she had personally verified my presence. This is a much better baseline of physical safety I have been demanding but still lacks in areas where teachers or admin should be ready to release the kids at the gate rather than allowing them to freely exit.

The fact that the administration successfully executed a secure, structured dismissal immediately following our meeting proves that a safe hand-off is entirely possible. However, a safe environment cannot be a temporary performance only when a parent complains. In the last few days the teachers remain more structured; however, the five year old kindergartners are still running through the gate first, no teacher or staff could stop them in time if they decided to run into the street. My main concern now is sustainability. Given the Vice Principals' and Principal's statement that **direct teacher oversight will be completely abandoned after the first quarter**, I have zero confidence that any safety standards will continue. Ending physical supervision for five-year-old kindergartners a quarter of the way through the school year is a severe liability. I am not asking Principal Nakamura for "individual parental suggestions." I am demanding that this newly demonstrated standard of safety be enforced as a continuous, permanent protocol for the entire school year for years to come.

During our face-to-face meeting, Principal Nakamura defensively stated that "sometimes kindergartners just walk home," adding, "I can't have a teacher walk with the kids all the way to their house." This absurd exaggeration deliberately mischaracterizes my request. I don't expect teachers to walk children home.

When I pushed back on the lack of adult supervision at the gate, his response was simply, **"we will teach them."**

Relying on a five-year-old child to manage their own physical safety around moving traffic is a total failure of administrative responsibility. Kindergartners do not possess the situational awareness to navigate active traffic independently; that is precisely why adult supervision is required. I am only requesting a secure hand-off at the school gate, not a system that shifts the burden of safety onto the child.

A secure hand-off at the school gate so five-year-old's do not wander into active traffic is absolutely necessary.

4. Patronizing a Family's "Recent" Status

Diminishing my safety concerns by noting that my child only started kindergarten this past August is entirely unacceptable. A parent does not need years of historical data to recognize a chaotic, unsafe dismissal line happening in front of them today. New families should be welcomed and heard, not patronized and silenced for identifying clear gaps in safety.

Next Steps and Community Escalation

Advocating for my child's physical safety is my responsibility as a parent, not a personal attack on school leadership. Because individual concerns are being minimized, I will be moving forward with the intention to notify every single parent about the lack of safety, lack of care, and dismissive responses from both Mr. Nakamura and yourself.

I have already began this process and found a few issues other parents faced validating my concern for safety. One, that in years past the younger grades were actually let out ten minutes early in order to prevent issues like this from occurring and it was all under the authority of principal Nakamura at Wilcox Elementary. Why it has changed now and is being met with a complete lack of urgency is baffling. Two, that a child actually WAS lost and a mother panicked to find her child prompting the school to enter an emergency search. And three, a strange man was found lingering on the property near the kindergarten side and concerned parents where met with no follow up response as to how the situation was handled. I am deeply concerned about the experiences other parents may have faced in the past.

I am sharing photo and video evidence, and the administration's defensive responses directly with the Wilcox Elementary PTSA and our fellow school families. Every family has a right to know that five-year-old's are exiting the campus unsupervised, and that district leadership has explicitly stated they have no obligation to fix it.

I expect our community's concerns to be treated with professional respect and seriousness. I look forward to receiving the requested public records within the statutory UIPA timeframe, and I expect district leadership to step in to ensure the school's stated dismissal protocols are enforced consistently.

It is deeply concerning that administrative resources are being directed toward justifying existing safety gaps rather than implementing sustainable solutions for student supervision.

Please reply to this email directly with your response and to confirm that you have received it.

Raymond Chun
Concerned Kindergarten Parent, Wilcox Elementary School

On Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 06:58:04 AM HST, Leila Maeda-kobayashi <leila.maeda-kobayashi@k12.hi.us> wrote:

Dear Mr. Chun,

This email acknowledges receipt of your initial message on September 14, 2026, and your subsequent follow-up communications regarding Wilcox Elementary School. My office has focused on ensuring all public schools across Kaua'i had the necessary resources and safety protocols in place to reopen safely following Hurricane Lowell.

As Complex Area Superintendent, my responsibility is to oversee educational operations across our island with compassion, fairness, and commitment to the well-being of our entire school

community. Over 9,000 students and staff rely on our public schools for learning, nutritional meals, and essential support services following a natural disaster. While individual concerns are carefully reviewed, the collective safety and support of our entire student body remains our top operational priority, and opening schools safely for all students will not be delayed.

I am addressing your specific points directly to provide full clarity:

- Immediate environmental and structural hazards on campuses were remediated before welcoming students back. Tree debris /green waste was cleared from operational areas and consolidated into designated green waste piles awaiting municipal transport. Educational services will not be delayed for non-hazardous green waste removal.
- Regarding the perimeter chain-link fence, temporary containment measures were put in place immediately, and the fence was fully repaired. Furthermore, the perimeter area in question was restricted and is not a designated play area for younger students or kindergarteners. Students were instructed to stay clear of the perimeter, and staff actively monitored the area during outdoor periods.
- Student safety remains the top priority for Principal Nakamura and district leadership. As your child entered Kindergarten this past August, your experience with our school community is recent. Asserting that the administration has a historical pattern of disregarding safety does not reflect our long-standing operational record. Regarding your meeting today with Principal Nakamura and the Vice Principals concerning student pick-up procedures, I must reiterate the position shared with you during that discussion: while leadership will always listen to parent feedback, there is no guarantee that operational changes will be implemented based on individual suggestions. Given Principal Nakamura's strong track record and dedicated commitment to student welfare, he maintains full managerial authority over Wilcox Elementary School, including establishing and enforcing daily campus dismissal procedures.
- Communication from both Principal Nakamura and the complex office has been appropriate, within timelines and grounded in verified facts. While emergency updates provided via ParentSquare may not contain the specific answers or align with individual expectations, receiving responses you disagree with does not mean the school lacks transparency or failed to open safely.
- Regarding your formal public records request submitted through the Department of Education, please be advised that under the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA), the agency has up to 10 business days to process and respond to record requests. Your request is being handled within that statutory timeframe.

Our focus remains firmly on providing a safe, stable, and supportive environment for all public school students across Kauai as our island recovers.

Leila Kobayashi

Complex Area Superintendent

Kapa'a-Kaua'i-Waimea
email: leila.maeda-kobayashi@k12.hi.us

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- Sep 16, 2026. Kindergarteners let out unsupervised [REDACTED]
- Sep 17, 2026 [REDACTED]
- Sep 18, 2026. Kindergartners let out unsupervised, The vp tasked to watch them in the background inside the perimeter fencing while five year olds leave to the street [REDACTED]
- Sep 23rd, 2026. Kindergartners let out to run and open gate right into nearby traffic unsupervised [REDACTED]
- Sep 23rd, 2026. Video showing what I assume to be a father picking up a kid and taking her away. It took **6** seconds for someone to come up, grab a kid and leave. 6 seconds no supervision, no eye to eye or hand to hand send off, no verification of who the adults are to the children and you admin want to dismiss my concerns. [REDACTED]

These are only a few examples of how the dismissal process has been every day and it is unacceptable.

General Business Meeting

Name

Racquel Achiu

Agenda Item

II. Report of the superintendent

Position

Comments only

Written Testimony

Write Testimony

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Board,

Mahalo for the opportunity to participate and provide testimony to this meeting. My name is Racquel Achiu. I am piko to the Waialua Moku and a strong supporter of my kaiāulu and schools. I currently sit as Vice Chair of the North Shore Neighborhood Board and Chair of the Waialua High & Intermediate School Community Council, however, I submit to you today at an individual capacity. I have been a strongly engaged and involved in my community for decades and believe I am able to provide an authentic and honest account of the concerns that weigh heavily on my community and school.

Historically and consistently, Waialua High & Intermediate School has been at the “bottom of the totem pole”, so to speak, when it comes to getting support for the needs of our campus, faculty, staff and our students. Yes we are a smaller campus, yes we have a lower enrollment and yes our location is not central or quickly accessible. BUT regardless, we are still here, we exist and we have needs. For decades Waialua High and Intermediate school has been ignored, not made a priority and basically left to fend for ourselves. This theory couldn't have been made more evident than with the response (lack thereof) that remains at the forefront of our minds.

Our campus suffered severe damage as a result of the Kona Lows of March 2026. Lives and way of life have changed forever. Students who lost their homes and a large part of their community also left a campus of destruction as the left for summer.

So imagine the level of total frustration when the state of disrepair was realized just a week before school started in August of 2026. Five(5) months had passed and our campus was still in dire straights. At least 3 classrooms were unusable with chairs tables etc still stacked outside of the classroom. Our former library, The Sheryl Almeida Student Hub, otherwise known as SASH, our main resource hub for students to do research, work, meetings, classes, computer access etc has been inaccessible since the Kona Lows. The SASH hadn't been touched (other than the clean up that admin, staff & faculty were able to do immediately after the storm). The wide array of books, research materials, furnishings, tables etc are likely not salvageable having been stored since the storm.

The week prior to the start of school, I reached out to Deputy Fajardo asking why nothing has been done to repair our school. I explained, with no disrespect or dings to the schools, that it was very disheartening to see on the news other schools having been repaired/restored post Kona Lows/storms and ready for the new school year .. and they were impacted AFTER Waialua High School. Deputy Fajardo explained when these things happen they need to prioritize. Fast forward, after multiple follow ups and back and forth with school admin and Deputy Fajardo, it was only on September 22 that I was informed that the contractors arrived on campus at 5pm and would be working until midnight. SEPTEMBER 22 2026 , EXACTLY 6 MONTHS since the Kona Lows and repairs are being addressed. Do we now have a job that is being rushed and quality sacrificed to complete the job?

Why, why was Waialua High & Intermediate School “prioritized” so low? Is it because Waialua (W) is at the end of the alphabet ??? Please make it make sense.

I STRONGLY encourage the board and any other agency appropriate to audit and or investigate the protocols, processes or lack thereof in this process. If it were your children, your school , your community, I don't think you would find this acceptable . Work that took so long to acknowledge and execute will cost more in too many ways. But the

largest expense is not only in the loss of resources and space to our students that place delays to work timelines but also in the way our students now see how they don't matter. How do you think that looks to them or helps form their way of thinking that they aren't a priority it 'important enough' ?? It's unacceptable

Years, Y E A R S of being that school that is not important enough, not considered, not a priority has got to come to an end. These kids matter, this school matters, this community matters. Your system, your process has got to change. That CHANGE has got to START TODAY! Show us that the investments we make into this system benefit our students and their educational success. Show us that the CHANGE is valid and possible.

Anyone that knows me, knows, I don't come to a table to frivolously grumble, I'm here to say this has to stop and I'm here to help where I can. Tell me how to help make the process of servicing our schools, OUR STUDENTS an EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE process.

Again mahalo for the opportunity to share my concerns. I genuinely look forward to ensuring an effective, efficient & successful change for the future. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Aloha for now,
Racquel