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## EXHIBIT A

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# OLIN K. LAGON

*PART 3 OF 7*



**Kamehameha Schools®**

TRUSTEE SEARCH 2025-2026

# OLIN K. LAGON

## PUBLIC COMMENT

*submitted via mail / email*



**Kamehameha Schools®**

TRUSTEE SEARCH 2025-2026

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Faruq Ahmad <faruq.ahmad@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2025 8:04 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Trustee for Kamehameha Schools

Aloha,

This is to recommend Olin Kealoha Lagon for the position of Trustee.

This is based on my interactions with him in educational and entrepreneurial settings.

Mahalo,

Faruq Ahmad

Sent from my iPhone

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Ardis Eschenberg <ardise@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2025 10:28 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Olin Kealoha Lagon

Aloha,

I would like to express my strong support for Olin Kealoha Lagon for the position of Kamehameha Schools Trustee. Olin is brilliant. He is an unsurpassed thinker - innovative, flexible, kind, bold, unafraid and committed to his lāhui. While he absolutely defines genius, Olin is humble, compassionate and able to discuss concepts on a level that includes everyone in the room.

Driven by social justice, his impact on our communities is already huge, as are his ideas. Bringing clean energy to underserved communities and renters through Shifted Energy, rather than as an incentive to those with means, brings social justice to a new realm. Bringing tech education to children and adults throughout Hawai'i with no cost to them and in ways grounded in Native Hawaiian values and culture through Purple Mai'a similarly changes the locus of power from the few to kanaka and lāhui.

Even more compelling than immediate impacts of his efforts is the sustained environments for change that he creates. Olin leaves a legacy through his work - not just when he is there but beyond his tenure. Windward Community College partners with Purple Mai'a, which he founded, to implement the only Middle College (high school on a college campus) in the state of Hawai'i. Underserved students, primarily from the Waimanalo area, are chosen for their potential to benefit from a college going environment (i.e., not due to their middle school grades or other "merit" factors). Purple Mai'a helps to oversee the program and specifically implements weekly community service learning and internships that directly relate to high school and college content and grow the students as leaders. The program, in its third year, has achieved strong success indicators, with students outperforming peers in high school and college, as demonstrated by grades and other success indicators. This program is a testament to Olin, not because he started this program (he did not), but because he founded a non-profit that continues to do innovative, purposeful, Hawai'i-centered work after he has left. He founded Purple Mai'a solidly, to last. While many non-profits lose impact or momentum when a leader leaves, Purple Mai'a continues to grow in meaningful, large scope ways. That is Olin's legacy; he doesn't just innovate, he builds for the future.

His commitment to kanaka 'ōiwi education aligns squarely with the trust left by ke Ali'i Pauahi for the haunana in perpetuity. His innovation is important at a time of lawsuits, AI disruption, and assaults on mission and kuleana. His ability to think generations forward and found efforts that continue to impact after he has left, mirrors the thinking of ke Ali'i Pauahi. The benefit of this to Her Trust would be immeasurable at this tumultuous, unprecedented time.

Respectfully,  
Ardis

Ardis Eschenberg, Ph.D.  
Chancellor  
Windward Community College

Ke Kulanui Kaiāulu o ke Ko‘olau  
(808) 235-7402  
ardise@hawaii.edu

Help us raise \$1,000,000 for student scholarships to celebrate our 50th!!  
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He pūnāwai kahe wale ke aloha.  
Aloha is a spring that flows freely.  
Serving and supporting with aloha

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** steve haumschild <shaumschild@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2025 2:20 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

### **Aloha Members of the Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee,**

Please accept this letter as my formal recommendation for **Olin Kealoha Lagon** for the esteemed position of **Kamehameha Schools Trustee**.

While I was not born and raised in Hawai'i and do not possess Hawaiian ancestry myself, I have lived here for nearly 25 years. More importantly, my wife, a *kumu hula*, and our children all have traceable Hawaiian lineage. Through my 'ohana, I have come to understand how critical this moment is for strong, principled leadership that will steward and perpetuate Hawaiian culture for future generations. Olin Kealoha Lagon is someone I deeply trust to fulfill that responsibility with moral clarity, cultural integrity, and professional excellence.

Olin is an exceptional candidate. He possesses an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, genuine pride in his lineage, deep respect for the 'āina, and a rare ability to engage all people with humility and aloha. One of his greatest strengths is his disciplined, data-driven approach to decision-making—grounding his opinions in facts while remaining rooted in cultural values. His grassroots perspective distinguishes him meaningfully from more corporate-oriented candidates and aligns closely with the mission and legacy of Kamehameha Schools.

As an entrepreneur with a background in accounting and engineering, Olin is uniquely positioned to help guide Kamehameha Schools through an increasingly complex future, including the impacts of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence. Equally important, as a farmer himself, he has firsthand understanding of the challenges facing Hawai'i's agricultural community and the urgent need to sustain and strengthen local food systems.

In summary, I offer my strongest possible recommendation for **Olin Kealoha Lagon** as a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools. I am confident he will serve with integrity, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to the lāhui and to future generations.

**Me ke aloha,**

--

Best and Aloha,

Steve Haumschild

FB/IG @lanikaisteve

- [www.linkedin.com/in/stevehaumschild/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/stevehaumschild/)

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Burt Lum <bytemarks@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2025 7:26 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Olin Lagon

### Letter of Support for Olin Lagon Kamehameha Schools Board of Trustees

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Burt Lum, and I've been involved with the technology, innovation, and community development sectors in Hawai'i for more than 40 years. During that time, Olin Lagon has consistently been at the forefront of leadership that blends technology, social impact, and Native Hawaiian values.

Olin is a deeply respected Hawaiian activist and community leader who has worked to address issues of equity, sustainability, and long-term community well-being. He has been especially active in fostering 'Ōiwi leadership by creating pathways for Native Hawaiians to lead in education, innovation, and stewardship.

His work with **Kāko'o 'Ōiwi** reflects a strong commitment to 'āina-based leadership and land stewardship. Through this work, Olin has supported the restoration of traditional agricultural practices and restoring lo'i kalo, while strengthening food security, cultural connection, and community resilience, values that strongly align with Kamehameha Schools' role as a steward of land and resources.

Olin has also demonstrated impactful leadership with youth through his co-founding of the **Purple Maia Foundation**, which empowers Hawaii students to engage in technology, coding, and innovation while remaining grounded in culture and identity. Purple Maia shows how future-ready education can be rooted in 'ike Hawai'i and still prepare students for success in a rapidly changing world.

Across his work with organizations such as **Kanu Hawai'i** and **Shifted Energy**, Olin has shown the ability to lead complex initiatives with integrity, vision, and collaboration. He understands how community, culture, and systems intersect, and he brings a thoughtful, values-driven approach to leadership.

Overall, Olin Lagon is a trusted and proven leader with experience, perspective, and a commitment to Native Hawaiian advancement. In addition, Olin has a firm grasp on the challenges ahead of us, technologically, socially and politically. This combination makes him an excellent choice to serve on the Kamehameha Schools Board of Trustees.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Burt Lum

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Burt Lum | Digital Ronin

c: 808-295-5115

[three.sentenc.es](https://three.sentenc.es) - I personally pledge to keep my emails short and sweet.

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Sweet-T 808 <tkda808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 13, 2025 9:52 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** FOR Olin Lagon

Your Honor,

I'm writing this because what's at stake here isn't theoretical — it's happening right now, in real time, to real people.

Too many families in Hawai'i can no longer afford to live in the place they were born. Too many are moving away with no realistic path home. This isn't abstract policy failure — it's daily reality. And it's the result of decades of decisions that put money, growth, and outside interests ahead of 'āina and people.

Kamehameha Schools was never meant to be part of that problem. Pauahi created this trust to protect future generations, not to price them out of their home, our home. That's why this trustee selection is crucial to Hawai'i.

I've heard the arguments about experience, about money, about "what it takes to run big institutions." We've heard those arguments before — and Hawai'i has paid the price for them. Profit-first thinking, even when well-intentioned, has consistently failed our people.

Olin Kealoha Lagon is different — not in words, not on paper, but in actual work he's done. He has spent years doing what so many talk about but never actually do: educating our youth in ways that honor culture, land, and identity while still preparing them for the modern world. Purple Mai'a didn't appear overnight. It wasn't built for optics or headlines. It was built patiently, with humility, and with real accountability to community, his actions matter.

This isn't about rejecting business or progress. It's about rejecting the false idea that Hawai'i's future requires sacrificing 'āina or community to survive economically. We've been told that story since 1893, and it has never ended well for kanaka maoli.

Olin understands that land is not inventory, education is not a commodity, and leadership is not about extraction. He understands that trusteeship is about restraint as much as ambition — about knowing when not to monetize, not to sell, not to chase returns that come at a human cost. That kind of judgment cannot be taught quickly. It's lived.

This decision will signal whether Kamehameha Schools remains a protector of future generations, or slowly becomes another institution that speaks the language of values while operating on the logic that displaced our people in the first place.



For those of us raising children here, working here, and trying to hold onto home, this is not a symbolic choice. It's a practical one. Olin Lagon is the trustee who understands that not everything that is profitable is acceptable — and not everything that matters can be measured in dollars. That is the kind of steward Pauahi entrusted this Court to appoint.

Mahalo for your time on this crucial matter.

Respectfully,  
Tanya K. D. Alana

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Dane Nakama <nakadane@theimaginategroup.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 13, 2025 12:02 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is not attached to corporate boardrooms or executive titles.

I am simply someone who has watched our lāhui struggle to find footing in a world that often runs without us.

That is why I am writing today in strong support of Olin Kealoha Lagon.

What strikes me most about Olin is that he never left.

He had every opportunity to take his brilliance—his patents, his degrees, his tech expertise—and chase wealth on the continent.

Instead, he stayed home. He chose to build here, for us.

I have seen what Purple Mai'a does for our keiki. I have watched young Kānaka who were told they weren't "tech people" discover they can code, create, and lead.

Olin helped build that.

He understands that our haumāna need more than textbooks—they need pathways that honor who they are while preparing them for a changing world.

But what moves me most is knowing that on Sundays, you can find him in He'eia, hands in the mud at his family's lo'i.

That is not performance. That is practice.

That is a man who listens to his kūpuna while planning for his mo'opuna.

Olin grew up in public housing. He knows what it means to fight for everything. He has not forgotten where he comes from, and he has spent three decades proving it—through CNHA, through his work with OHA, through systems that delivered real relief to our ‘ohana during the pandemic.

Kamehameha Schools needs a trustee who can see what is coming—AI, economic disruption, threats to Hawaiian preference—and meet those challenges without losing sight of Bernice Pauahi's vision.

Olin is that leader.

He is rooted in ‘āina, grounded in service, and ready to protect and grow what has been entrusted to us.

I humbly ask the court to select Olin Kealoha Lagon.

For our keiki. For our ‘āina. For our lāhui.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

--

Dane Nakama  
the imagine group

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** tarahawaii\_kiai <tarahawaiiikiai@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 13, 2025 10:42 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Kamehameha Schools Trustee Olin Lagon

Your Honor,

I'm writing this because what's at stake here isn't theoretical - it's happening right now, in real time, to real people.

Too many families in Hawai'i can no longer afford to live in the place they were born. Too many are moving away with no realistic path home. This isn't abstract policy failure - it's daily reality. And it's the result of decades of decisions that put money, growth, and outside interests ahead of 'āina and people.

Kamehameha Schools was never meant to be part of that problem. Pauahi created this trust to protect future generations, not to price them out of their home, our home.

That's why this trustee selection is crucial to Hawai'i.

I've heard the arguments about experience, about money, about "what it takes to run big institutions." We've heard those arguments before - and Hawai'i has paid the price for them. Profit-first thinking, even when well-intentioned, has consistently failed our people.

Olin Kealoha Lagon is different - not in words, not on paper, but in actual work he's done.

He has spent years doing what so many talk about but never actually do: educating our youth in ways that honor culture, land, and identity while still preparing them for the modern world. Purple Mai'a didn't appear overnight. It wasn't built for optics or headlines. It was built patiently, with humility, and with real accountability to community, his actions matter.

This isn't about rejecting business or progress. It's about rejecting the false idea that Hawai'i's future requires sacrificing 'āina or community to survive economically. We've been told that story since 1893, and it has never ended well for Kānaka Maoli.

Olin understands that land is not inventory, education is not a commodity, and leadership is not about extraction. He understands that trusteeship is about restraint as much as ambition - about knowing when not to monetize, not to sell, not to chase returns that come at a human cost. That kind of judgment cannot be taught quickly. It's lived.

This decision will signal whether Kamehameha Schools remains a protector of future generations, or slowly becomes another institution that speaks the language of values while operating on the logic that displaced our people in the first place.

For those of us raising children here, working here, and trying to hold onto home, this is not a symbolic choice. It's a practical one.

Olin Lagon is the trustee who understands that not everything that is profitable is acceptable - and not everything that matters can be measured in dollars. That is the kind of steward Pauahi entrusted this Court to appoint.

Mahalo for your time on this crucial matter.

Respectfully,  
Tara Rojas

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Logan Freitas <loganfreitas1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 7:43 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** SUPPORT of Olin Lagon as the next TRUSTEE

To whom it may concern,

This email is in Support of Mr. Olin Lagon as the next Kamehameha Schools Trustee. In short, I know that the other candidates are probably highly qualified. They would not be in this position if they were not. But I know Olin personally. He checks every box we would want as leader of Hawai'i. He's humble and curious, yet is brilliant and innovative. He may be the smartest person I've ever met, yet he makes everyone feel welcomed to take a seat at table. This is exactly the type of person we need in leadership and KS, especially in these trying times. His leadership is necessary. Especially in the energy and tech sector, which is where Hawaiians have lagged behind. My ohana and I offer our full support to Olin to become the next KS trustee! Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Logan Q.K. Freitas  
CENTURY 21 iProperties Hawaii  
Keeping Hawaii Home  
RB - 23192  
(808)284-5585

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Stephanie Weeks <manera\_makaha@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 12:16 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Olin Lagon

Dear Honorable Judge,

I'm writing about the crucial trustee selection for Kamehameha Schools. What's at stake is the future of Hawaii's people and 'Āina. Olin Kealoha Lagon's track record shows he understands that leadership is about restraint, not just ambition. He's worked tirelessly to educate youth in ways that honor culture, land, and identity. We need trustees who prioritize people over profit. Lagon is the right choice to ensure Kamehameha Schools remains a protector of future generations, not just another institution driven by economic logic that displaces our people. Mahalo for your time, please consider Olin Kealoha Lagon.

Sincerely,  
Keke Manera

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Francois Rogers <francois@blueplanetalliance.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 14, 2025 8:39 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of Recommendation, Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Letter of recommendation for Olin Lagon.pdf

Dear Inkinen Executives:

Please see attached letter of support for Olin Lagon.

Sincerely,

Francois Rogers  
Executive Director  
francois@blueplanetalliance.org  
808-753-1330

"Our mission is to protect life on earth by empowering people, communities, islands, and nations to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2045"







December 13, 2026

To the Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee, Via: [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)

Re: Letter of Support for Olin Lagon

As the Executive Director of the Blue Planet Foundation, our mission is to help Hawai'i cut its carbon emissions and leverage locally driven policy to inspire change. It is through this lens, combined with a deep personal history, that I write to offer my unqualified support for Olin Lagon's candidacy for Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

I am in a unique position to offer a holistic perspective on Olin's character. I had the privilege of being the soccer coach for both of his sons during their elementary school years. Our boys also paddled together, and as any parent knows, the sidelines of soccer fields and the shores of paddling regattas are where you spend hours observing and bonding with other families. I have seen Olin as a father and a community member, but I have also known him as a long-time strategic partner in the fight for a sustainable future.

Olin seamlessly straddles two worlds. He lives his traditional life as a kanaka 'ōiwi, grounded in the old ways of farming kalo, while simultaneously operating at the cutting edge of modern technology. He walks the talk. His home was one of the first in the state to achieve net-zero status and the first to be 100% lit by LEDs. He hasn't driven a gas-powered car in over 20 years, displacing not just electricity, but fossil fuels from his daily life. In fact, our foundation worked with Olin and his family to produce a one-hour television special documenting their lifestyle to inspire others to choose efficiency and self-generation. You can still view that episode by Googling "Blue Planet Energy Makeover" to see his commitment in action.

Beyond his personal example, Olin thinks big. He has proven his ability to lead multi-agency coalitions that impact the entire state, with a laser focus on low-income communities. I have watched him orchestrate massive initiatives, such as partnering with KUPU to lead home energy assessments or bring us in to swap incandescent bulbs for CFLs on a large scale. We even targeted the entire island of Moloka'i for a mass upgrade of refrigerators to energy-efficient models with one of his projects, coordinating the logistics to barge over truckloads of new appliances for residents.

Finally, Olin's professional success demonstrates that social impact and economic viability are not mutually exclusive. Olin's company, Shifted Energy, is a prime example of an incredibly rare energy company that fills critical gaps in our most underserved communities. Yet, it is so impactful and effective that a Wall Street-funded private equity firm recently acquired it to scale the model nationally. Olin represents the future of Hawai'i—rooted in culture, driven by innovation, and validated by the global market. He has my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal line.

Executive Director  
Blue Planet Foundation

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Julian Aguon <julian@blueoceanlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 10:39 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Aguon Letter.pdf

Dear Members of the Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee,

Please find attached a letter of support for Olin Lagon to serve as a KS Trustee.

Respectfully,  
Julian Aguon

December 15, 2025

Kamehameha Schools  
1887 Makuakāne Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Re: Olin Lagon

Dear Members of the Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee,

My name is Julian Aguon. I am a Chamorro human rights lawyer, founder of Blue Ocean Law, and an author from the island of Guam. My life's work is devoted to the survival and self-determination of Indigenous peoples across Oceania. This calling has carried me as far as the International Court of Justice in pursuit of climate accountability, and it was humbling to see that work recognized this past year with the Right Livelihood Award, often referred to as the Alternative Nobel Prize.

I share this background not to elevate titles, but to situate the lens through which I understand leadership, culture, and justice. It is through this lens that I offer my wholehearted support for Olin Lagon as a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools.

Olin and I are connected through a shared lineage of values as Fellows of the Petra Foundation, which honors individuals whose quiet, steadfast work advances the dignity and rights of others. We were both nominated for this recognition years ago by the same person, Avi Soifer, former Dean of the William S. Richardson School of Law. That shared experience, and the values it affirms, has kept our paths intertwined ever since.

One moment, in particular, captures Olin's leadership ethic. During the opening ceremony of my year as an Obama Fellow, held in Hawai'i, Olin was invited to help ground the gathering. He arrived not with slides or strategy papers, but with kalo. With a papa and a pōhaku. In the presence of a global circle of change-makers, he invited us into story, into memory, into the simple act of making poi with our own hands. His teaching was unadorned and profound: true power comes from feeding people, both physically and spiritually. He reminded us that hānai, to feed, is also the word for adoption. Beautifully, Olin has earned the trust of global technologists and grassroots organizers alike without ever stepping away from who he is as a kanaka 'ōiwi. He knows that innovation does not mean abandoning the past, but listening closely to it—carrying ancestral wisdom forward with care. He is already living as a future ancestor.

I look forward to seeing Olin when I am next in Hawai'i. I look forward even more to witnessing what he will offer the lāhui as a KS Trustee. He is the kind of navigator this moment calls for—one who knows the stars but never forgets the soil.

Respectfully,



Julian Aguon

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Greg Farstrup <gfarstrup@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 5:26 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha,

I am writing to urge the Trustee Screening Committee to select Olin Lagon to be a Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

I am impressed with how Olin has built on his education and life experiences and dedicated himself to participate in and lead various community development efforts, as well as through developing, implementing, and sharing innovative technology.

As he explained in his impressive cover letter to your Committee:

"My lived experience keeps me grounded. Many in our lāhui remain among the poorest, least healthy, and most incarcerated in our homelands. I grew up in public housing. I was stabbed in the head, bullied, fought tuberculosis, and moved so often I attended four high schools. Stories like mine are not rare. Those years planted a commitment to use my polymath skills in service. I did not take the corporate track, where fiduciary duty can narrow agency to shareholder gain. I chose to launch and lead social ventures at home, where goals align with the health of our lāhui. People often tell me this path feels relatable and encouraging. I hold that as a sacred kuleana to inspire others to choose work that rises above ego, fame, and wealth and lean into our shared agency to serve our lāhui."

I think his Artificial Intelligence knowledge and skills could help guide the preparation of Kamehameha Schools students for their lives in our AI future.

Again, from his cover letter:

"Planting a fresh row of huli recently, it hit me...Artificial Intelligence (AI) is our Captain Cook 2.0 moment. It will disrupt every classroom, job, contract, and budget. What we choose now will decide whether it widens already untenable gaps for 'ohana kānaka 'ōiwi or builds new capacity for our lāhui and 'āina. I have worked in AI for years and developed nationally recognized expertise. For instance, a decade ago I shared Microsoft's mainstage keynote on applied machine learning. I understand what is around the corner."

I urge the Trustee Screening Committee to select Olin Lagon to be a Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

Mahalo,  
Greg Farstrup  
Pauoa, O'ahu

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Jay Fidell <jay.fidell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 5:32 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Cc:** olin.lagon@gmail.com; olin@shiftedenergy.com  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

To Whom it May Concern on the Trustee Screening Committee of Kamekameha Schools:

I have been acquainted with Olin Kealoha Lagon for more than 20 years, and I have the greatest admiration and respect for him. I am CEO of ThinkTech Hawaii and Olin has appeared on some of our most important talk show programs. I was Program Chair of the Hawaii Venture Capital Association for some years, and he participated in some of our most important programs there, too.

I have found Olin to be creative, thoughtful, altruistic and deeply involved in community and cultural issues and matters of public and educational policy in Hawaii, especially including technology, clean energy, climate change, business and impact entrepreneurship. He is highly articulate and very relatable, popular and good natured. At the same time, there is a very appealing modesty about him.

Olin is a leader of the special generation and community that is taking and will take Hawaii to a better future in these challenging times. He has a long-standing professional and family relationship and appreciation for Kamehameha Schools and its students, faculty and constituencies, and would make a great trustee for its board. I therefore recommend him unconditionally.

Thank you for your consideration of my views and recommendation in the matter.

Very truly yours,

Jay Fidell, CEO  
808-780-9254  
thinktechhawaii.com  
Celebrating 25 Years



## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Wendi Kamiya <wkamiya@punahou.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 5:02 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Selection Committee for Kamehameha Schools Trustees

Via email to: [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)

December 15, 2025

To whom it may concern,

My name is Wendi Kamiya and I am currently an Academy Dean at Punahou School. I am writing in support of Olin Lagon for the position of Kamehameha Trustee. I met Olin through my work on the boards of Kanu Hawaii and Shifted Energy, and I have known Olin to embody the word and value of *kuleana*.

As a founding member of the non-profit organization, Kanu Hawaii, Olin shaped the work that we did as a movement to create personal commitments as a way to impact larger systemic change in Hawaii. During my time on the board and since, I continued to be in awe of Olin's personal commitment to the island values of *kuleana*, humility, and community.

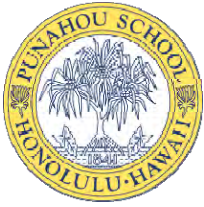
Olin is a learner who is curious, empathetic, and compassionate. He is super smart, and I appreciate his analytical and humble social media posts that help to illuminate or explain concepts I didn't know to be curious about! As a learner, we invited Olin to be a keynote speaker at our Student Global Leadership Institute. He shared the story of his early entrepreneurial failures and taught our students about resilience through his storytelling. He went further to relate the story to our 80+ high school students from around the world by sharing how resilience in asking girls out led to him finding his wife too! The students loved his stories, and still, to this day, when we reconnect with them nearly 15 years ago, they recall his messages of humility and resilience.

Olin is authentic, and he is someone with whom I would gladly work on any project. He makes people think deeply, models what it means to care about Hawai'i, and at the same time, makes the work enjoyable through laughter and camaraderie. He is someone who can speak truth without ego.

Olin is the rare individual who can command the attention of an auditorium, build a company from an idea to serve the underprivileged in energy (Shifted Energy), and be the first to work side by side in a lo'i. I share my highest recommendation of Olin to serve Hawai'i as a Kamehameha Trustee.

With humility,  
Wendi Kamiya

--



**Wendi Kamiya** (she/her/hers)

**Academy Dean, Class of 2026**

**College Counselor**

Punahou School

1601 Punahou Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

808.944.5846 | [wkamiya@punahou.edu](mailto:wkamiya@punahou.edu)

[www.punahou.edu](http://www.punahou.edu)



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**24/7 Crisis Support:**

Emergency: 911

Crisis Text Line: text ALOHA to 741741

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: [988](#) (call or text)

Hawai'i CARES (Crisis Line): [\(808\) 832-3100](#)

Trevor Lifeline (LGBTQ+ Support): [\(866\) 488-7386](#)

Sex Abuse Treatment Center: [\(808\) 524-7273](#)

Hawai'i Child Welfare Services: [\(808\) 832-5300](#)

Punahou Community Hotline: [1-844-513-8110](#)

<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/57699/index.html>



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## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Kurtis Kikkawa <ktkikkawa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 9:22 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Trustee Finalist, Kamehameha Schools

Olin K. Lagon will bring with him as a trustee: leadership, commitment, creativity, innovation and integrity. He has the same focus and vision as Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's; in 2013 he co-founded Purple Mai'a, a non-profit to help Hawaiian children prepare for the future, and this is what Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's Kamehameha Schools is all about.

He has established businesses and non-profit organizations from nothing and has been very successful at growing these organizations. Can you imagine what he can do to an organization that is already established; his track record speaks for itself.

I have known Olin for over 20 years and what is most important is that he will bring within the group, trust, integrity, and caring of the Hawaiian community. He will inspire the trust members for he is grounded, creative and innovative. He will be a tremendous addition to the team, and will create the synergy required to sustain and grow the trust fund for future Hawaiian generations to come. What more can you ask for?

V/R

Kurtis T. Kikkawa



## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Gerard Elmore <gerard.elmore@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 7:57 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Recommendation for Olin Kealoha Lagos  
**Attachments:** Olinrecommendation.pdf

Aloha,

My recommendation is attached below and here's a link to the video I mentioned about Olin and his mother. It's a video we did for Zippy's and supplemental to my letter of recommendation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIfNV4k9GEg>

Happy to answer any questions you may have.

Mahalo nui,

Gerard Elmore

Aloha,

My name is Gerard Elmore, Executive Director of ‘Ohina Labs ([ohina.org](http://ohina.org)) and VP of Film at NMG Network ([nmgnetwork.com](http://nmgnetwork.com)). I first met Olin back in 2008 when Kanu Hawai‘i won our public search for young media professionals to support. I was lucky enough to be in the room and part of the volunteer crew that directed commercials to support their mission.

Olin and his crew were about as grassroots as it gets. They did not have deep pockets or fancy titles. What they had was a collective voice and an incredible amount of integrity. They traveled across the islands not to preach but to listen. They asked youth what they actually cared about and what it would take to move the needle. They heard directly from the community about the things that actually mattered like ‘ike kūpuna, aloha ‘āina, fresh wai, and local resilience.

They launched campaigns to shore up these values that were brilliantly simple. They did not ask for the world. Instead, they just asked people to show up and take small, public actions together. To show the world, not to tell the world what was important. Watching that movement explode to 20,000 members across every zip code in the state was nothing short of magic. I saw them plant a thousand native plants at KPT, refurbish domestic violence shelters, and get their hands dirty rebuilding loko i‘a.

They never slowed down. This past year Kanu Hawai‘i turned out the world’s largest volunteer group for Earth Day. Seeing them get global recognition for work that started in dusty community rooms was a proud older brother moment for me.

My role was to uplift their stories. It was the easiest job in the world because people genuinely wanted to be part of what Olin was building. When we produced posters, we did not have to hire actors. Real members showed up every day just to be a part of it. Jack Johnson even let us use his home and music for a commercial. In true Jack fashion, he only charged us a whopping one dollar for the music rights. We even had the CEO of Kamehameha Schools, Dee Jay Mailer, jumping into the mix to star in one of our commercials and share her commitments.

Years later, we reunited to tell Olin’s story for Zippy’s—a story centered on his mother. It deeply moved our team and the Zippy’s leadership. Through it, we learned not only about Olin’s upbringing, but about a mother who raised her family in KPT housing, faced adversity head-on, and instilled the values that allowed Olin to succeed and build businesses rooted in community benefit. I will include a link to that film separately.

You will hear much about Olin's many accolades, but I want to highlight what I believe is his most important innovation: the practice of personal commitment. Olin operates from a principle I have since adopted in my own life—that we should never ask others to do what we are unwilling to embody ourselves. That level of vulnerability and leadership is rare. It is why TED partnered with him to build their first community platform grounded in this philosophy, and why Guy Kawasaki featured Kanu Hawai'i in *Enchantment*, his bestselling book.

Watching Olin over the past fifteen years has been a masterclass in leading with humility. He does not merely build platforms; he builds belief. He makes people feel that their small contribution is the one that might finally tip the scale toward a better future. He has been the quiet engine behind many of Hawai'i's most meaningful community efforts.

I can say with complete confidence that whatever Olin touches grows stronger and more resilient. I am honored to call him a collaborator and a friend.

I give Olin my highest recommendation for the role of Trustee for Kamehameha Schools. He comes from a humble background, carries himself with deep respect for 'ike kūpuna, and possesses the heart, integrity, and vision this role demands. He represents exactly the kind of leadership our community needs right now.

Aloha,

Gerard Elmore

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerard Elmore". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Gerard" and "Elmore" being capitalized and prominent.

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Tiffany Huynh <tiffany@elementalimpact.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 18, 2025 12:22 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha Chair and Members of the Screening Committee,

I am honored to submit this letter in strong support of **Olin Kealoha Lagon** for consideration as a Trustee of **Kamehameha Schools**. Olin is a visionary social entrepreneur, technology innovator, and community advocate whose work reflects a deep and demonstrated commitment to equity, education, culture, and community empowerment.

Olin has dedicated his career to creating solutions that uplift communities while honoring Indigenous values and cultural identity. I have had the privilege of working with him in his role as Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer of Shifted Energy, where he has led the development of advanced energy technologies that increase grid accessibility and sustainability for underserved households, especially renters and low-income families, ensuring that Hawai'i's clean energy transition is both equitable and inclusive. Today, Shifted Energy's technology operates across multiple states and countries, advancing energy access and efficiency on a global scale.

Earlier in his career, Olin pioneered the first commercial online crowdfunding platform, which facilitated nearly \$100 million directed to causes worldwide, laying a foundation that helped shape the modern era of community-driven fundraising.

Olin's impact extends far beyond technology. As co-founder of the Purple Mai'a Foundation, he has helped build culturally grounded STEM education and innovation pathways for Native Hawaiian youth and adults, inspiring thousands to see themselves as creators, innovators, and leaders. His commitment to public service is equally profound, serving as Chairman of the City and County of Honolulu's Office of Economic Revitalization Commission and contributing to nonprofit and civic boards focused on peacebuilding, environmental stewardship, and community wellbeing - including Hawai'i Land Trust, dedicated to protecting the lands that sustain Hawai'i for future generations.

Olin's leadership is rooted in lived experience and cultural heritage. Raised in Hawai'i public housing, he brings humility, resilience, and deep empathy to every role he undertakes. His work embodies the values of mālama 'āina, kuleana to community, and opportunity for future generations.

Kamehameha Schools stands at a pivotal moment, one that calls for leadership grounded in cultural legacy while advancing innovation that will shape a resilient and thriving future. Olin's unique blend of entrepreneurial excellence, cultural integrity, and commitment to equity makes him an outstanding candidate to serve as Trustee. He will bring fresh perspective, thoughtful stewardship, and unwavering dedication to the lāhui, honoring the past while catalyzing opportunities for those yet to come.

I respectfully and enthusiastically endorse his nomination, and urge the committee to strongly consider **Olin Kealoha Lagon** for appointment to the Board of Trustees.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Tiffany Huynh

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Tiffany Huynh (*she/her*)

Senior Director of External Affairs  
Elemental Impact  
[elementalimpact.com](https://elementalimpact.com)



## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Hermina Morita <herminamorita@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 18, 2025 8:04 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Trustee Finalist OLIN LAGON  
**Attachments:** 12172025 Letter In Support of Olin Lagon\_1\_.pdf; Attachment - Olin Lagon 2282023 Letter.pdf

Attached please find my letter of support for Olin Lagon (12172025 Letter In Support of Olin Lagon) to fill the Kamehameha School trustee vacancy. For background information, I am also submitting a previous letter of support. Thank you for your consideration. Hermina Morita

Sent via e-mail: [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)

December 17, 2025

Aloha e Kamehameha Schools Steering Committee:

For your consideration, I am also attaching my February 28, 2023 letter in support of the selection of **Olin Lagon** as a trustee of Kamehameha Schools. That letter describes how I came to know Olin. In this letter, I wish to focus on **why he is particularly well suited to serve at this critical moment**, as Kamehameha Schools continues its work to fulfill its mission grounded in aloha ‘āina, stewardship, and service to the lāhui.

As a State Representative, I witnessed—and actively opposed—the undue political influence of Bishop Estate/Kamehameha Schools, particularly efforts to exploit land development opportunities and exert control over water resources through the Legislature. I also challenged political interference in the selection of Trustees and later welcomed the community-led efforts of students, alumni, and leaders who worked together to restore integrity, accountability, and public trust. That period remains an important reminder of how essential moral leadership is to the success of Kamehameha Schools’ mission.

My service as both a legislator and a regulator gave me a significant role in guiding major transformations in Hawai‘i’s electric and telecommunications sectors—complex systems requiring long-term vision, disciplined decision-making, and a commitment to the public interest. As a leader representing communities that were labeled visitor “hotspots”, I struggled to have the visitor industry understand the need to balance competing pressures: protecting residents’ quality of life, supporting economic activity, and safeguarding Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources for future generations. These experiences gave me the opportunity to work with many Hawai‘i leaders in the government and private sectors and have shaped my understanding of the skill sets required during periods of institutional and systems change.

Today, as Kamehameha Schools looks ahead, it must also prepare for the profound changes that artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies will bring to education, land stewardship, and workforce development. AI represents not merely a technological shift, but a systems transformation—raising questions of equity, governance, data stewardship, and long-term responsibility. In moments of such rapid change, institutions require leaders who can anticipate unintended consequences and ensure that innovation remains aligned with mission and values.

At this juncture, Kamehameha Schools requires trustees whose primary orientation is neither toward shareholder return nor political accommodation, but toward the enduring responsibilities of trust, stewardship, and service to the lāhui. Experience alone is not sufficient; what matters most is whether a leader is grounded in Hawaiian communities, guided by values, and willing to make decisions that prioritize long-term outcomes over short-term considerations.

**Olin Lagon brings precisely this kind of leadership.** His background equips him to ask the right questions, establish appropriate guardrails, and help ensure that Kamehameha Schools prepares learners to engage thoughtfully and responsibly with emerging technologies, consistent with Native Hawaiian values and long-term lāhui well-being. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a sustained commitment to serving and uplifting the lāhui, approaching leadership with humility, discipline, and a clear sense of kuleana.

For these reasons, I believe **Olin Lagon's record reflects the grounding and judgment required at this time**, and that his leadership is especially needed as Kamehameha Schools moves forward in alignment with its mission and strategic vision for generations to come.

‘O au nō, me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,



Hermina M. Morita (KS72)  
P.O. Box 791  
Hanalei, HI 96714  
e-mail: [herminamorita@gmail.com](mailto:herminamorita@gmail.com)  
cell: (808)256-5076



Sent via e-mail: [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)

February 28, 2023

Aloha e Kamehameha Schools Trustee Steering Committee:

I write this letter in support of the selection of **Olin Kealoha Lagon** to fill the upcoming Kamehameha Schools Trustee vacancy.

Olin has a compelling story on how the legacy of Princess Pauahi has affected his life to allow him to create beneficial opportunities for our communities by using his ingenuity, technological and entrepreneurial skills, this inspite of having faced numerous disadvantages in his youth. I believe his life experiences, technology and business background adds knowledge and skill set diversity that will complement the roles of the other trustees. This diversity is so important to succeed in today's business climate while holding the Trust firm to our shared educational and Hawaiian values to allow the 'āina and lāhui to prosper into perpetuity.

I have known and worked with Olin for over 15 years in my role as a State Legislator and Chair of the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission. In my 20-year career as a government official specializing in energy and environmental policies, I have met many people who talk, but hardly walk the talk, of sustainable business practices and achieving a triple bottomline. Olin is an exception. He is a leader in economic systems change, striving to mālama the needs for an inclusive, equitable and regenerative economy.

What put Olin within my sights is he was one of the few who questioned how proponents were approaching the implementation of renewable energy projects, understanding, if not considered as a system, that many would be left behind in Hawai'i's clean energy transformation. This is why the work he began with Kanu Hawai'i and later his focus on Shifted Energy has been so important to help achieve energy equity, that is a clean energy system that is efficient, fair and equitable that can be beneficial for all Hawai'i residents, not just those who can place PV systems on their homes or buy electric cars and take the tax credits.

Olin is a type of person who has the ability to think, analyze, create and implement a holistic perspective through teamwork. What I mean by this is many people seek a linear solution, just going from point A to point B. Olin thinks in venn diagrams, in identifying all aspects of the challenge then pulling in the necessary teams and resources to address the issue. As the outreach of the Trust throughout Hawai'i grows and becomes more complex in seeking long range planning to benefit our keiki and 'āina for generations to come, I believe Olin's skill sets and na'auao can be of great service to the legacy of Princess Pauahi.

As I write this letter of support, the nation awaits as former President Carter exits this realm with such humility, grace and dignity. For many years I have kept this President Carter quote to inspire me. He said, "What is needed now, more than ever, is leadership that steers us away from fear and fosters greater confidence in the inherent goodness and ingenuity of humanity." Olin's leadership and ingenuity has lead to his success as an entrepreneur, but more importantly, he possesses an inherent aloha to malama humanity. He is a good citizen and is an excellent role model for our Hawaiian community.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my support of Olin Kealoha Lagon for trustee.

'O au nō, me ka 'oia'i'o,



Hermina M. Morita (KS72)

P.O. Box 791

Hanalei, Kaua'i, HI 96766

herminamorita@gmail.com

(808)256-5076

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Dmitry Kiselyov <dkiselyov@me.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 20, 2025 8:29 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

To the Selection Committee,

It is my honor to recommend my longtime friend, Olin Lagon, for nomination as Trustee of Kamehameha Schools. I first met Olin more than twenty years ago while I was an undergraduate student in my hometown of Cheboksary, Russia. At that time, Olin and several fellow Americans were serving in the Peace Corps, and our community was fortunate to host volunteers of such diverse backgrounds and experiences.

From the beginning, Olin distinguished himself by the ease with which he connected with people across cultures. Despite the language barrier and the challenges of adapting to a vastly different environment—long, harsh winters and unfamiliar customs—he embraced the experience wholeheartedly. He and his wife immersed themselves in our community, supporting students, schools, and local businesses. Their presence left a lasting impact, and Olin’s positivity and open mindset made him a bridge between two countries.

Over the years, I came to admire Olin not only for his warmth and generosity but also for his breadth of knowledge and accomplishments. Through countless conversations, I learned of his service in the U.S. Navy, his ventures as a serial entrepreneur, and his remarkable ability to solve complex technical problems. He has always been a source of inspiration, offering insights that were both practical and visionary. His stories carried useful lessons, and his energy was contagious.

Olin embodies the qualities of leadership, compassion, and public service that are essential for a trustee. He has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to empowering communities, fostering education, and bridging divides. I am confident that his wisdom, integrity, and technical acumen will serve Kamehameha Schools with distinction.

I wholeheartedly support his nomination and encourage you to consider the profound impact he has made on many individuals and communities alike.

Respectfully,  
Dmitry Kiselyov

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Maya Soetoro-Ng [Consultant] <msoetorong.consultant@obama.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 20, 2025 9:48 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Attachments:** Maya Letter of Support for Olin Lagon for KS Trustee.pdf

Aloha,

I am submitting this letter of support on behalf of Olin Lagon for KS Trustee. Mahalo nui,

Maya Soetoro

*This email was sent by a consultant in support of the Obama Foundation. Sender is not an employee of the Obama Foundation.*

December 17, 2025

Aloha nui kākou,

On a still night in 2009, I was out protesting the State's Furlough Friday policy. In those early days of our fight for our keiki, there were so few of us. Just seventeen of us gathered on a sketchy, narrow stretch of sidewalk across from the State Capitol. That was the first night I met Olin in person. He was one of the first community organizers to step up after Furlough Fridays were announced. Thankfully, our efforts helped end the unconscionable practice of balancing the State budget by radically shortening the school year.

I share this story because it speaks to the heart of who Olin is: a protector of education who shows up when it is difficult, not just when it is convenient.

Over the years, Olin and I have remained friends and frequent collaborators. I've supported his educational nonprofit, Purple Mai'a, which has empowered thousands of Indigenous students in technology, and his movement-building work through Kanu Hawai'i. He, in turn, brought his cultural grounding and systems thinking to Ceeds of Peace, an organization I co-founded, where he has served as a longtime board member. He even shared his mana'o at an Obama Fellows event, grounding the new cohort with ku'i kalo. He and his 'ohana still farm kalo the traditional way on weekends. From everything I've seen, I can say without hesitation that Olin possesses the unique blend of heart, mind, and spirit required of a Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

The more I've gotten to know him, the more I've seen how every chapter of his life reflects a deep commitment to community, especially to those often overlooked. I've also been struck by his ability to design, launch, and scale solutions to solve really tough problems, a skill set crucial for the stewardship of the Trust's assets. As a college student, he launched a tech company based on his insight that translators were being underpaid by middlemen. His platform used the nascent Internet to connect over 5,000 translators directly with clients like Disney and Nike. This raised translator incomes in dozens of countries and created over 100 high-paying jobs for his Hawai'i-based team. Even institutions like the Olympics and the MIT Media Lab used his services.

His commitment to service is global and local. He served in the Peace Corps in a remote Indigenous community in Russia. After returning home, he led Hawai'i's first statewide CDFI, one of the first community banks created here. He also launched CNHA's first social venture, which expanded across multiple islands. When the pandemic hit, CNHA called him back. He helped lead what became the largest contract ever awarded to a nonprofit in Hawai'i: the \$250 million Rental Relief Program. Under his leadership, CNHA delivered services faster than any other state, prompting more

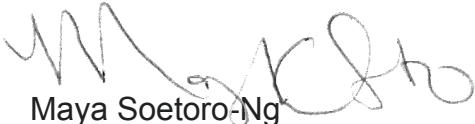
rounds of federal funding. During this same period, he volunteered and led an all-volunteer engineering team that designed and hand-built 250 ventilators to help address the shortage in Hawai'i's hospitals.

I only recently learned that Olin also founded the first crowdfunding company and wrote the industry's first patent, calling it "social commerce." In addition to pioneering crowdfunding, he and his team created the first online medical crowdfunding request to cover the cost of medication for a family at risk of losing their vision. What they started is now a common part of online giving. Since then, he has co-founded several organizations including Kanu Hawai'i, Purple Mai'a, and Shifted Energy. Shifted's model is now being used in nine states and Canada. It brings underserved communities into clean energy programs in a way that is both scalable and deeply rooted in equity.

On a personal note, I encourage you to watch the short video produced by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office about Olin's life. It traces his journey from Hawaiian homestead to public housing, to dropout, to quiet, culturally grounded social entrepreneur. Each year, the Patent Office highlights a few innovators across the country who represent not just technological excellence but a deep commitment to public service. The Director of the Patent Office was so moved by his story that she placed it on their homepage as the lead story for a month. It might seem unusual to see that kind of story featured on the front page of a federal agency focused on intellectual property, but it reminds us that innovation belongs to our people, too.

Olin doesn't just dream of a better Hawai'i. He builds it, with patience, integrity, and deep respect for the people he serves. I hope you'll give him the opportunity to bring that spirit to the Board of Trustees. Through this role, he will help grow the kind of leadership our Lāhui needs most, honoring the legacy of Ke Ali'i Pauahi by ensuring her mission adapts and thrives in a rapidly changing world.

Me ke aloha pumehana,



Maya Soetoro-Ng

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Choon James <choonjameshawaii@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 21, 2025 5:15 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of Strong Support for Olin Lagon for 2025-2026 Kamehameha Schools Trustee  
**Attachments:** Olin Lagon 2025 Trustee Kamehameha Schools.pdf

Aloha Trustee Screening Committee Members -

Robin Campaniano

Jason Fujimoto

Wayne Hamano

DreanaLee "Dre" Kalili

Michael "Mike" Rawlins

Kathleen Thurston

Edwin "Skip" Vincent

Mahalo for your service!

Attached is my sincere Letter of Support for Olin Lagon for your careful consideration.

Wishing you all a wonderful Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Choon James,  
Community Advocate  
808 293 8888

Email to: executives@inkinen.com  
From: Choon James, Community Advocate  
Re: 2025-2026 Selection of a Trustee for Kamehameha Schools  
Date: December 21, 2025



He Kūkākūkā: A Talk Story with the KS Trustee Finalists

Kamehameha Schools  
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184 views Streamed live on Dec 18, 2025

Hear directly from the 2025-2026 Kamehameha Schools Trustee finalists and engage in a community conversation about their vision for Kamehameha Schools.

## STRONG SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATE OLIN KEALOHA LAGON

Aloha Members of the Selection Committee,

I generally do not involve myself in internal Hawaiiana affairs decision-making out of respect as I'm originally from Singapore. I have lived here for about 50 years. I came here to attend BYU-Hawaii.

I love Hawaii and the privilege of living here in this special place. My husband, a retired BYU-Hawaii Applied Linguistics professor, speaks Hawaiian, French and Tahitian. My husband had the privilege of learning the Hawaiian Language and being tutored in Hawaiiana culture and values by Parley Kanaka'ole, son of Auntie Edith Kanaka'ole. The venerable Parley Kanaka'ole and his family graciously took us under their wings and shared their knowledge and aloha with us. Two of my twelve grandchildren now have Hawaiian ancestry ties from the Kekauoha lineage.



Additionally, we have been so continuously blessed by countless Kupuna and Hawaiian families who welcome us with open arms and open hearts. Our grateful family has tried our best to help and contribute wherever and whenever we can to help protect and preserve Hawaiian heritage and values, especially for our Hawaiian brothers and sisters.

I feel compelled to respectfully recommend **Olin Lagon** for your consideration as a Trustee for the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop. Pauahi's love, generosity, and foresight have continued to bless her people she loved dearly.

The other two finalist candidates have achieved significant accomplishments: One in the Hawaii Tourism Industry and the other in the local Corporate World. Their contributions are appreciated.

However, candidate Olin Lagon has achieved an impressive skillset that is so critically needed at this particular juncture of Hawaii's and the world's societal shifts and technology.

"Artificial Intelligence" (AI) Technology is has become more full-blown and upon us - on all different levels and angles, including education, finance, livelihood, lifestyle, and so on.

Despite these inevitable societal upheavals and shifts, Olin Lagon maintains a versatile record of being a very grounded and well-rounded leader.

Olin Lagon has **consistently** been steeped in grassroots participation and collaboration, which organically exudes Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's Will and Dreams for her beloved people today and into the future.

I truly believe that Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop would be so happy to see such an intelligent, enterprising, and compassionate and energetic man like Olin Lagon help perpetuate her values and her dreams. She would be impressed with his mind set and skill set.

I also will very briefly highlight what I see in Olin Lagon who will be a valuable asset as one of the Trustees to the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

1. His humble beginnings in Kalihi Public Housing with a struggling single mom have refined him and instilled invaluable insights and compassion for those around him, including those of Hawaii ancestry.
2. His educational training and his sharp intellectual abilities to analyze the challenging issues in our communities and to come up with solutions and alternatives are remarkable and inspiring.

3. His travels abroad are definitely an asset to him. Travelling and living in different parts of the world inevitably broadens a person's horizon and outlook. These experiences create a "world citizen" as he is today.
4. Olin Lagon's **consistent** record of compassionate and professional collaboration, work, and community involvement speaks volumes to his "Public Good" inclinations and good character. He's all all-around learner and "giver".
5. He's **consistently** dependable and rooted in the values of Hawaii that the Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop would be so comforted by.
6. There will be no broken trust from this young man. His record has **consistently** shown an authentic, strong, and genuine inclination towards giving, sharing, and uplifting Hawaii's population. He's not focused on enriching or profiteering himself. He's also a good and kind father to his children.

I believe this is a great opportunity to have an outstanding role model for the Hawaiian population in this visible position. He will be an influence for good to the younger generation at Kamehameha Schools and beyond.

The wonderful students of Kamehameha Schools will undoubtedly enjoy and benefit from his thirst for learning and educational explorations in this new world.

I believe having a Trustee who has been in the trenches and of such combined high caliber skill set and mind set will contribute greatly to Princess Pauahi's dream for Native Hawaiians and Hawaii at large.

I hope Olin Lagon will have this opportunity to promote Princess Bernice Pauahi's dream on a larger scale as a Trustee.

Someone like Olin Lagon is so critically needed in this junction of transformative paradigm shifts in the world. His compelling skill set, intellect, mana, aloha, and above all, his **CONSISTENT** record of doing good. His innate recognition of the powerful but inevitable thrust of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our society and the very fundamental need of basic sustainability for our islands to thrive is so evident.

This is the kind of servant leadership that Hawaii, including Kamehameha Schools, need in these times of great shifts and commotion.

Respectfully,  
Choon James, Community Advocate  
808 293 8888  
[ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com](mailto:ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com)

## REFERENCES:

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

<https://www.ksbe.edu/about-us> We champion every Hawaiian learner to explore their potential to lead our lāhui and inspire the world. ***Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui.*** Nurture the child and the lāhui thrives.

*The enduring legacy of a princess who had a deep desire to see her people flourish continues to transform the lives of countless keiki. Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Bishop recognized the power of education to uplift Native Hawaiians and offer hope for their future.*


*By operating world-class Hawaiian schools and engaging with communities to transform educational systems, we will raise 'ōiwi leaders who are empowered and unified, and who will solve the issues of our people and communities.*

KE ONE O KĀKUHIEWA AND KANAEOKANA PRESENT:


# HE KŪKĀKŪKĀ:

A Talk Story with KS Trustee Finalists


Hear directly from the finalists and engage in a community conversation about their vision for Kamehameha Schools.



Keith Vieira  
TRUSTEE FINALIST




Olin K. Lagon  
TRUSTEE FINALIST



Eric K. Yeaman  
TRUSTEE FINALIST

**\*\* SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE AND SUBMIT QUESTIONS \*\***



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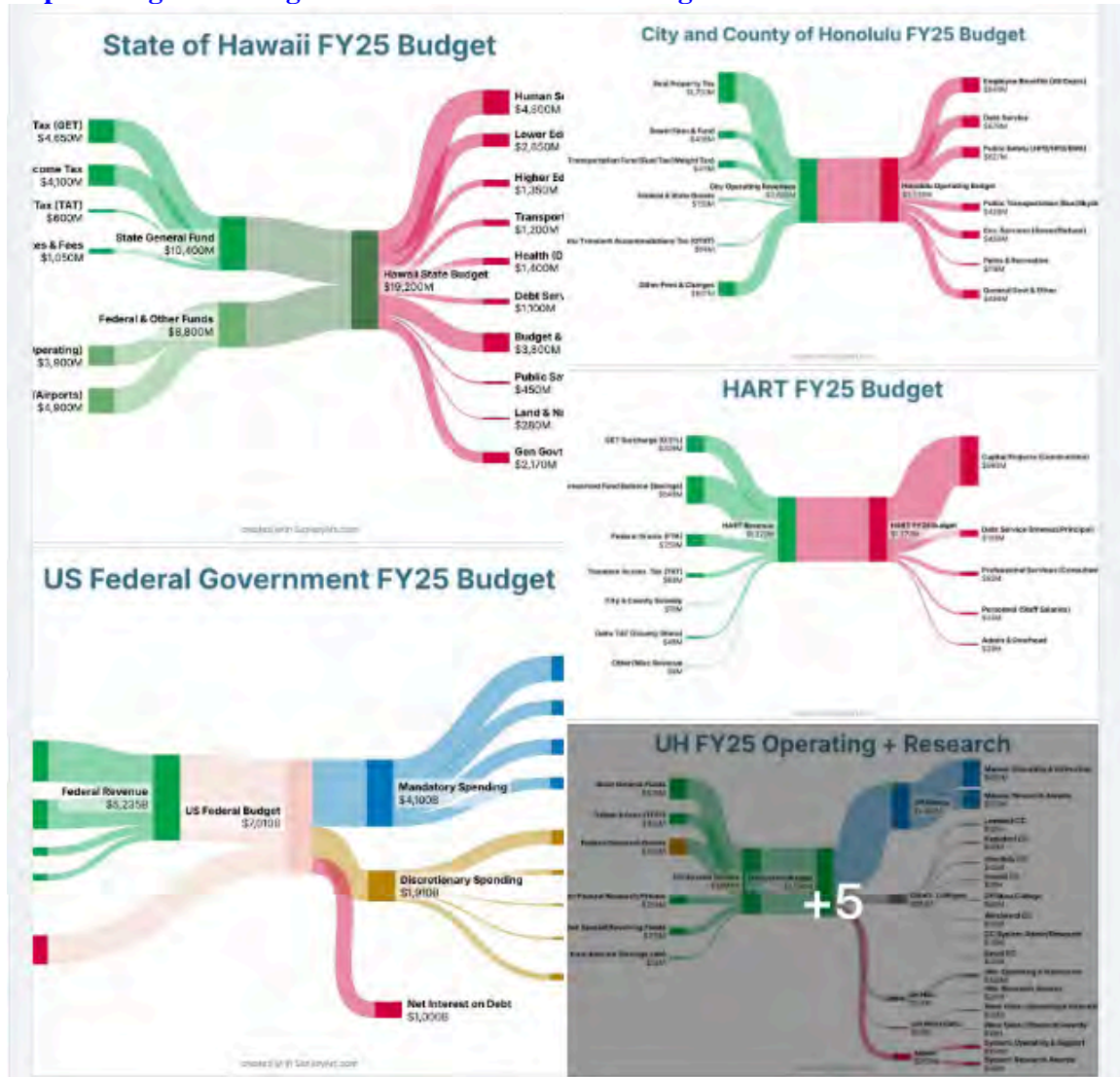
**Thursday, December 18, 2025**

**Kālama Dining Hall**  
Kamehameha Schools Kapālama Campus

**6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.**

Finalist Olin Lagon's versatile skill set in so many different areas is a wonderful example and asset to Kamehameha Schools and its organization and beyond.

[https://budget.hawaii.gov/.../executive-biennium-budget...](https://budget.hawaii.gov/.../executive-biennium-budget.../)







Olin Kealoha Lagon

September 10 · 🌐

...

Please help spread the word. Applications and nominations are now open for [Purple Mai'a Foundation's](#) 2025–2026 Global Eahou Immersion Cohort.... [See more](#)



Liz Fischer, Jamee Vasconcellos Miller and 14 others

9 shares



Olin Kealoha Lagon

September 30 · 🌐

...

Here is a short piece about our work where [Forest Frizzell](#), Monique Desimone, and [Keoni Lee](#) share about how we expand energy benefits to chronically overlooked communit... [See more](#)



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NEWS NOW

# Shifted Energy: Creating scalable energy solution for low-income communities

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**Shifted Energy: Creating scalable energy solution for low-income communities** Shifted Energy turns water heaters into smart storage to cut costs, stabilize Hawaii's grid, and empower local families through clean tech.



Olin Kealoha Lagon

August 28 · 🌐

Excited to be on a panel tonight at AHL, "Hawaii's Way of Life as a Compass for the World." One of the firm's founding partners, Frank Haines, was an early mentor of m... [See more](#)

HONOLULU  
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OFFICE OF  
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# Patent Your Invention

PANEL I: INVENTOR SHOWCASE  
PANEL II: COMMERCIALIZE YOUR RESEARCH INVENTION

Panel I

Panel I

Panel I

Panel II

ART  
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TECTURE

## HAWAII'S WAY OF LIFE AS A COMPASS FOR THE WORLD

Join us at AHL's newly renovated office!

Thursday, August 28, 5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Pacific Guardian Center  
Makai Tower | Suite 3100

ahl.

Patents Trademarks IP Policy Licensing and Resources

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**Cultivating community-driven change: Olin Kealoha Lagon**  
Olin Kealoha Lagon is a founding partner of AHL and a member of the Hawaii Innovation Council.

### New to IP?

Patent basics  
Trademark basics  
Identify what kind of IP you have  
Identify & understand resources

Access our free services  
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#### Latest news

**USPTO's Green Energy Innovation Expo offers networking and potential partnership opportunities to advance technologies in the fight against climate change**  
The Green Energy Innovation Expo, May 17 at USPTO's headquarters in Washington, DC.

**USPTO encourages new Trademarks for Diversity awards competition**  
Encourage innovation with diversity trademarks whose products and services promote diversity.

**Record number of law firms boost participation in innovation ecosystem among under-represented inventors and small businesses**  
USPTO announces CEO Roundtable for Small Business & Under-represented Inventors for new participation among practitioners.

**USPTO announces Advisory Notice of Proposed**

"[T]here is a crucial need for a new era of innovation, and for all of us to unite in helping every potential innovator in our country bring their innovation to impact. We can help make those dreams become reality and, in the process, turbocharge access to the American innovation system for everyone."

— Keith W. Vaid, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the





Olin Kealoha Lagon

November 12 · 🌐

I am proud to share that we at [‘Ōlelo Community Media](#) have partnered with the [Office of Hawaiian Affairs](#) to broadcast and stream OHA's Standing Committee and Board of T... See more



# OHA Board of Trustees and Standing Committee Meetings to be Carried live on ‘Ōlelo



The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) has partnered with ‘Ōlelo Community Media (‘Ōlelo) to broadcast and stream OHA's Standing Committee and Board of Trustees meetings, significantly expanding community access between OHA and the Native Hawaiian communities it serves.

‘Ōlelo will carry the OHA meetings on cable Channel 53, Hawaiian Telcom 1053, and on OHA's YouTube and Facebook pages, where they will be available to view later.







Olin Kealoha Lagon is at Lanikuhonua at Ko'olina.

October 5 · Kapolei, HI · 🌐

...

[Hawai'i Land Trust](#) knows how to host events that truly honor 'āina warriors. I am grateful to learn from this team as a board member.... [See more](#)





**Olin Kealoha Lagon** is with **Ryan Kalei Tsuji** and **Yunji de Nies**.

December 7 at 8:43 AM · 🌐



Last week, I had the honor of being invited by Rediscovering Hawai'i's Soul to talk story about innovation across our pae 'āina. I shared the segment with Governor Waihe'e, who went first. I would never want to follow the Governor speaking, but that was the setup!

During the segment, I also shared a sneak peek of a project I haven't talked about publicly yet. Old friend Tim Dick and I have a new book coming out, likely in March. It's a tome featuring stories of over 120+ inventions and catalysts that originated right here in Hawai'i and have impacted the world beyond our shores. This is one of history's most innovation-dense locations per capita. It has been for hundreds of years, and I hope it will be for hundreds more. This is just one of part of our legacy and our lei of 'ike we continue to weave.

Mahalo to [Hawaii News Now](#) for having us!

Watch the clips here:

\* Governor Waihe'e's segment: <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/.../spotlight-now-former.../>

\* My segment: <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/.../spotlight-now.../>

About Rediscovering Hawai'i's Soul: Hawai'i faces uncertain times for which there is no existing roadmap. RHS is a collective network-convening movement that requires urgency and commitment from all of us who call Hawai'i home. It is a journey to build a shared understanding of the depth of meaning, history, and value of Hawai'i, the Soul of Hawai'i. We invite you to join us. [hawaiisoul.org](http://hawaiisoul.org)











Economic Stability

## Innovating for Equity

By Donalyn Dela Cruz · November 1, 2025

123

Like 18



At BIXPO in South Korea, the world's largest energy conference, Shifted Energy was awarded the prestigious "Best in Class: International Category" for their Grid Maestro software solution. Pictured here are Shifted Energy's Olin Lagon (left) and Forest Frizzell (right). The award was presented to them by EPRI Vice President of Innovation Mark McGranagh (center). - Photos: Courtesy of Olin Lagon and Shifted Energy



## **Committee selects three finalists for Kamehameha Schools trustee seat**

**Dec. 1, 2025**

The Probate Court has appointed a Trustee Screening Committee to nominate three candidates to be considered by the Court for appointment as a Trustee for the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop.

The Screening Committee solicited applications from individuals who possess a deep sense of commitment and the ability to ensure Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's vision and legacy are perpetuated into the future. After reviewing resumes and vision statements of 83 applicants, and conducting personal interviews with semi-finalists, the Screening Committee has determined that the following three finalists (listed in alphabetical order) best meet the Probate Court's requirements and desirable qualities and characteristics:

**OLIN K. LAGON**

**KEITH VIEIRA**

**ERIC K. YEAMAN**

The desirable qualities and characteristics of a trustee should include: a recognized reputation of integrity and good character, the capacity to fulfill the responsibilities of a fiduciary under the trust law, respect from and for the community, consistent and active leadership in the community at large with specific emphasis on issues impacting the well-being of the Hawaiian people, and a willingness and sincerity to uphold the mission of Kamehameha Schools as stated in Ke Ali'i Pauahi's Will and Codicils.

The optimal candidate would have a history of success in business, finance or related areas, in addition to a formal education and outstanding personal traits including Hawaiian values.

Candidates must possess expertise in one or more of the following areas: business administration, finance and investment, strategic planning and policy setting, or general areas of interest to Kamehameha Schools, including education, law, finance or governance.

This appointment will identify a successor to Trustee Robert K.W.H. Nobriga, whose term expired on June 30, 2025. The successor to Trustee Nobriga will be appointed to fill a five (5) year term and be eligible for an additional five (5) year term, as determined by the Court.

The current Board of Trustees includes Jennifer N. Goodyear-Ka'ōpua, Michelle Ka'uhane, Elliot K. Mills and Crystal K. Rose.

The seven appointed volunteer community members who serve on the Screening Committee are: Robin Campaniano, Jason Fujimoto, Wayne Hamano, DreanaLee “Dre” Kalili, Michael “Mike” Rawlins, Kathleen Thurston and Edwin “Skip” Vincent.

In accordance with the 1999 Master's Report and the 2025 Amended Order on the procedure for selection of trustees, the Screening Committee is seeking active community leaders with a deep sense of commitment and willingness to carry Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's vision and legacy forward.

The public is welcome to submit written comments on the candidates, which will be filed with the Probate Court and will become public record. **Comments must be received by 4:00pm (HST) on December 31, 2025.**

Comments should include the sender's legal name and contact information. Please do not abbreviate names (for example, J. Doe or Jane D.). Anonymous comments will not be accepted by the committee.

Comments may be submitted by:

- Online form: [Public Comment – Trustee Finalists, Kamehameha Schools](#)
- Email to: [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)
- Mail to: Trustee Screening Committee, c/o Inkinen Executive Search, 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1477, Honolulu, HI 96813. *Must be postmarked by December 31, 2025.*

Learn more about the trustee selection process [here](#). For more information, please visit: <https://www.inkinen.com/ks-trustee-2025-2026/>



## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Dawn Lippert <dawn@elementalimpact.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Dear nomination committee,

I am writing in strong support of Olin's nomination to the Kamehameha Schools board of trustees. I'm excerpting below a letter our team wrote about Olin a couple of years ago to underscore why I think he is the right navigator for Kamehameha Schools at this time: honoring the past while blazing the path to a resilient, thriving, and newly-imagined future. He is a student of the past and the stories that make Hawai'i such an outsize contributor to global wellbeing (including researching and writing about them in his new book!), while he also has an instinct for technology and where things are going. Especially now, with technology and social change evolving faster than ever before, I think Olin is the right pick for our community. Thank you so much for the opportunity to support his candidacy.

Warmly,  
Dawn

Olin is an innovator. More than a serial entrepreneur, he is a problem solver. He actively seeks out challenges facing our community; zeros in on them with optimism in his eyes; and builds solutions at the intersection of technology, community, and culture. We witnessed Olin the innovator during COVID. When cases were rising and many of us were asking questions, Olin and a small group of engineers were already testing answers. He formed Kahanu to build emergency ventilators from and for Hawai'i. We remember talking to him on the phone in April 2020. He was running low on sleep but high on focus and fuel.

Olin is also a paradox. He is focused on the now and next, while never losing sight of his original intention. His new ideas are inspired by his ancestors. It is the secret to Olin's creativity. His creativity steeped in the value of 'auamo kuleana – collective transformation through individual excellence. Kanu Hawai'i, Purple Mai'a, and Shifted Energy are all manifestations of his passion and talent rooted in aloha for this 'aina.

Lastly, Olin is a storyteller. His stories come from a place of vulnerability, humility and a commitment to inspiring his community and future generations. We will carry the story Olin told us of the kaona behind the name Purple Mai'a with us forever: The banana flower blooms beautifully and if it is not taken care of, it will not become a fruit. The banana flower is purple, the rarest color in nature. If you don't look for it, you will never see it. And if you cannot see it, you will not nurture it. But if you do, you'll see it everywhere. This is a metaphor for youth in traditionally overlooked and excluded communities that lack the resources to uncover their own internal innovator. These are the communities that Purple Mai'a serves. I have been honored to work alongside Olin redesigning the systems at the root of climate change from Hawai'i and way beyond.

[Dawn Lippert](#)  
[Elemental Impact](#) | [Earthshot Ventures](#)

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Kaiea Medeiros <m8kamede@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2025 11:39 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha,

My name is Kaiea Medeiros and I am a 2008 graduate of Kamehameha Schools Maui and a beneficiary of Pauahi's estate. I am sending this letter of STRONG SUPPORT for Olin Lagon to be selected as the next Ke Kula o Kamehameha Trustee. Olin is an 'ōiwi leader that is rooted in regenerating 'āina and the collective movement of our lāhui towards ea.

There are many reasons why Olin should be selected as a trustee of Pauahi's estate and Ke Kula o Kamehameha. He is an 'ōiwi leader that is truly committed to serving our most vulnerable and dispossessed communities. Furthermore, he brings 'imi'ike to this space as proven through his culturally grounded technology education for keiki to kupuna. He has empowered 'ōiwi thinking and values in an ever evolving technology led world through many of his ventures, most notably through the co-founding of the Purple Mai'a Foundation. Through the Purple Mai'a Foundation I was fortunate to have engaged and been a part of the Ka Maka 'inana program, which was centered around 'ōiwi led systems design between 2021-2022. The lessons and most importantly the relationships built during that program directly translated to and supported my work as the co-lead for the Maui County Office of Recovery, Natural Cultural Resources branch, that was stood up in the wake of the August 2023 Lahaina and Kula Wildfires. Till today, the 'ike gained from that space has been guiding my leadership of this recovery work.

Lastly, Olin is the best candidate to be the next trustee because he is an 'ōiwi leader that genuinely practices aloha 'āina, perpetuates systems of self determination, and one who exercises ea. All the candidates to a certain degree are highly qualified, but the differentiation with Olin is that his work and kuleana has always been deeply rooted in uplifting lāhui, leading community-driven change, and uplifting community voices. When referring to the specific community he serves, it is our lāhui, kaiaulu, kupa'āina, and 'āina communities. We are in a pivotal moment is our lāhui and 'ōiwi's living history and Olin is a leader that will lead in a culturally appropriate way, assure our lāhui is empowered through the process, and hold institutions accountable in addressing and supporting our needs.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Mālama,  
Kaiea Edward Medeiros, M.S.  
Kamehameha Schools Alumni, 2008

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Sunshine Topping <sunshine@omidyargroup.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2025 9:52 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Olin Lagon, KS Trustee Finalist  
**Attachments:** Olin Lagon KS Trustee.pdf; Untitled attachment 00023.htm; signature.asc

Aloha, and mahalo for your consideration. Please let me know if there is another email address I should be sending this to?

The Honorable Jeannette H. Castagnetti  
Judge of the Probate Court of the First Circuit  
777 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

12/22/2025

Aloha e Judge Castagnetti,

My name is Sunshine Pualani Topping. I respectfully submit my personal testimony in support of Olin Lagon's candidacy for Trustee of Kamehameha Schools.

I write as a fellow fiduciary. I currently serve as a Trustee of the King Lunalilo Trust. While our trusts differ (significantly) in scale, they share the same sacred kuleana: the stewardship of a royal legacy and the prudent, disciplined management of resources for the benefit of our people, both today and for generations to come. I also serve as the Hawai'i lead for The Omidyar Group. My professional work is grounded in fiduciary responsibility, capital stewardship, and governance under conditions of scale, risk, and long term consequence.

Through this work, I am very aware of, and understanding of fiduciary risk, particularly for the Ali'i Trusts in Hawaii at a time like this when the board is going to need to have skills required to govern through structural disruption. We are living in such a moment now. In the context of the current vacancy and considering the skillsets of the other four Trustees, I believe the most prudent fiduciary decision before the Court is the appointment of Olin Lagon. My assessment rests on four core pillars of trust governance.

**First, technological leadership and risk oversight in an era of artificial intelligence.** Artificial intelligence is already reshaping education, labor markets, and institutional relevance. These changes pose dire risk to Kamehameha Schools' long term mission like its Kūhanauna goal of post secondary success. Fiduciary duty now requires trustees who can understand these systems at a deep level and guide strategy with discipline rather than reaction. Olin Lagon is a world class technologist whose work reflects this level of foresight. More than six years ago, he was invited to contribute to the keynote presentation at Microsoft's annual conference on applied artificial intelligence, well before its broader public adoption. His innovations have been formally documented by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, which sent a team to Hawai'i to record his work as a U.S. innovator, and his technologies have been implemented by leading institutions, including the MIT Media Lab. During the pandemic, he demonstrated this capacity for systems leadership here by organizing and leading a volunteer effort to design and distribute hundreds of ventilators to local hospitals at no cost going from concept to production in four months. At the time, I was working for Hawaii Pacific Health, and closely watching this project. This was applied innovation under real world constraints, and it reflects the level of technical judgment required to steward the Trust through AI driven disruption.

**Second, world class financial expertise aligned with public purpose.** Olin graduated at the top of his academic class with formal training in accounting, multidisciplinary engineering, and economics. Beyond academic achievement, he has consistently demonstrated rare financial creativity paired with rigorous controls. Early in his career, he invented one of the first online, general purpose crowdfunding engines, helping pioneer a form of distributed finance that has since been adopted globally to mobilize capital at scale. This work required a sophisticated understanding of financial systems, incentives, risk management, and public trust well before these models became mainstream. He later applied the same discipline to public sector finance as the principal architect of the financial control system for Hawai'i's Rental Relief Program, the largest nonprofit contract in the state's history, a role he accepted at the request of the Hawaiian Council. Under his design, Hawai'i led the nation in speed of distribution while maintaining strong safeguards, with zero reported fraud. This record reflects modern fiduciary finance at its best: innovation paired with accountability. Kamehameha Schools has already recognized Olin Lagon's financial expertise by selecting him as one of only three external experts to serve on the inaugural Investment Committee of the 'Āina Pauahi Fund. The fund represents a deliberate evolution in the Trust's financial stewardship, aligning capital management with long term strategy, values, and mission. His appointment confirms that his financial judgment is already trusted in guiding a portion of the

corpus under this next generation approach to fiduciary management. At The Omidyar Group, we similarly invited Olin as one of only three external experts to help inform critical strategic planning.

**Third, clear satisfaction of the Hawai'i Uniform Prudent Investor Act.** Trustees must exercise reasonable care, skill, and caution in managing assets. Olin has founded, scaled, and successfully exited multiple social ventures to global corporations, translating social values into durable financial outcomes. He brings decades of experience in governance, including serving as chair of organizations with broad societal impact. His service on the Clean Energy Steering Committee helped guide the transition toward a 100% renewable energy mandate, overseeing decisions that redirected billions of dollars from imported fossil fuels into a domestic clean energy economy. This record reflects steady judgment, long term thinking, and comfort managing complex, multibillion dollar systems under public accountability.

**Finally, the preservation of public trust.** Technical and financial skill cannot substitute for moral credibility. Olin's life reflects consistent service. From teaching in the Peace Corps, to co-founding Purple Maia to expand culturally grounded STEM education, to his regular participation in 'ohana lo'i work, his commitment is sustained and lived. He does not simply endorse the values of Princess Pauahi. He has lived these values for decades and builds institutions that allow those values to endure at scale. This is NOT an easy thing to do, and he continues to innovate in finding creative ways to raise our Lahui with an eye towards sustainability here locally.

As a trustee myself, I understand that a board of five must function not only as a collection of capable individuals, but as a deliberately balanced and collaborative body of peers. Olin Lagon brings a rare combination of advanced financial judgment, deep technological fluency, and community rooted leadership, along with an exceptional ability to work constructively with others. He is one of the most collaborative leaders I know, thoughtful in deliberation, respectful of differing perspectives, and focused on collective outcomes rather than personal credit. His presence would add a critical dimension to the board's overall capacity and strengthen its ability to govern cohesively and prudently through the profound changes now reshaping education, finance, and society.

Finally, I write as a lifelong recipient of the Princesses legacy, having been supported financially by Pauahi's resources in college and graduate school, and - as a KS parent, my son is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at KS Kapalama, and has been there since Kindergarten. I have a deep love for the Princess, and feel that we are in uncertain times that are going to require different and creative approaches to get through and continue to uplift our Pae'Aina.

I respectfully urge the Court to view his appointment as a careful, forward looking, and prudent fulfillment of its fiduciary responsibility to the legacy of Ke Ali'i Pauahi.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Sunshine Pualani Topping  
Trustee, King Lunalilo Trust  
Hawai'i Lead, The Omidyar Group

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Ben Trevino <bentrevino@omidyarfellows.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2025 4:03 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

To whom it may concern,

I write to express my strong and heartfelt support for Olin Lagon's selection to the role of Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

Working in technology, education, and most of all service-oriented roles in my career, I have had the good fortune to cross paths with Olin many times in many different capacities. More than just crossing paths, Olin has shaped my leadership. The organizations he has started, the projects he has lead, and the thought leadership he so generously offers as a much needed counterweight to a sensationally negative social media landscape have all contributed to my own personal education in what it means to be of service to Hawai'i. Most of all, Olin's being, has helped me understand how to turn the aloha I feel for Hawai'i into thriving for everything and everyone that calls Hawai'i home.

This is the moment when we all need Olin's leadership. Digital technologies have been central to my own work since I began my professional work, and generative AI represents a tipping point. Olin possesses the genius for innovation and double grounding in digital and island realities to tip generative AI towards becoming a transformational strategic asset and away from becoming a existential cultural threat.

Olin inspires me. As trustee he can inspire a generation of Hawai'i stewards to face the future the way that he does: bouyed by ancestral knowledge, with earnest curiosity grounded in practical truth, and with abundant aloha for all along the journey.

Mahalo for this opportunity to express my support.  
me ke aloha,  
Ben Trevino



**Ben Treviño** (Pronouns: he/him)

**Network Coordinator**

Hawai'i Leadership Forum

mobile: 808.225.4725

*Omidyar Fellows is a program of the Hawai'i Leadership Forum*

[Schedule a talk story](#)

Sent via [Superhuman](#)

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** jasmine <jas.j.yim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 22, 2025 7:46 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

I have known Olin for many years on the boyscout troop Olin's son and my son were on. I believe Olin will be a perfect fit for this Trustee position. Olin is someone who cares about his community and has a kind heart. I highly recommend Olin as a trustee.

Jasmine Yim

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Richard Ha <mr.richard.ha@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of recommendation for Olin Lagon

To the Kamehameha Schools Trustee Nominating Committee,

Aloha. My name is Richard Ha. I have spent my life as a farmer on the Big Island, working the soil and watching the seasons change. Over the decades, I have seen our people face great challenges, but I have also seen the incredible resilience of our 'āina and our lāhui. I am writing today with a deep sense of kuleana to offer my strongest possible recommendation for Olin Lagon to serve as a Trustee for Kamehameha Schools.

In my book, *What Would Our Kūpuna Do? And What We Can Do for Future Generations*, I ask a fundamental question: how do we ensure that our children and grandchildren can afford to live in their own homeland? My co-founders and I established the vision of Keoki and Malia because these names represent the collective embodiment of the children of Hawai'i. Keoki represents strength, leadership, and unity. Malia represents the calm and peaceful future we must build for them. We wrote this vision to remind us that we are the ancestors of the future, and every decision we make today must be measured by how it serves the Keokis and Malias of tomorrow.

I have known Olin Lagon for a long time, and I recognize in him a leader who lives by this very philosophy. As a long-time advocate for geothermal energy and energy independence for Hawai'i, I know that energy is the foundation of our economy. If we cannot control our energy costs, we cannot control our destiny. I have watched Olin's work in the renewable energy sector with great respect. He is not just a "tech and finance guy" but a master of using innovation to solve the most pressing problems facing our people. His work with Shifted Energy and his numerous patents are a testament to his brilliance, but what impresses me more is his focus on equity. Like me, he recognizes that for renewable energy to be truly "Hawaiian," it must be accessible to everyone, from the families in public housing to the farmers in the field. Olin has the rare ability to bridge high-level technology with the practical, everyday needs of our community.

Olin's dedication to our youth through initiatives like Purple Mai'a aligns perfectly with the mission of Kamehameha Schools. He is giving a voice to the next generation by teaching them that they can be the creators and innovators of the future, not just consumers. He understands that "indigenous innovation" is not a thing of the past. It is the tool we will use to navigate the challenges of the 21st century.

In my life, I have learned that true leadership requires a "triple bottom line." It must be socially responsible, environmentally sustainable, and economically viable. Olin Lagon embodies all three. He carries himself with the humility of a true servant leader, yet he possesses the sharp, visionary mind needed to steward the Trust's resources into an uncertain future.

When I look at Olin, I see someone who truly understands what our kūpuna would do. He would work hard, think ahead, and always, always put the children first. For the sake of all the Keokis and Malias who will follow us, I urge you to appoint Olin Lagon as a Trustee. He is the right leader for this time.

E mālama pono,

Richard Ha Farmer, Author, and Kupuna Big Island, Hawai'i

Richard  
(808)960-1057



Please use [mr.richard.ha@gmail.com](mailto:mr.richard.ha@gmail.com) for future communications.

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** James McCay <jmccay@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2025 4:25 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha Trustee Screening Committee,

These are pivotal times for Hawaii and our shared world; critical times I would argue even. A few long years ago, I was honored to support the nomination of Olin Lagon as the next Trustee for Kamehameha Schools (KS). So much has already changed since then, and the speed of change seems only to accelerate. Keeping one foot firmly in traditional (taro) roots and one in a constantly moving stream of all that the modern world challenges us with, all Olin only reaffirms my conviction that not just that he would make a stellar Trustee, but he is a Trustee needed. Olin's applications of technologies to address topics so important to Hawaii offer unprecedented and important opportunities for KS.

I was lucky to meet Olin when I moved to Hawaii in 2011 to work on energy issues predominately in the solar energy industry. Similar to Olin, I chose to work on these issues not for financial gain but for, pun intended, community empowerment. Olin has proven time and time again how to connect technology, with finance, with society/people/community. Over these years, I found myself at all sorts of incredible events from community talk stories, fishpond restorations, farm days, beach clean-ups, TEDX talk events, and of course standard business meetings. It was not uncommon to see Olin at many of these diverse events, usually sharing his mana'o, as a speaker, and/or mentor. At the same time, I was tracking his achievements and continual progress in projects such as Kanu Hawaii, Purple Mai'a and Shifted Energy and much more (which you too must be impressed with).

If I were a KS student, I would love to have someone as inspirational as Olin as a Trustee. Olin's life proves his dedication needed to move Hawaii forward and improve resiliency in many ways. There truly is a crisis of inaction while the climate chaos continues to wreak disaster globally. Olin will help steer KS towards a path that Hawaii will be proud of.

Mahalo niu loa for your consideration & wishing you a festive year's end.  
Mahalo pono,

James McCay  
2957 Kalakaua Ave, #216  
Honolulu HI 96815

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Albert Nahale-a <alapaki.nahalea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2025 12:38 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Olin Lagon Recommendation.pdf

Aloha Trustee Selection Committee:

Please find attached and below a letter of support for Olin Lagon to serve as the next Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

Mahalo,  
Alapaki Nahale-a

### **Aloha mai e na Kamehameha Schools Trustee Screening Committee:**

My name is Alapaki Nahale-a, and I write to you with a profound sense of kuleana. Over the course of my career, I have written many letters of recommendation; however, this one carries particular weight—not because of the extraordinary individual I recommend, who will undoubtedly continue to thrive regardless of the outcome, but because of the significance of the decision before you. The selection of the next Trustee of Kamehameha Schools will have a lasting impact on the Trust and, by extension, on all of us who love Hawai'i. In my considered judgment, Olin Lagon is not only the leader Kamehameha Schools needs for its future, but the kind of leader Hawai'i needs for our shared future.

I am deeply familiar with Kamehameha Schools and the breadth of its work and impact across our state. I am a graduate, the parent of four keiki who attended the schools, and a former employee who served in a wide range of roles—from coach and teacher to dorm advisor, summer program support, community programming lead, Senior Director of Community Strategies, and ultimately Senior Director responsible for the full portfolio of lands and programs on Hawai'i Island. In addition, while leading community schools and programs, I was also a recipient of Kamehameha investments into our communities. From this comprehensive perspective, I can say with conviction that Olin Lagon stands apart because of his rare combination of high-level innovation, humble community-first execution, and a servant leadership mindset that truly embodies our kuleana to the Lāhui.

I would like to highlight several specific examples that illustrate Olin's leadership and impact. During my tenure as Chairman of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, I became acutely aware of the immense challenges involved in placing beneficiaries on their homelands—and the even greater challenge of ensuring long-term stability and success once they are there. While many speak about economic development in the abstract, Olin has spent decades doing the difficult, practical work of building the infrastructure that makes it real.

One particularly instructive example is his leadership as CEO of Hawaiian Homestead Technology, the first social venture of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. Although Olin consistently shares credit with community leaders and partners, his leadership was instrumental to its success. Under his guidance, production facilities were established directly on the Anahola, Waimānalo, and Papakōlea homesteads. These efforts were grounded in genuine partnership with community associations and focused on hiring and training local residents. Workers were trained through our community college system, including Kaua'i and Windward Community Colleges. Olin demonstrated that sophisticated technology ventures succeed best when they are rooted in community needs and built alongside the people they are meant to serve.

This commitment to our families continued through his work at Shifted Energy. There, Olin helped bring advanced energy technology directly to homesteaders by launching whole-home energy systems. His impact was recognized nationally when the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office featured a documentary on his life and work. One especially powerful example from that effort involved a family whose monthly energy bill dropped

from approximately one thousand dollars to roughly one hundred dollars after his company absorbed the full cost of system upgrades. This is emblematic of the practical, compassionate innovation Olin brings to every endeavor.

Olin understands that the future of Kamehameha Schools demands leadership capable of navigating global finance and advanced technology while maintaining an unwavering commitment to our culture, values, and heritage. He has founded and successfully exited global ventures and co-founded Purple Mai'a, now the largest 'ike kūpuna-centered STEM nonprofit in the state. His work consistently demonstrates how community-rooted impact can resonate at a global scale. By remaining grounded in the values of Hawai'i that shape who he is, Olin exemplifies what Kamehameha Schools—and Hawai'i as a whole—can achieve by staying true to our shared foundation.

Having served in a wide range of leadership roles in Hawai'i and beyond, I have observed many individuals attempt to address the complex challenges facing our people. I can state unequivocally that Olin Lagon is the visionary, disciplined, and values-driven leader our Trust needs. No issue is too complex, no challenge too great, and no distraction too tempting to divert him from the steady, principled leadership this role requires. He possesses both the integrity to honor the legacy of Ke Ali'i Pauahi and the technical expertise to ensure that legacy continues to thrive for generations to come.

**Me ka ha'aha'a,**

Alapaki Nahale-a  
Partner, Islander Institute  
Board Member, Hawaiian Council, Hawai'i Community Lending, and NDN Collective Fund  
Former Senior Director of Community Engagement and Resources, Kamehameha Schools  
Past Chairman and Director, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands  
Former Chairman, University of Hawai'i Board of Regents  
Founding Chairperson, Hawai'i County Cultural Resources Commission  
Former Member, Hawai'i County Charter Commission  
Former Member, Presidential Scholars Commission

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Alapaki Nahale-a

Partner, Islander Institute

Board Member, Hawaiian Council, Hawai'i Community Lending, and NDN Collective Fund

Former Senior Director of Community Engagement and Resources, Kamehameha Schools

Past Chairman and Director, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

Former Chairman, University of Hawai'i Board of Regents

Founding Chairperson, Hawai'i County Cultural Resources Commission

Former Member, Hawai'i County Charter Commission

Former Member, Presidential Scholars Commission

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** James Pierce <jpierce@us.ibm.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 23, 2025 5:14 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Trustee Finalist Comments- Kamehameha Schools  
**Attachments:** Letter of Recommendation for Olin Kealoha Lagon.pdf

Aloha,

Please see attached letter of support for Olin Kealoha Lagon.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration and Mele Kalikimaka and Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!



**James Pierce**

Senior State Executive- Hawaii & Guam  
Principal Technology Zone DevSecOps Manager, IBM Technology  
Cell: +1.321.591.6328  
[jpierce@us.ibm.com](mailto:jpierce@us.ibm.com)

# Letter of Recommendation for Olin Kealoha Lagon

## Trustee Position, Kamehameha Schools Board of Trustees

James Pierce  
2318 Star Road  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
jpierce@us.ibm.com  
+1-321-591-6328

December 23, 2025  
Trustee Screening Committee  
c/o Inkinen Executive Search  
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1477  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Trustee Screening Committee:

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Olin Kealoha Lagon for the open Trustee position on the Kamehameha Schools Board of Trustees. As a Native Hawaiian serial social entrepreneur, technologist, inventor, and community leader, Olin embodies the deepest values of aloha 'āina, kuleana, pono, and ea that are essential to fulfilling Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's vision for educating and empowering Native Hawaiian learners and communities.

Olin's life and work are profoundly rooted in his own experiences growing up in public housing in Hawai'i, where he overcame significant challenges—including poverty, violence, and low societal expectations for Hawaiian youth—to become a transformative force for equity and innovation. His journey from those humble beginnings to holding more than a dozen patents and co-founding groundbreaking organizations demonstrates an unwavering commitment to lifting kānaka from marginalized communities into positions of leadership and self-determination.

Through Purple Mai'a Foundation, which Olin co-founded in 2013, he has built Hawai'i's largest culturally grounded technology and innovation education nonprofit, serving primarily Native Hawaiian keiki—many of whom are girls and women—with programs that integrate S.T.R.Ē.Ā.M (adding Research, Entrepreneurship, Art, 'Āina, and Math) to foster community-serving problem solvers. Purple Mai'a's initiatives, such as wahine-focused coding classes, workforce certifications, and the Hawai'i FoundHer accelerator for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander women entrepreneurs, directly align with



Kamehameha Schools' mission to empower the next generation of 'Ōiwi leaders through education that honors Hawaiian culture and identity.

Similarly, as co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Shifted Energy, Olin is pioneering equitable access to clean energy solutions for renters, low-income households, and underserved communities—framing the renewable energy transition not merely as a technological issue, but as one of justice and community well-being. His work stabilizing grids while reducing energy burdens for families (including many Native Hawaiian households living below the ALICE threshold) reflects a triple-bottom-line approach that prioritizes people, 'āina, and sustainability. Olin and his team actively practice traditional Native Hawaiian farming, grounding their innovative efforts in mālama 'āina and cultural continuity.

Olin's broader contributions—co-founding early platforms like ChipIn (pioneering crowdfunding) and Kanu Hawai'i (civic engagement for sustainability), as well as speaking on topics like "Hawaiian Innovation & Ea: The Future of a Sovereign Hawaiian Economy"—consistently link technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation to Hawaiian self-determination, economic sovereignty, and structural change for the lāhui.

In an era where Kamehameha Schools advances its Strategic Plan 2030 with a focus on ea and holistic well-being for Native Hawaiians, Olin Lagon brings the visionary leadership, lived experience, and proven impact needed to guide the institution forward. He is a grounded, collaborative, and forward-thinking leader who will ensure that Kamehameha Schools remains a beacon of educational excellence, cultural preservation, and equitable opportunity for generations to come.

I recommend Olin Kealoha Lagon without reservation. Please feel free to contact me at 321-591-6328 or [jpierce@us.ibm.com](mailto:jpierce@us.ibm.com) if you require any additional information.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Pierce  
Senior State Executive, IBM  
Founder and President, Fund a Future, Inc.

25+ years professional and personal acquaintance

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Gordon Lee <gordonleejr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 24, 2025 10:39 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** TRUSTEE SELECTION

Gordon Lee, Jr. '58  
6006 Harvester Ct  
Burke, VA 22015  
12/22/2025

Aloha Trustee Screening Committee,

I would like to share my mana'o concerning selection of our next Trustee.

I am a proud 1958 graduate of Kamehameha Schools and currently reside in Burke, Virginia. I left Hawai'i in 1968 to pursue my engineering career with the Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington, D.C. where I worked on the design of nuclear submarines. When I retired in 2003, I was serving as the Director of Strategic Sourcing for the Navy and was responsible for directing the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) program. In addition to my professional career, I never stopped teaching and involving our children in our Hawaiian culture. We belonged to the Hawaii State Society of DC where we were involved in hula and everything Hawaiian, I was the President of Kamehameha Alumni East Coast and was the Continental Representative for Hui Kako'o 'Aina Ho'o Pulapula for many years (helping people on DHHL waiting list get back on Hawaiian Lands).

My two brothers—Gregory A. Lee and Gerald K. Lee—and my sister, Jodean W. Lee, are also graduates of Kamehameha Schools. My brother Gregory was the first student at Kamehameha to split his school day between Kamehameha and the University of Hawai'i. As a high school senior, he was already taking advanced mathematics courses at UH alongside students pursuing their doctorates. He retired as Siemen's Executive Vice President of the Pacific. My brother Gerald became one of Hawai'i's renowned home builders and constructed a community of homes on Moloka'i for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

I share this to emphasize how deeply meaningful a Kamehameha Schools education has been for me and my siblings. It shaped our lives and opened doors to opportunities we might not otherwise have had. I want future generations to have that same chance—and that requires strong, visionary leadership from our Trustees.

My daughter recently encouraged me to watch the interviews of the finalists for Trustee of Kamehameha Schools because my grandson is class of 1929. I was impressed by the knowledge and sincerity of all three candidates. However, Mr. Olin Lagon stood out "heads and heels" above the others. His down-to-earth demeanor, compassionate nature, and especially his profound love for the 'āina made him my overwhelming choice. While all candidates shared similar backgrounds in management and finance, only one candidate distinguished himself through his passion for teaching—both children and adults—and his demonstrated commitment to the 'āina.

Thank you for making the interviews available to the public so that we may hear directly from the candidates. The individual I wholeheartedly support, and who I believe rises "heads and heels" above the rest, is Mr. Olin Lagon.

IMUA KAMEHAMEHA! “Ua mau ke ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono.”

Respectfully,

Gordon Lee, Jr. ‘58

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Jonas Vibell <[vibell@hawaii.edu](mailto:vibell@hawaii.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 24, 2025 10:46 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of support - Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** OlinLagon Reference.pdf

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached my letter of support for Olin Lagon for Kamehameha Schools Trustee.  
Kind regards,

Jonas Vibell

--

Jonas Vibell, PhD, MSc, FRSA  
Assistant Professor  
Director, [Brain & Behavior Laboratory](#)  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
2530 Dole Street  
Sakamaki C 400  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2294  
+1 (808) 457-2100

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MĀNOA

DATE: 12/8/25

Dear Committee,

I am a Professor at University of Hawaii with a background in company development and innovation from Oxford, Harvard and Hawaii-based company Archinoetics, LLC. At Archinoetics we developed two Hawaii-founded high-tech companies (Fatiguescience & Vivonoetics) that are still doing very well. It is my pleasure to provide a letter in support of **Olin Lagon**, who is being considered for the board of trustees for Kamehameha Schools. I am quite familiar with his work and can attest to his unwavering commitment to the lāhui and his deep connection to Hawaiian culture. Olin also possesses an entrepreneurial drive and skillset matched by few, which has already had quite an impact in Hawaii and beyond. It is for these reasons and many more as outlined below that I want to support Olin Lagon.

I first learned about Olin two decades ago when I moved to Hawaii. In Oxford, UK, I was elected by HM Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip into the Royal Society for Entrepreneurship and came to Hawaii to start companies based on my background in brain electrophysiology. When Archinoetics received the Hawaii entrepreneurs of the year award I learned of a then young Hawaiian entrepreneur called Olin Lagon who had already started several companies both for profit (Chipin) and for the public good (Kanu). Olin intrigued me as the hi-tech startup environment in Hawaii at that time was quite nascent and he had succeeded against the odds. I studied his approach and realized it was not a one-hit wonder. The companies' successes were driven largely by Olin's unique ability to bring people together and actually execute on hi-tech entrepreneurship. Olin lives the values he espouses and has the rare ability to bring complex technical and social projects to life.

A few years later, I had the fortune of crossing Olin's path again. At this point I was a part of the Energy Excelsator, which deployed \$30M to fund companies that would have the maximum impact for Hawaii's energy sector. Olin had now founded an energy startup and managed to recruit the former business innovation director of the state of Hawaii, Forest Frizzell, as its CEO. I was responsible for screening the 300 companies that applied to us annually for up to \$1M funding. Olin's company was an obvious choice as it clearly stood out from the other local applicants. Our mission was to generate a lot of traction for Hawaii's energy startup community and Shifted Energy was the cornerstone. Shifted Energy was recently acquired by a leading utility software and consulting platform proving that this investment was a successful bet.

Since then, Olin has continued to excel. He co-founded the state's largest technology nonprofit, Purple Mai'a, to ensure Native Hawaiian youth have the skills to lead in the modern world. Purple Mai'a is normalizing kānaka maoli excelling in science, engineering, and entrepreneurship while still honoring our kūpuna. Along these lines Olin was invited to become a member of Omidyar Fellowship, which has enabled him to expand his impact widely. When a kānaka o'iwi friend who's a professor at Oxford University contacted me and asked for names that would be impactful for an international indigenous AI project, I did not hesitate to put Olin forward. He now tells me that this connection spring boarded another project he calls his Captain Cook 2.0 moment and will be the focus of his Omidyar fellowship. This project involves leap frogging innovation to apply AI to local community organizations. I believe it is this type of exponential innovation we need in Hawaii so that we don't have to repeat the slow

2530 Dole Street, Sakamaki C400  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
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incremental innovation so commonly endured by other states. Schools are ground zero for AI disruption and Olin brings the deep AI experience needed as the world radically changes around our haumāna.

For as long as I've known him, Olin exemplifies all the characteristics set in stone by Kamehameha Schools. He has integrity and character; he has a life-long selfless commitment to aina and lahui; he has had many successes in innovation; he has proven leadership and crisis management; and he can be a great contributor to Kamehameha Schools future readiness and collective mana'o. I strongly support Olin Lagon's candidacy for the Board of Trustees and believe that his experience, integrity, and passion for education make him an excellent choice. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or insights about Olin.

Thank you for considering this recommendation,

Dr. Jonas Vibell  
Professor of Cognitive & Behavioral Neuroscience  
Director of Brain & Behavior Laboratory  
University of Hawaii

2530 Dole Street, Sakamaki C400  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-8414  
Fax: (808) 956-4700

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## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Richard Medeiros <richmedeiros@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 27, 2025 1:52 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha,

As a proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools Class of 2000, I am writing in strong support of Olin Lagon for the position of Kamehameha Trustee. Olin possesses all the necessary qualifications to excel as a trustee; he is exceptionally educated and deeply rooted in cultural traditions, ensuring prudent decisions in carrying forth the legacy of Princess Pauahi.

I have had the privilege of collaborating with and learning from Olin on various initiatives during my tenure at the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. Through Purple Mai'a Foundation, Olin assisted us in managing data to administer an unprecedented amount of federal funding throughout Hawaii during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a tremendous honor to work directly with Olin and observe his patience and generosity in openly sharing his mana'o to uplift others. His humility would be an invaluable asset to the Trust of Princess Pauahi.

Olin is also profoundly culturally grounded. Despite his advanced technological expertise, he consistently integrates his work with Hawaiian culture and dedicates significant time to supporting students and working at the lo'i. His commitment to advancing our culture and giving back to the community is remarkable.

Without any reservation, I believe that Olin is the best candidate for the Kamehameha Schools Trustee position. I respectfully request your strong consideration of his approval. A man with humble beginnings, Olin has achieved extraordinary advancements and will continue to do so through Kamehameha Schools, shaping the future of our lāhui.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Richard Medeiros

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Myron Thompson <myron@coolxenergy.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 27, 2025 7:45 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Endorsement Letter for Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Olin Letter .pdf

Aloha e Judge Castagnetti,

Attached is my letter of endorsement for Olin Lagon, candidate for Board of Trustees for Kamehameha Schools.

Mahalo,

Myron Thompson



**Myron K. Thompson**

**5823 Kalanianaʻole Hwy.**

**Honolulu, HI 96821**

Aloha e Judge Castagnetti,

I write to offer my strong and formal support for the appointment of Olin Kealoha Lagon to the Board of Trustees for Kamehameha Schools. My support is based on direct professional experience working with Olin, and on a clear understanding of the fiduciary kuleana this role requires. My perspective is rooted by the service of my father, Myron “Pinky” Thompson, and my brother, Nainoa Thompson, who each served as Trustees. Because of that family history, I do not take this recommendation lightly. A Trustee’s primary duty is prudent stewardship of Princess Pauahi’s legacy so it remains strong, effective, and protected for generations to come.

I am also mindful of the rigorous standards set by the selection process. Olin brings unusual strength in business administration and modern enterprise building, and he has used those skills to create mission-driven organizations with real-scale and real accountability. He is known nationally as a leading social entrepreneur. He also pioneered one of the first general purpose crowdfunding platforms, which reflects a rare ability to design systems of trust, incentives, governance, and financial controls in a modern economy. Those are not abstract skills. They are directly relevant to the responsibilities of a Trustee overseeing complex assets and long term strategy.

Just as important, Olin reflects the values essential for a Trustee: pono, ‘imi ‘ike, laulima, lokomaika‘i, na‘au pono, mālama, and ha‘aha‘a. People who have worked closely with him will tell you these are not words he uses. They are principles he lives by.

I first worked with Olin when he served as CEO of Hawaiian Homestead Technology (HHT), while I served as Chair of the Board. HHT was the first social venture of the Hawaiian Council (then CNHA). I watched him navigate fiscal constraints and operational complexity while building a social enterprise that began with no meaningful resources. He helped raise the capital needed to launch three production facilities on Hawaiian Home Lands, amongst the most underserved

economic zones here. He also helped manage local and national debt financing including with the Native American Bank. By the time Olin transitioned to his next venture, HHT had partnered with 11 American Indian tribal companies and 2 Alaska Native Village Corporations. With more than \$66 million under contract, it became the largest wholly community owned social venture of its kind in the nation.

More recently, the Hawaiian Council once again sought Olin to help lead the bid for what became the largest contract ever awarded to a nonprofit by the City. They needed someone who could combine financial judgment with technical execution and deliver on an extreme timeline. As both a CFO and CTO, Olin designed and scaled a system that managed over \$250 million in rent relief payments with zero reported fraud, and with nation leading speed. That kind of outcome happens only when someone has both imagination and discipline, and when controls are built into the system from the start.

Olin's commitment to the industrious lives envisioned by Princess Pauahi is also clear in his work with Purple Mai'a, a statewide leader in STEM education that delivers 'ike kūpuna based programs for learners ranging from keiki to kupuna. He has consistently chosen leadership roles that serve the lāhui, even when he could have chosen easier or more lucrative paths.

Olin meets every fiduciary requirement with excellence. He has the capacity to manage complex responsibilities with integrity, strong judgment, and calm under pressure. He is also an extraordinary team player. He listens first, brings people together, and makes the group stronger. He brings the sophistication of a top executive, but he pairs it with grounded service and long-term commitment to Hawai'i. He has the right combination of business acumen, values-based leadership, and collaborative temperament to carry Pauahi's legacy forward in a changing world. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Court to select Olin Kealoha Lagon as the next Trustee of Kamehameha Schools.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Myron K. Thompson

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Hoku Akana <hokuakana@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 28, 2025 7:42 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Cc:** Hoku Liu Akana  
**Subject:** WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF OLIN (OLI) KEALOHA LAGON  
KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS TRUSTEE SELECTION

Name: Michele-Ann Keamanuokalani Liu Akana (Hōkū)

Class of 1994 Alumni, Parent of Class of 2017 Alumni, Former Hawaiian Cultural Specialist at Ho'okahua, Former KS Kumu (11 years),

Educator; Active Native Hawaiian Kupa'āina Community Member, Waimānalo, O'ahu

### **Position: Strong Support**

Date: December 28, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I submit this written testimony in strong support of Olin Kealoha Lagon as THE choice for a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools. I write from the perspective of a class of 1994 alumni, parent of class of 2017 alumni, former cultural Specialist at Ho'okahua, former kumu at KS Kapālama (15 years) educator and an active Native Hawaiian kupa'āina community member who resides where I was raised in Waimānalo, O'ahu who has worked closely with Native Hawaiian learners, families, and community-based organizations.

The selection of a trustee for Kamehameha Schools carries significant responsibility. Trustees must demonstrate an understanding of the trust's charitable purpose, the lived realities of its beneficiaries, and the complex legal, educational, and economic environments in which the institution operates. Based on the public finalist panel discussion, Mr. Lagon demonstrated the strongest overall preparation and alignment with these responsibilities.

My support is based on the following considerations:

### **1. Applied Understanding of Aloha 'Āina**

Mr. Lagon articulated Aloha 'Āina as an operational principle rather than a symbolic value. He directly connected land stewardship, household stability, and student readiness to learn, reflecting a systems-based understanding consistent with Native Hawaiian epistemology and community experience.

### **2. Competence in Technology and Artificial Intelligence**

Mr. Lagon demonstrated substantive fluency in technology and emerging applications of artificial intelligence. He acknowledged both the opportunities these tools present and the risks they pose if left ungoverned, particularly for Indigenous and underserved communities. This level of technological literacy is essential for trustee-level oversight in the coming decade.

### **3. Advocacy for Underserved Native Hawaiian Communities**

Throughout the discussion, Mr. Lagon consistently emphasized the needs of underserved Native Hawaiian families. His focus on those most impacted by economic precarity aligns with the charitable obligations of the trust and reflects a beneficiary-centered approach to governance.

### **4. Alignment with E Ola! and Kamehameha Schools' Theory of Change**

Mr. Lagon's responses demonstrated a clear understanding of Kamehameha Schools' E Ola! philosophy and Theory of Change. He articulated how educational outcomes are linked to wellbeing, belonging, and broader community conditions, reflecting an integrated approach to student success.

### **5. Understanding of Hawai'i's Position in Global Economic Systems**

Mr. Lagon demonstrated awareness of Hawai'i's position within global economic and technological systems, while emphasizing the importance of ensuring that innovation and economic development benefit local communities. His experience supports informed decision-making regarding land, resources, and long-term economic strategy.

### **6. Due Diligence Regarding Legal and Institutional Challenges**

Importantly, Mr. Lagon demonstrated awareness of current legal challenges facing Kamehameha Schools, including litigation affecting admissions policies and the trust's governance. His willingness to engage these issues reflects the level of preparation and responsibility required of a trustee entrusted with safeguarding the institution's long-term integrity.

## **Conclusion**

Kamehameha Schools requires trustees who are culturally grounded, educationally informed, legally aware, and capable of leading through complex and evolving challenges. Based on the public panel discussion and my professional experience as an educator and active Kupa'āina community member in a predominantly Native Hawaiian community, Olin Kealoha Lagon is the best prepared to serve in this role and to steward the trust in alignment with Pauahi's intent.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele-Ann Keamanuokalani Liu Akana (Hōkū)

Class of 1994 Alumni, Parent of Class of 2017 Alumni, Former Hawaiian Cultural Specialist at Ho'okahua, Former KS Kumu (15 years), Educator; Active Native Hawaiian Kupa'āina Community Member, Waimānalo, O'ahu

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Michael Lee <qtrtnose@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 28, 2025 12:10 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Dear Trustee Screening Committee,

I write this letter in full support of Olin Kealoha Lagon for the position of Trustee with Kamehameha Schools. I have known Olin in a personal capacity for many years during which he has demonstrated the integrity, character, and skill set for this role. Perhaps Olin's greatest quality is his compassion and subsequent desire to serve his communities and island home.

As long as I have known Olin he has always approached life through the lens of bettering his communities because it's the right thing to do. This stems from his strong sense of na'au pono and lokomaika'i. Olin was raised in a single parent household at KPT in Kalihi. Growing up with little resources and labeled special ed he was given every opportunity to make excuses for himself and limit his efforts in life.

Despite these challenges Olin's compassion and desire to help those around him never wavered. Committing his life to service in other parts of the world he was reminded about what made his home so special. Since his return all of his professional and personal efforts have been guided by the need to give others the opportunities he never had.

I won't go into his many community building endeavors or professional accomplishments which others are sure to mention, but I will say that Olin changes lives and will continue to do so in this capacity. Olin changed my life and I am a better person for it. Olin's example has inspired me to seek director roles with national organizations, lead community groups in education, and run for public office. Most of all he has inspired me to be a more attentive husband, patient father, and caring member in my community. I believe that he will do the same for Kamehameha Schools and the lives of those it reaches.

Please give Olin the opportunity to be a Trustee with Kamehameha Schools. He is qualified and worthy but most of all he is the leader we deserve.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Mike Lee

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** THERESA LOCKREM <tlockrem@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 28, 2025 3:59 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Olin Lagon recommendation  
  
**Importance:** High

### Letter of Recommendation for Olin Lagon

Aloha kakou!

My name is Theresa (Kaleinaniokahonualuamakaikapohokuili) Lockrem, my father's ohana (Cebu, PI) goes back to the 1880's from Honoka'a, Big Island (Moku O Keawe). I am adopted Tlingit, my name is Ghaghaan X'Usyee, (Ray of Sunlight), Raven moiety of the T'ak deintaan (Sockeye Salmon) clan. Also, I belong to the Gaanaxteidi (Wordworm) clan of the Whalehouse, with an additional adopted honorable name of Santeen after Anna Brown Ehlers of the village of Klukwan, Haines, Alaska. Papa Brown's family-(Hokulea)

I wrote all that to say this; Culture is of primary importance, and knowing our lineage when we speak, our ancestor's speak. When Olin Lagon speaks, his ancestor's are guiding him, and that is what I see. A true Kanaka and steward of the ancestor's aina, waiting to kuleana ALWAYS.

I met Olin first online and phone through the nonprofit, KANU that he co-established in the early 2000's. This interaction proved to be congenial and generous on his part. I was astounded that Olin would take the time to educate me about KANU commitments, its' significance and importance of realizing the Kuleana of the aina my family is from and then taking *action*.

Olin is a man of action, not just words. I am sure you have heard about all his many astounding achievements: Entrepreneur, Tech advisor, Tech builder of companies, CEO, and Board chairs. This is mighty impressive, but more impressive is his sensitivity to people and empathy to unfortunate situations, which is where his real skills come in, problem solver. He sees the gaps that are prominent and he produces **answers**. This is what is needed often when many people are involved in a consortium.

Kamehameha Schools needs Olin for his brilliant thinking skills and deductive reasoning. Alongside his genius is a kind heart that turns away wrath. It just does. He will be a tremendous asset to your honorable Education realm. I also, was an Administrator for a school system. I understand the importance of "just the right fit" for a leading position such as Olin is vying for. Pick him.

Sincerely,  
Theresa Lockrem  
Ghaghaan X'Usyee (Ray of Sunlight) Tlingit  
STI (Since Time Immemorial Tribal Sovereignty Curriculum)  
and Native Education Curriculum Consultant  
206-852-2080

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** gaymathews@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 28, 2025 11:16 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Support for Olin Lagon for trustee

Aloha Selection Committee:

I wish to state my clear and unreserved support for **Olin Lagon** in his candidacy for **Trustee of Kamehameha Schools**.

I bring more than forty years of experience in community development and consumer financial services, having recently retired after twenty-eight years as the CEO of a full-service, low-income, community development credit union on Hawai'i Island. My daughter is a 1990 graduate of Kamehameha Schools and remains deeply appreciative of her education on the Kapālama Campus, as well as the scholarships that helped her become the successful school law attorney that she is today.

I currently serve as **Chief Financial Officer and Director of Philanthropy** for a globally focused nonprofit organization, with one of our active initiatives being a Marshallese climate-adaptation sustainability laboratory. I share this background to underscore that I understand well the responsibilities and discernment required of your board in selecting the right Trustee. Without reservation, that person is Olin Lagon.

I have known Olin since 2002, when he joined the Hawai'i Community Loan Fund, the state's first statewide Community Development Financial Institution. He quickly advanced to Interim Executive Director while I served as Chairperson, inheriting a complex and challenging organization. Olin worked rapidly and effectively to improve operational efficiency, organizational morale, and financial performance, collaborating skillfully with staff, board members, and borrowers alike.

Olin was—and remains—as comfortable in a boardroom delivering difficult presentations as he is in a lo'i working directly with community members. He departed the organization only after being recruited to serve as CEO of Hawaiian Homestead Technology, an even greater challenge that fully warranted his broad skill set and leadership capacity.

Olin is collaborative, creative, and a self-starter who understands and respects structure, policies, and regulatory frameworks while remaining steadfastly focused on mission and outcomes. He possesses exceptional communication dexterity across diverse audiences. His reputation within the community is impeccable, and he brings both an impressive professional résumé and deeply held Hawaiian values.

Olin meets—and exceeds—every criterion of an optimal Trustee, whether in business administration, strategic planning, policy, finance, or leadership. He would be an outstanding asset to Kamehameha Schools.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me using the information provided above.

Mahalo,



## Gay Mathews

Chief Financial Officer & Director of Philanthropy  
Applied Hope Foundation



**APPLIED  
HOPE FOUNDATION**

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### Gay Mathews

*CFO and Director of Philanthropy*

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**P.O. Box 130**  
**Honokaa, HI 96727**

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** S N <seiichinagai@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 28, 2025 9:09 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Mana'o for Olin Lagon

Aloha,

My name is Seiichi Nagai, I had the privilege of working directly under Olin at Shifted Energy for about 7 years straight out of college. I was hired as an intern and under his leadership, was eventually entrusted to lead the engineering team as VP. If memory serves me correctly, Olin chose "Purple" in "Purple Mai'a" because purple is the rarest color in nature and it's also commonly the color for royalty. He understood that each child has a rare piece of that royalty inside of them and if you look carefully, past the exterior, you can see it, and you can help bring it out. I cannot recall a single day, a single interaction where Olin spoke to anything other than that part of me. I have spent enough time with him to be able to say that his creativity is prolific, his action is forthright, he embodies every value he speaks of, and he connects to the purple in every human being. His company, his family, and his communities, from Hawai'i to the world, are lucky to have him, as would be the Board of Trustees.

Mahalo for your consideration,  
Seiichi