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## EXHIBIT A

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# OLIN K. LAGON

*PART 6 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:** Neil Hannahs <njhannahs@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2025 12:08 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Comments on Kamehameha Schools (KS) Trustee Finalists  
**Attachments:** Comments on KS Trustee finalists 12-2025.pdf

Aloha e Ben,

Attached find a letter with comments I wish to present to the Trustee Screening Committee and Probate Court regarding the three finalists for KS Trustee appointment. I would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt and confirmation that the feedback will be forwarded. Mahalo for your assistance and for your role in this process. Hope our paths will cross again soon.

Happy New Year!

Neil

**Neil J. Kaho'okele Hannahs**  
**4545-A Sierra Drive**  
**Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816**

December 30, 2025

Trustee Screening Committee  
c/o Inkinen Executive Search  
1003 Bishop Street, Suite 1477  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Email: [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)

**Subject: Public Comments on Kamehameha Schools' Trustee Finalists**

Aloha mai kākou:

I write in regard to your request for public comment on the candidacies of Olin Lagon, Keith Vierra and Eric Yeaman for a vacancy on the Kamehameha Schools (KS) Board of Trustees. My reflections are based on: public records; firsthand observations of their leadership; as well as my participation in a forum organized by Ke One O Kākuhihewa and Kanaeokana at which the candidates introduced themselves and responded to questions. These thoughts are also informed by my decades of engagement with Kamehameha Schools and many other organizations that serve the Hawaiian people.

***Olin Kealoha Lagon's*** life story is a captivating and heart-warming case study of triumph over the adversities of a humble beginning in public housing where he was victimized by a violent attack. He was blessed with intellectual brilliance, yet I suspect it was extraordinary grit, curiosity and resilience that enabled him to endure and be strengthened by those challenges. Mr. Lagon exemplifies the best of regenerative economy leaders who launch successful enterprises that seek to accomplish social and environmental goals under financially viable business models. Exits from those companies have also provided direct experience to develop a grasp of investment finance. He has paid his advantages forward by coaching next generation social entrepreneurs through Purple Mai'a and mentoring fledgling start-ups. Of the candidates, he is the most immersed in the Hawaiian community and has the strongest cultural foundation. These are vital assets considering a **KS Theory of Change that states: "When we operate world-class schools, grow 'ōiwi leaders through E Ola!, and regenerate 'āina, we will, together with our communities, exercise the ea necessary for a thriving and self-determined lāhui."** Mr. Lagon is clearly the most qualified candidate to help guide this paradigm shift.

***Keith Vierra's*** rise through the ranks and success as a tourism official offers an impressive example of persistence and determined professional advancement. His contribution of financial resources and time as a teacher of college students seeking careers in the hospitality industry are equally laudable. He brings considerable business experience and financial management proficiency to the role of Trustee. However, remarks made by Mr. Vierra at the forum for the finalists stir serious concerns. First, to allow candidates to expand on their commitment to the KS mission, they were asked what motivates their application. His answer that now he simply has the time to be a Trustee fell far short of expectations. Second, the Schools' widely heralded decision to demolish a bankrupt hotel built on multiple heiau and other sacred sites at Kahalu'u, Kona and restore the wahi pana to create an unparalleled cultural learning center was broached to elicit views on the role of 'āina. His comment that the Trustees should never have sold the hotel reflected a 1-dimensional view of value that is diametrically opposed to the



mandates embedded in the KS Strategic Plan and of the Hawaiian community. Finally, Mr. Vierra's narrow focus on creating pathways to career opportunities in travel management raises concerns that he sees the Trusteeship as a way to boost an industry rather than uplift the interests and cultural worldview of our beneficiaries. Therefore, with all due respect to his career achievements, **this leads me to believe that Mr. Vierra is a poor fit for the role of Trustee.**

**Eric Yeaman.** I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Yeaman as a colleague during his tenure as CFO of Kamehameha Schools and under his leadership as chair of the Queen's Health System board of trustees. I can personally attest to his intelligence, financial acumen and inexhaustible work ethic and am grateful for his efforts to reveal a "broken trust" and institute reforms that now enable the Schools to thrive. His remarkable progression through major C-suite positions is particularly noteworthy considering the difficulties he must have faced to overcome the tragic loss of family members in his youth. During the forum, Mr. Yeaman offered an unequivocal endorsement of the KS Strategic Plan, which he applauded for its clarity. He offered no specific examples of the Plan's resonance, so his support seemed to emanate more from what he had read, rather than what he has lived "in the trenches" of efforts to advance the wellbeing of our lāhui and vibrance of our 'āina. **While I am confident that Mr. Yeaman will utilize his governance skills to ensure a disciplined approach to Plan execution, it is less evident that he has a strong enough cultural underpinning to inform the Plan's contents or to capitalize on a Trustee's platform to serve as a leader and spokesperson for our lāhui.**

I have concluded that Olin Lagon and Eric Yeaman possess the experience, aptitudes and personal qualities to merit consideration for appointment as a Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

- **Eric Yeaman's** proven executive leadership, financial expertise, and gravitas from having dealt with many complex issues would bring **governance** strengths to the Board of Trustees.
- **Olin Lagon's** accomplishments have integrated cultural values and technological innovation, including game-changing artificial intelligence. He would bring **leadership** and **forward thinking** about "where the puck is going to be" to an organization that aspires to exert ea in reforming sub-optimal societal systems and forging a new reality in which our 'āina and lāhui thrive.

**After weighing the attributes of these two worthy candidates, I believe that Olin Lagon possesses the vision, mission commitment, humility, intellect, cultural 'ike, community connection, systems thinking and bridge building skills that best meet the needs of the Schools. His personification of 'ōpū ali'i and 'ōiwi leadership values inspires me to recommend his appointment as Kamehameha Schools Trustee.**

**The Court is also encouraged to re-evaluate the composition of future Screening Committees.** I respect the individuals who have served in this capacity, am pleased that a majority are Hawaiian and feel blessed that several are friends. However, a panel comprised of four representatives of the business community, a state transportation deputy and two retired military officers holding roles in minority businesses seeking federal contracts is not an accurate reflection of Kamehameha's key stakeholders. **The Court should rebalance the Committee to include beneficiaries with deep cultural knowledge and professional backgrounds in education, social justice, aloha 'āina, catalyzing change and community impact investing.** That would more closely align with KS' Theory of Change and Strategic Plan.

Me ka ha'aha'a,



Neil J. Kaho'okele Hannahs

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Jason Lewis <jaspernotwell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2025 5:38 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Olin-Lagon-LOS-IFRC-letterhead-19-03-2023.pdf

Dear Kamehameha Schools Probate Judge,

I am writing to express my strong support for Olin Lagon to be chosen as the next Kamehameha School's Trustee.

I have attached below the contents of the Letter of Support I wrote for Mr. Lagon at the beginning of this process in 2023. I have now also reviewed profiles of the other two candidates, as well as watched the [He Kūkākūkā: A Talk Story with the KS Trustee Finalists](#) event where they each presented their visions for KS.

Familiarizing myself with the other candidates has only reinforced my opinion that Mr. Lagon is the best person to help KS transform itself into an institution ready to not only survive but thrive in the 21st century. His experience, through Purple Maia, building infrastructure and personnel to initiate, support, and amplify culturally grounded technical innovation, offers KS a vision of the future where kanaka are in control of their destinies in a way that hasn't been seen in 132 years.

It is clear that not only does he match the other two candidates competencies, but his deep involvement with advanced technology and his clear-eyed understanding of the immense opportunities and challenges facing education in general and Kamehameha Schools specifically with ever-more ubiquitous AI technologies is a clear comparative advantage. As the Managing Director of Abundant Intelligences, the world's largest research project exploring how AI can be integrated into Indigenous knowledges (with one of six major research clusters based on Oahu), I can attest to how challenging it is to conceptualize, develop, and deploy these technologies in ways that benefits Indigenous communities. The effects will be profound, and KS needs someone with a deep understanding of how to navigate it.

Furthermore, the multiple roles Mr. Lagon has played in his various initiatives over the years--at various times leading executive, technical, managerial, and finance operations--provides the sort of 360 competence required to understand the full scope of KS's operations. On top of that, he has proven his commitment to raising up the lāhui and protecting and growing the āina through numerous initiatives. Working at ground-level in the community has been a constant through-line of his work, and his lāhui-first approach was brilliantly highlighted in his response to the final question of the He Kūkākūkā. The moderator asked: "What is the first policy change that I would lead?" Mr. Lagon answered very differently than the other two: "[The] first thing I would do is I would come eat over here with the kids, in the high school [with the] beneficiaries, right? This is a trust. We serve. [U]ntil I'm grounded in the beneficiaries...I think that's absolutely critical. [Y]ou need that grounding, the centering."

Mr. Lagon is the kanaka for this moment, and for KS's future.

---- Text from 19 March 2023 Letter of support----  
To the Trustee Search Committee of Kamehameha Schools,

I am writing in strong support for Olin Kealoha Lagon's nomination to serve as Trustee for Kamehemeha Schools.

I have known Mr. Lagon since 2017. We first met while I was in Honolulu leading an intensive three-week Hawaiian cultural-grounded videogame workshop in partnership with Kamehameha Schools and Kanaeokana. As a person who has committed the last two decades to building capacity within Indigenous communities for deeply engaging with digital, network, and artificial intelligence technologies, I was impressed by the groundwork Mr. Lagon and his colleagues at Purple Mai'a were then laying to dramatically increase the engagement of young Kanaka Maoli with computer science and new technology.

This is hard work, and requires both a serious commitment to Indigenous cultural practices and to our communities' ability to establish technological sovereignty. Mr. Lagon's long history of innovating with digital technologies combined with his ability to establish and grow social enterprises has resulted in the abundance of experience one sees on his resume. What is truly remarkable is that Mr. Lagon has continually re-affirmed his commitment working in service of the Hawaiian community. With his talents and experience he could have easily chosen to spend his time making significant money to benefit himself. Yet he has consistently directed his skills and good mind to building up the lāhui.

I am Hawaiian myself, but was adopted out and raised on the mainland by a settler family and community. Thus I do not presume to know what's best for Kamehameha Schools and the Hawaiian community on island. What I do know is that all educational environments, and particularly those that serve Indigenous students and communities, face substantial challenges regarding the community appropriate and culturally resonate use of advanced technologies. I myself have over two decades experience integrating Indigenous community practices and knowledges with advanced technologies, and can attest to how challenging it is as well as how rewarding it can be when done right and in a way that contributes to the flourishing of our communities. The Kamehameha Schools Board will need the kind of expertise that Mr. Lagon possesses—and, arguably, only he possesses—in order to navigate the next decade of enormous technological disruption in a way that benefits that entire community.

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Jason Edward Lewis  
[research/creation](#)

- Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
- Co-director, Abundant Intelligences
- Co-director, Indigenous Futures Research Centre
- University Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary
- Professor, Design and Computation Arts, Concordia University



Indigenous Futures Research Centre  
Concordia University EV11.615  
1455 blvd de Maisonneuve W.  
Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8

19 March 2023

To the Trustee Search Committee of Kamehameha Schools,

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I have known Mr. Lagon since 2017. We first met while I was in Honolulu leading an intensive three-week Hawaiian cultural-grounded videogame workshop in partnership with Kamehameha Schools and Kanaeokana. As a person who has committed the last two decades to building capacity within Indigenous communities for deeply engaging with digital, network, and artificial intelligence technologies, I was impressed by the groundwork Mr. Lagon and his colleagues at Purple Mai'a were then laying to dramatically increase the engagement of young Kanaka Maoli with computer science and new technology.

This is hard work, and requires both a serious commitment to Indigenous cultural practices and to our communities' ability to establish technological sovereignty. Mr. Lagon's long history of innovating with digital technologies combined with his ability to establish and grow social enterprises has resulted in the abundance of experience one sees on his resume. What is truly remarkable is that Mr. Lagon has continually re-affirmed his commitment working in service of the Hawaiian community. With his talents and experience he could have easily chosen to spend his time making significant money to benefit himself. Yet he has consistently directed his skills and good mind to building up the lāhui.

Though I am Hawaiian myself, I was adopted out and raised on the mainland by a settler family and community. Thus I do not presume to know what's best for Kamehameha Schools and the Hawaiian community on island. What I do know is that all educational environments, and particularly those that serve Indigenous students and communities, face substantial challenges regarding the community appropriate and culturally resonant use of advanced technologies. I myself have over two decades experience integrating Indigenous community practices and knowledges with advanced technologies, and can attest to how challenging it is as well as how rewarding it can be when done right and in a way that contributes to the flourishing of our communities. The Kamehameha Schools Board will need the kind of expertise that Mr. Lagon possesses—and, arguably, only he possesses—in order to navigate the next decade of enormous technological disruption in a way that benefits that entire community.

Regards,

Co-Director, Indigenous Futures Research Centre  
University Research Chair in Computational Media and the Indigenous Future Imaginary



Indigenous Futures Research Centre  
Concordia University EV11.615  
1455 blvd de Maisonneuve W.  
Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8

Full Professor of Computation Arts, Dept. of Design and Computation Arts, Concordia  
University  
Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Michelle Isa-Atta <isam@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2025 10:54 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Cc:** Vassilis Syrmos  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Letter of Support\_Kamehameha Schools Trustee\_Lagon, O (12-30-25).pdf

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

Please accept the attached letter of support from Dr. Vassilis L. Syrmos (Interim Provost, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa) for Mr. Olin Lagon's candidacy for Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

Interim Provost Syrmos hopes that everyone has had a great holiday season thus far, and he wishes you all a blessed New Year!

Best regards,  
Michelle

**Michelle Isa-Atta**

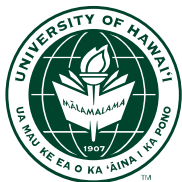
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University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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# UNIVERSITY of HAWAII® MĀNOA

Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i ma Mānoa

December 30, 2025

Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee

RE: Letter of Support for Mr. Olin Lagon

Sent via email: [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

It is my distinct privilege to offer my support for Mr. Olin Lagon's candidacy for Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

I am currently the Interim Provost of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa as appointed effective July 1, 2025. As the chief academic officer of the campus, I am responsible for ensuring the success of UH Mānoa students, faculty, and staff across education, research, scholarship, service, and outreach. In my previous capacity as Vice President for Research and Innovation for the University of Hawai'i System, I was charged with overseeing a research enterprise that generates over half a billion dollars annually and drives the commercialization of intellectual property across our islands. I spent my days evaluating talent, identifying technologies that can scale, and building the infrastructure to diversify Hawai'i's economy. I meet thousands of bright minds including researchers, technologists, and entrepreneurs. Olin Lagon is a visionary who has built global-scale innovation rooted firmly in local values.

Olin is a testament to the talent found in Hawai'i's communities and the strength of our public education system. He is a product of our public schools and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa where he was an incredibly unusual undergraduate. His capacity for synthesis was evident as he was selected by the East-West Center as a Fellow. This was a rare distinction for an undergraduate, and his position was funded by Kamehameha Schools. During his time with us, he did not just study business in isolation. He spent his time across Asia studying the economics of the sunrise and sunsets of industries, and was looking at the horizon to understand how economies evolve and how Hawai'i could fit into a changing global order.

Since then, we have watched him carve a professional trajectory that challenges the conventional definition of success. Olin graduated with a 4.0 GPA at the top of his class and could have easily pursued a lucrative corporate path on the continent. Instead, he chose to build here in Hawai'i. He focused his energy on social ventures which are organizations that are notoriously difficult to grow since they must balance financial viability with community impact. Yet Olin proved that Hawai'i's community-mindedness is a competitive advantage. He grew two of these ventures into global companies and both were acquired by major industry players.

This includes companies such as ChipIn where he effectively invented the model for general-purpose online crowdfunding. This platform channeled over \$100 million to fund projects

globally and democratized access to capital long before it became an industry standard. More recently, his company Shifted Energy uses machine learning to democratize access to clean energy for renters and underserved families. This company was acquired in 2025 by Resource Innovations, a portfolio company of Morgan Stanley Capital Partners. This acquisition will allow their Hawai'i-built technology to scale nationwide and proves that solutions to global problems can and should originate from our islands.

His standing as a premier innovator is not just local opinion – it is a matter of national record. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) recognized this when they flew a production team to Hawai'i to document his life. They spent a week shadowing him to understand his process and ultimately produced a mini-documentary about his journey as an innovator. They featured this story on the USPTO homepage for an entire month. To have the federal agency responsible for American innovation highlight a Native Hawaiian entrepreneur in this manner speaks volumes about the rare caliber of talent Olin brings to the table.

Also of note, the University of Hawai'i has partnered with Purple Mai'a, the nonprofit education technology organization he co-founded. This is not a superficial partnership but a deep strategic alignment. Through initiatives that overlap with our Office of Indigenous Innovation, Purple Mai'a serves as a critical pipeline to prepare students not just with STEM skills but with 'ike kūpuna, or ancestral intelligence applied to modern problems.

We have seen the impact of his work in programs like Ka Maka 'Īnana and the Mu'o internship pathways which bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world application for Native Hawaiian students. Olin understands that for Hawai'i to thrive, we must produce creators of technology rather than just consumers of it.

Olin Lagon possesses the unique combination of high-level economic foresight and grounded community service. He understands the mechanics of global finance and the heart of a local family struggling to pay an electric bill. I can think of no one better suited to help guide the vast resources of Kamehameha Schools toward a future that is both prosperous and righteous.

Sincerely,



Vassilis L. Syrmos, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Hokulani Topping <hokulanitopping@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2025 10:41 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of Recommendation for Olin Lagon — Trustee, Kamehameha Schools

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to write this letter in strong support of Olin Lagon for the position of Trustee at Kamehameha Schools. I have had the privilege of knowing Olin through my work with Purple Mai'a, where he has been a very large source of inspiration in my personal, cultural, and professional growth.

From the moment I met Olin, it was clear that he is a leader with an extraordinary depth of knowledge and an unwavering commitment to uplifting others. Through Purple Mai'a, I witnessed firsthand how he empowers learners by making education engaging, relevant, and deeply rooted in Hawaiian values. His ability to bridge innovation, culture, and education is rare, and it is one of the many reasons people gravitate toward his leadership.

Beyond professional spaces, Olin has generously welcomed me into his lo'i, where learning extends beyond textbooks and into lived practice. In this space, he teaches not only 'ike kūpuna and cultural stewardship, but also responsibility, patience, and care for the community. These experiences have been transformative for me. Olin has a special gift for making learning meaningful and accessible, and he leads by example in everything he does.

What truly sets Olin apart is his heart. He consistently extends his time, knowledge, and resources to others without hesitation, always seeking ways to uplift individuals and strengthen the collective. His leadership is grounded in service, humility, and an unwavering belief in the power of education to create opportunity, especially for Hawaiian communities. Every action he takes reflects his deep passion for Hawaiian culture, learning, and the future of our lāhui.

Olin Lagon embodies the values and vision that Kamehameha Schools stands for. His cultural knowledge, commitment to educational empowerment, and proven leadership make him exceptionally well suited to serve as a Trustee. I have no doubt that his presence would be a tremendous asset to the institution and to the generations of learners it serves.

Mahalo for considering this recommendation. Please feel free to contact me if additional information would be helpful.

Mahalo Nui,

Hōkūlani Topping

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Andrew Aoki <andrew@islanderinstitute.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 11:47 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for KS Trustee candidate Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Lagon-KSTrustee.pdf

Aloha,

Please see the attached letter as my contribution to the public comment period.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 808-927-4583.

Mahalo and Happy New Year!

Andrew

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**Andrew Aoki**  
Islander Institute  
[www.islanderinstitute.com](http://www.islanderinstitute.com)

# ISLANDER INSTITUTE

December 30, 2025

To: Kamehameha Schools Trustee Screening Committee  
[executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)

Fr: Andrew H. Aoki, Islander Institute  
[andrew@islanderinstitute.com](mailto:andrew@islanderinstitute.com)

Re: Recommending **Olin Lagon** be appointed Trustee for the Estate of Bernice Pauahi Bishop

Aloha kākou,

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for Olin Lagon to be the next Trustee of Kamehameha Schools.

Olin is imminently qualified for the job: He has deep ties to Kamehameha Schools, most notably as a parent of two graduates; his business acumen and understanding of economics are elite; his track record in the community as a servant leader of the highest integrity is indisputable; and he moves through every level of Hawai'i society, from the most underprivileged to the most powerful, with effective grace.

For these reasons and more, I believe Olin is the best qualified candidate to serve as Trustee. However, there is one reason that leads me to believe that Olin is the *only* qualified candidate for this moment.

I am writing this letter without the assistance of artificial intelligence, utilizing skills that I honed over decades through education and work. Most of the students enrolled in Kamehameha Schools today — including those in high school — will likely find little to no future, tangible value from writing in this way. By the time this next Trustee's term is over, AI will have transformed education, job prospects, the economy, the law, civic life, mass culture, and the institution of Kamehameha Schools in ways that most of us cannot imagine. Olin can.

As a technologist and entrepreneur who understands complex systems, Olin will be able to fathom the risks and rewards associated with every strategic decision that Kamehameha Schools will make in the coming years. Olin is a scholar of how AI will change our lives. We may not like it, but the phones that children carry are becoming more captivating than their teachers, more insightful than their counselors, and more organized than their schools. At this moment, the global workforce is being upended as thinking machines replace humans. AI companies account for one-third of the value of the U.S. stock market and the global economy that we have grown

accustomed to has been irreversibly disrupted. We have begun an era at least as significant as the Industrial Revolution except this revolution might be compressed into a decade — realized before incoming students graduate. I worry that Kamehameha Schools and all of our local institutions are on the verge of mimicking Kodak when it failed to understand the relevance of digital photography. We are woefully ill-prepared. Only a handful of people have been paying careful attention and are calibrated to lead in this new world order. Olin is one of those few.

Olin's superior knowledge, experience, and relationships in technology is eclipsed by one thing; his moral clarity. As technology continues on its path toward the omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence of the gods, only our humanity will be left to rein it in. Olin's beginnings in public housing and his lifelong dedication to Hawaiian values are the source of his clarity. But he doesn't wear his life story as a badge of honor. Instead he contemplates it as a philosopher would, in search of meaning and purpose that can be turned into action. He will be a Trustee who knows that education exists for the benefit of 'āina and community; that culture only endures with practice and consistency; that wisdom is rooted in thoughtful analysis and the willingness to adapt; that the legacy of a supremely generous ali'i can only be carried forward by acts of supreme generosity.

I have known Olin professionally and personally for almost 30 years. He is a prodigy with a startling breadth of information and insight. Because he is humble, he will not draw attention to the fact that world leaders in technology and business look to him for ideas and advice. This graduate of Honolulu Community College could have chosen the life of a tech mogul, but rather than lounging on a yacht, Olin spends his weekends working with 'ohana and building community at a lo'i in He'eia. Olin has never sought money, prestige, or power. He seeks goodness.

Kamehameha Schools is led by many great people. In Olin Lagon, the Estate has the opportunity to add someone who is, frankly, exceptional. For the sake of all of Hawai'i, I sincerely hope he receives this kuleana.

Mahalo for this opportunity to express my support.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew H. Aoki', with a stylized, flowing script.

Andrew H. Aoki  
Founder and Principal

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Walden Au <waldenau@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 10:30 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha,

I just wanted to offer a few words in support of Mr. Lagon in his nomination for trustee of KSBE. Olin has been an example of thoughtful action that keeps community at the heart of his decisions. Every experience has afforded him perspective that is grounded in service towards others and he has set a high bar for what I hope to accomplish in my own life. As we head into these uncertain times, I truly believe that it will be leaders like him who can guide us in the unique and special way that Hawai'i needs.

I wrote supportive words in Mr. Lagon's last appointment and I feel more than ever, it is thought leaders like him who will guide us through these challenges we face as a state and across the country. If it wasn't for mentors like him, I do not believe I would be where I am in life. I may not have the most success as defined by western standards, but I know that my calling is to serve others and repay the kindness that I have been afforded through my life. I am now in my 16th season as a head coach for a high school sports program as well as navigating a leadership role in health care policy, roles that are rooted in doing what is right for the whole even when there are hard decisions to make. As a non native Hawaiian who has lived his life in this land, I do not want to represent that I understand all of the issues or know what's best for KSBE, but I do know that with Olin at the table, there will be thoughtful strategy as well as heart that has been shaped by generations of Aloha.

I appreciate your consideration of these words and mahalo for your time.

Sincerely,  
Walden Au

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Russel Cheng <[russel@devleague.com](mailto:russel@devleague.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 11:50 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** 2025 Olin Langon support letter Kamehameha Schools Trustee.pdf

Aloha Kamehameha Schools Trustee Committee,

Please see my attached signed PDF support letter for Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon. I appreciate the Committee's effort to enable public comment to the selection process.

Mahalo!

Russel

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=====  
**Russel Cheng**  
Co-founder, Dev League Inc.  
[russel@devleague.com](mailto:russel@devleague.com), Mobile 808-391-8424, Main 808-400-6088



December 30, 2025

RE: Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Dear Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee:

My name is Russel Cheng, co-founder of DevLeague, Hawaii's first for-profit coding boot camp established in 2013 to support motivated adults seeking to gain technical skills needed to join the professional ranks of software developers and cybersecurity specialists.

In 2023, I wrote a public support letter for Olin's nomination as a Kamehameha Schools Trustee. In that note, I discussed how I first met Olin in 2006 when he was building one of his first startup companies, ChipIn. I also described how we collaborated on his 2014 startup Purple Maia, the coding bootcamp that helps native Hawaiians get career starts in technology and engineering.

Fast forward to today, I watched from the sidelines as Olin's Shifted Energy was recently acquired by Resource Innovations to further accelerate his company's ambitions to standardize grid modernization efforts for renters and underserved residents. There are so many more accomplishments that I am skipping over between my last support letter to this support letter. I don't know how he does this all and yet still finds time to be a family man, be a successful business person and find time to support our community.

Recently, I read the news coverage of this selection committee's effort to name a fifth Trustee. I believe all three candidates are qualified. But what struck me as a key differentiator was Olin's ability to empower people and communities through technology and innovations and actually BUILD it with his own hands, teamwork, hard work and sheer determination. In building companies from scratch, the cliché is so true – it's people, people, and people who bring the organization to life, grow it and sustain it in the long-term.

I know Olin was a strong candidate in 2023 and yet here we are again in 2025 with a lot more insight and experience as a finalist at the same Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee. With the many touchpoints that I've had with Olin over 19 years, I continue to witness a pattern of strong family, community and company building side by side with the Hawaiian and underserved community. I believe Olin will bring the same lifelong passion he has to the open Kamehameha Schools Trustee role when he has a seat at the table.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Russel Cheng  
Co-founder, DevLeague  
[russel@devleague.com](mailto:russel@devleague.com)

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** John De Fries <nativesunvision@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 1:57 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Olin K. Lagon: KS Trustee Letter of Support  
**Attachments:** KS Trustee Support Letter for Olin Lagon 2.0.pdf

Aloha Team Inkinen: Please refer to the attached letter of support for Olin Lagon, KS Trustee Finalist.

Thank you.



**John De Fries**

Resident of Kona

December 31, 2025

**Kamehameha Schools Trustee Screening Committee**

Robin Campaniano, Jason Fujimoto, Wayne Hamano, “Dre” Kalili

Michael “Mike” Rawlins, Kathleen Thurston, Edwin “Skip” Vincent

**c/o Inkinen Executive Search: Email: [executives@inkinen.com](mailto:executives@inkinen.com)**

Subject: **Letter of Support for KS Trustee-Finalist, OLIN K. LAGON**

and, for the Sustained Greatness of Kamehameha Schools

Aloha e Distinguished Members of the KS Trustee Screening Committee:

**KS Trustee-finalist, Olin K. Lagon is a Renaissance Man . . .**

for which the contemporary description (as explained by the expansive mind and deep thought of artificial intelligence) would include: *a versatile, well-rounded individual skilled in many different areas, bridging traditional arts, sciences and practical life, embodying the polymath ideal for the 21<sup>st</sup> century by mastering diverse fields like tech, finance, physical fitness, arts and critical thinking, rather than just one niche.*

Olin Lagon’s resume and list of achievements also reflect the characteristics and skillsets found in the modern-day, *Renaissance Man*:

- Intellectual Curiosity
- Practical Competence
- Creative & Artistic
- Health & Well-Being
- Social Consciousness
- Cultural Awareness
- Adaptability
- Aina-Based

When I am in Olin’s presence, I am reminded that the “courage + humility” he exudes, are indeed, two sides of the same coin. It’s the same metaphorical coin that describes the living legacy of Kamehameha Schools; with our Mo’i, Kamehameha I on one side and the Princess Pauahi Bishop on the other side - two icons of Hawai’i with contrasting leadership styles, from which the KS Board of Trustees can choose to strategically deploy at times and under circumstances that are deemed appropriate, by the their collective decision-making.

**Over the next decade – given the rapid pace with which our world is being transformed, Olin Lagon needs to be inside the KS Boardroom.** In closing, please be empathetic as to how much inner strength it takes for a Punahou ’69 alum, like me to assert –

**Imua Kamehameha!**

Malama Pono, *John De Fries*

Board Memberships: Kualoa Ranch, Friends of the Future  
Henry Kapon Foundation, Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial  
Former President & CEO, Hawaii Tourism Authority (2020-2023)  
Executive Director, Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority

**John De Fries**

Resident of Kona



**Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui**

*Nurture the child and the lāhui thrives*

Board Memberships: Kualoa Ranch, Friends of the Future  
Henry Kapon Foundation, Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial  
Former President & CEO, Hawaii Tourism Authority (2020-2023)  
Executive Director, Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Jennifer Hong <jenniferlinhong@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 11:12 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha,

I'm excited that Olin Lagon has been chosen as a finalist for Kamehameha Schools Trustee. Please find my letter of support below.

Mahalo and best wishes for 2026!

Jennifer Hong

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Olin Lagon is a dedicated, innovative, humble steward of the Native Hawaiian community. He possesses the vision and integrity to grow and lead Kamehameha Schools into the next 100 years.

Olin's career has included multiple entrepreneurial projects, but what they all have in common is that they serve a greater purpose, and often help lift up underserved communities. He leverages technology and is able to lead Kamehameha Schools into a future filled with AI and other technological advances, and I think other schools and corporations would look toward KS as the leader in this area.

Because I don't get to see Olin too much in person, I enjoy following him on instagram, where he uses his platform to share knowledge and encourage others to give time and effort to those who need it most. He leads by example, often volunteering with friends and sometimes by himself, welcoming us all to be a part of a larger community.

When he was on a layover in Japan, he visited the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, then posted about what he learned for those of us that haven't been there. He is always interested in learning and sharing so we can all be better. On another occasion, he saw a homeless veteran, bought him a sandwich, sat down and ate with him, then looked up the VA hotline and wrote down the information for him. He talks the talk, and walks the walk. In another post, he shared about how his mom and those like her were often burdened by overdraft fees and how these harm those who need help the most. He can see the big picture, but can also focus on how laws and rules affect individual people.

Despite his professional success and technological brilliance, he is always humble and lives aloha daily. When speaking with him, he may know 10 times more than I do about any topic, but will always listen and make me feel important.

Olin is a leader who collaborates and includes, is aligned with the mission of Kamehameha Schools, and is a bridge between the cultural wisdom of the past and the technological advances of the future. I enthusiastically support his nomination.

With Aloha,  
Jennifer Hong

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Donovan Kealoha <dkealoha@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 9:06 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Letter of Support - Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Olin Lagon\_LOS\_25.12.31.pdf

Aloha nō,

Please see attached pdf letter of support for Olin Lagon.

Donavan Kealoha

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Trung Lam <trungduclam@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 2:58 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha mai,

I am writing to express my strong and personal support for the selection of Olin Lagon as a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools.

I first met Olin more than a decade ago, and our paths have crossed many times across education, community innovation, crisis response, and 'āina-based work. We have worked together through Purple Mai'a, collaborated during the COVID-19 pandemic on efforts to rapidly design and produce ventilators when Hawai'i faced critical shortages, and spent time side by side working in his lo'i at Kākou 'Ōiwi. Across each of these contexts, I have seen the same qualities surface consistently: insightful wisdom, systems-level thinking, humility, and an unwavering commitment to serving kānaka 'ōiwi and Hawai'i more broadly.

Kamehameha Schools is one of Hawai'i's most important institutions. Its reach extends far beyond its campuses, shaping educational opportunity, cultural connection, and economic mobility for generations. The scale of its endowment and the weight of Pauahi's legacy demand trustees who can steward both tradition and transformation with equal care. As Olin describes in his cover letter, we are at an inflection point—particularly with the rapid acceleration of artificial intelligence and technology-driven change—that will fundamentally reshape education, work, and opportunity within a single generation.

What distinguishes Olin is not only that he understands these forces at a technical and policy level, but that he approaches them through a Native Hawaiian lens grounded in lived experience, 'āina, and kuleana. Whether he is thinking about AI as a "Captain Cook 2.0 moment," building workforce pathways through Purple Mai'a, or tending kalo in He'eia, Olin consistently centers the same question: **How can we harness these forces to build new capacity and resilience for our lāhui?** That framing matters deeply for an institution like Kamehameha Schools, whose decisions today will echo for generations.

Having worked alongside Olin, I can say with confidence that he brings a rare combination of strategic clarity, financial and systems expertise, cultural grounding, and moral seriousness. He is thoughtful without being cautious, bold without being reckless, and deeply respectful and kind. At a time when Kamehameha Schools must navigate rapid technological change, legal and financial complexity, and profound responsibility to its beneficiaries, Olin Lagon is exceptionally well prepared to serve as a Trustee.

For these reasons, and based on more than a decade of shared work and observation, I offer my strongest support for his selection.

Mahalo,

Trung Lam

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Evan Leong <evanleong@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 11:55 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Attn: Trustee Screening Committee - Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Aloha Committee,

My name is Evan Leong, and I am writing in strong support of Olin Kealoha Lagon as a Trustee for Kamehameha Schools.

I have known Olin for close to twenty years. A few years ago, when I relaunched my podcast, Greater Good Radio, Olin was the first person I invited to come on. We spent several hours together talking through his background and life story. That conversation reaffirmed for me why I believe he is deeply suited for this role.

Olin did not come from privilege. He grew up in Kūhiō Park Terrace, raised by a single mother in circumstances that required resilience just to survive. After a serious childhood injury, his mother relied heavily on family, including his older sister, to help care for and protect him during an unstable and difficult period. He often went to bed hungry and lived with the daily stress of making it through one more day. That lived experience aligns directly with Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop's original intention that orphans and children in indigent circumstances receive special consideration and care.

As a student, Olin moved through a school system that told him he was not smart. He was placed into boxes that many Native Hawaiian children know well. It was only later, through the presence of a military leader who took the time to see him clearly and encourage him to pursue higher education, that Olin realized he was not broken or incapable. He simply needed the right person, intention, and belief around him. That distinction matters deeply to me. It is not institutions alone that change lives. It is people who show up with care, values, and responsibility.

Recently, I returned from the Big Island after visiting Kīlauea, Mauna Kea, and Pu'uhonua o Hōnaunau. What stood out to me was how much of Hawai'i is named after kings, yet one of the most lasting and transformative gifts to Native Hawaiian youth came from Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop. Her foresight, discipline, and kuleana created Kamehameha Schools, an institution designed to lift children who needed it most.

I see that same grounding influence in Olin's life through his mother. She worked relentlessly and stayed committed to him even when resources were scarce. I believe that experience shaped how Olin understands leadership, not as status or authority, but as responsibility, consistency, and service.

What I have witnessed over the years is that Olin is deeply solution oriented. The system could have consumed him. Poverty, instability, public housing, and early labeling could have led to disengagement. Instead, Olin consistently asks a different question through the lens of lōkahi. How do we reestablish unity to what seems broken?

That shows up in very real ways. Olin has invested his own time into mālama 'āina by working in a lo'i kalo, tending the land rather than speaking about stewardship from a distance. When he saw that Native

Hawaiian youth with ability were not gaining access to technology skills, he helped build Purple Mai'a to create real pathways and training. Not as a concept, but as an operating solution.

Professionally, Olin has carried that same approach at scale. During the pandemic, he helped design and lead a statewide rental relief system that distributed significant funding while maintaining strong accountability and transparency. More recently, he co founded and led a renewable energy company that was successfully acquired. These efforts reflect an ability to hold both vision and discipline at the same time.

There is an image from my recent trip that stays with me. Driving up Mauna Kea in heavy rain, visibility was poor and the conditions were difficult. We considered turning back. We stayed the course. As we climbed higher, we broke through the cloud layer. Above it, everything was clear.

That experience reminds me of Olin's life. He has lived below the clouds, in hardship, confusion, and constraint. He did not avoid it. He moved through it. He learned how to see above it. And more importantly, he brings others with him.

I believe this ability to see above the clouds is exactly what Kamehameha Schools needs at this moment. Someone who understands struggle firsthand, who honors Pauahi's intent for those in the most difficult circumstances, and who can steward a complex institution with clarity, humility, and care.

I do not know the other finalists well. I do know Olin. I trust him with Pauahi's legacy and with the future of the keiki this trust exists to serve.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share this mana'o.

Me ke aloha,  
Evan Leong

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Kauai Lucas <clucas9@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 1:21 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

Dear Probate Court and Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate Trustee Selection Committee

In 2022 I wrote in support of Olin as KSBE Trustee, and perhaps noted that the committee had a difficult decision (Dr. Goodyear- Ka'ōpua was also a finalist.)

Lagon's firm grounding in Hawaiian Culture, (to which he has added 'ōlelo Hawai'i in recent years) combined with his formidable understanding of technology, particularly AI, is now ESSENTIAL to have at the helm of the single most important Native Hawaiian serving entity.

A kanaka 'ōiwi myself, who for the last 9 years has worked at the state legislature, I see the challenges mounting there, and nationally for Native Hawaiians. KSBE needs thoughtful, clear, decisive leadership, undiminished by desire for personal accumulation of wealth and acclaim.

If those were his goals, Lagon would not work as hard as he does to lift up and educate Hawaiians with practical knowledge. His efforts with Purple Mai'a are a testament to what can be achieved when creativity and compassion align with mission. His humble character and ability to collaborate will accelerate the Trustees' cohesive functioning at this critical moment.

From our first interaction in 2009 with Kanu Hawai'i, to more recent discussions on creating funding infrastructure for higher education, Lagon has been steadfastly excellent in process and follow through. Please enable his intellect and ethical approach to inform, collaborate, and serve as a KSBE Trustee.

me ka pono,  
Kauai Lucas  
(Christiane Kaulana Lucas)  
**C. Kauai Lucas**  
**808.282.2007**



## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Lisa Maruyama <teruka808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 3:07 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Support for Olin Lagon for KS Trustee

Aloha no,

I write to express my strong support for Mr. Olin Lagon as a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools. Among the three candidates, Mr. Lagon brings the most comprehensive and compelling combination of qualities needed to fulfill this role effectively.

He offers a rare breadth of lived experience, shaped by diverse personal and professional work here in Hawai`i, and across the globe, coupled with a proven record of strategic thinking, business acumen, and intellectual rigor. Equally important, Mr. Lagon demonstrates a deep and authentic care and commitment to the Kamehameha Schools mission—both as a Kanaka Maoli and as a former parent of the school—and brings the values necessary to help guide the institution into its next chapter.

Mr. Lagon is a creative, solutions-oriented, big-picture thinker. His approach and mana`o are well suited to this moment, as Kamehameha Schools navigates increasing complexity and heightened scrutiny of its mission. At a time when issues affecting the lāhui require principled leadership and a clear, courageous voice, Mr. Lagon is prepared to lead with clarity, humility, and purpose.

His candidacy aligns fully with the goals of the 2030 Strategic Plan, as articulated so clearly in Kanaeokana's [document](#) expressing the collective mana`o of its members. Mr. Lagon embodies the leadership called for in that vision, and I strongly support his appointment as Trustee.

Me ka ha`aha`a,

Lisa Maruyama

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Bennette Misalucha <bennette.misalucha808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 2:06 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** OLIN LAGON RECOMMENDATION  
**Attachments:** OLIN RECOMMENDATION.pdf

Aloha! Please find attached a letter of support on behalf of Olin Lagon, who is seeking a position as a trustee for Kamehameha Schools.

Please let me know should you have further questions.

Sincerely,  
Bennette

Bennette E. Misalucha  
P.O. Box 1463, Aiea, Hawaii 96701

December 31, 2025

Inkinen & Associates  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

To the Kamehameha Schools Trustee Selection Committee:

It is my privilege to offer my strongest recommendation for **Olin Lagon** for the position of Trustee of Kamehameha Schools. I have known Olin for more than twenty years, and during that time I have seen, consistently and unequivocally, a leader who stands at the cutting edge of innovation while remaining grounded in humility, purpose, and Hawaiian values.

Olin is a visionary problem solver. He approaches complex challenges with a disciplined, strategic mindset and a willingness to think beyond conventional boundaries. Whether working in technology, community initiatives, or social enterprise, he demonstrates an ability to anticipate emerging trends and translate ideas into practical, scalable solutions. Importantly, he does so with integrity and an unwavering focus on community benefit.

At this juncture in Kamehameha Schools' history, governance requires both innovation and stewardship. The institution faces evolving economic, educational, cultural, and social dynamics. Olin brings precisely the skill set needed to navigate those realities: foresight, operational discipline, collaborative leadership, and a deep respect for the mission and legacy of Ke Ali'i Pauahi. He is an "outside-the-box" thinker, yet he is also deeply grounded, careful, and thoughtful in execution.

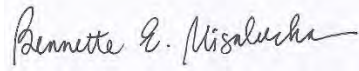
What sets Olin apart is not only his intellect but his character. He is humble. He listens first. He leads with aloha, and he builds consensus through relationships founded on trust and respect. He is motivated not by recognition, but by service, particularly service to the lāhui and the next generation.

In every endeavor I have observed, Olin has demonstrated maturity of judgment, moral clarity, and a sincere commitment to strengthening Hawai'i's communities. I am confident that he would bring wisdom, prudence, and innovation to the Trustee role, while honoring the sacred responsibilities entrusted to the Board.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly and without reservation recommend **Olin Lagon** for appointment as a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools. He would be an extraordinary asset to the institution and to the legacy it protects.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bennette E. Misalucha". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Bennette Misalucha

Former State Senator, District 16

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Matthew Ortiz <matthew.kawika.ortiz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 3:24 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Vote for Olin K Lagon

Proud graduate of Kamehameha Schools here. I already voted on the Public Comment forum for Olin but I want to add that as a Chairman of Alexander and Baldwin, a company that has done irreparable damage to our lāhui, Eric Yeaman should not even be in the running for this position!

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Matthew Kawika Ortiz  
Hand-drawn Illustration, Painting, Murals  
808.277.7446  
[www.woodenwaveart.com](http://www.woodenwaveart.com)  
Instagram: [wooden\\_wave](https://www.instagram.com/wooden_wave)

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 3:49 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Support for Olin Lagon as KS Trustee  
**Attachments:** Keani Signature Graphic (Rectangle Sticker (Landscape)).jpeg; Olin Lagon - KS Trustee.pdf

Aloha kākou,

Please find my letter of support for Olin Lagon attached.

Mahalo!



*Keani Rawlins-Fernandez (she/her)*  
Councilmember  
County of Maui  
(808) 553-3888

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

December 31, 2025

Trustee Screening Committee  
c/o Inkinen Executive Search  
1003 Bishop Street  
Suite 1477  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha kākou,

Mahalo for this opportunity to lend my strong support of Olin Kealoha Lagon to serve as the next Kamehameha Schools Trustee.

Olin is the indisputable choice. He is there for the right reason: collective abundance.

In response to the question, "What does it mean to be an 'oiwi leader?" Olin responded: "E 'ai kākou." As a servant leader myself, I understood this as him saying, "I won't eat until you are also eating. I won't get mine, while you have nothing. I won't leave you behind, we are in this together." This is the level of na'au pono and mālama a trustee should possess.

As the Councilmember who is a kupa'āina of Molokai, I know what it means for a community to be overlooked. We live it here all the time. I don't believe one can be an effective fiduciary if one is not looking across the spectrum of beneficiaries to ensure all are being served equitably. And one cannot possibly do this unless it's held as an important priority, as Olin does.

I admire the way Olin looks to the source, living nānā i ke kumu, by going to beneficiaries to learn how to reengineer systems meant to serve and uplift them. For example, the lo'i kalo he caretakes creates a space to directly speak with keiki and 'ōpio, while simultaneously cultivating connection to 'āina and community.

As the 1999 Master's Report correctly recognizes, the values of the individual must be foundational, for it's the individual's values that become the

board's values and is not something that should be outsourced, as these values inform fiduciary decisions.

Olin has a genuine excitement for pursuing and creating new opportunities with optimism, confidence, and a healthy rejection of limited and binary thinking tethered to an era of forced assimilation and internalized colonization. Furthermore, Olin's embrace of the cultural practices is a refreshing reinforcement of an identity that strengthens our Lāhui, especially after years suffering under the leadership of individuals who have excelled in extractive capitalism and abandoned 'ike kupuna.

While having a strong financial background as Chief Financial Officer, Olin's multidisciplinary background and exposure to societies worldwide will provide important insights into asset management. He understands valuing assets holistically, from the lens of our kūpuna, and that asset management and culture preservation are objectives only put at odds by people with limited vision and imagination.

Olin lives the adage "the only constant is change" and actively seeks to not only educate himself, but also generously shares this acquired knowledge and power freely with others. The board and beneficiaries will greatly benefit from his ability to plan for changes, such as artificial intelligence and evolving away from a factory-based model of academia. In anticipating these changes, centering those historically excluded becomes instrumental in redesigning systems to advance together in a culturally grounded fashion.

Finally, and most importantly, integral to serving as a fiduciary, one must prioritize trust-building and connecting with beneficiaries, which is an inherent priority for Olin. His selection will communicate to our Lāhui a level of integrity and hope sorely needed today.

Na'u no,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keani Rawlins-Fernandez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keani" being more prominent.

Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, J.D., M.B.A.  
Councilmember



## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Keith Sakanashi <keithks777@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 1:02 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Trustee finalist recommendation: Mr. Olin Lagon

Aloha Your Honor,

I am honored to write in strong support of Mr. Olin Lagon for appointment as a Trustee of Kamehameha Schools. Mr. Lagon is a person of deep integrity, vision, and commitment, and he consistently demonstrates a steadfast dedication to serving the best interests of the trust and the Native Hawaiian community.

Throughout the years, I have observed Olin's continuous pursuit of growth and learning, always seeking ways to expand his knowledge and leadership so that he may better serve future generations. He is deeply invested in creating pathways for our youth—guiding them to care for our land, strengthen their sense of kuleana, and contribute meaningfully to a thriving Hawai'i. At the same time, he is committed to preserving and perpetuating traditional Native Hawaiian practices, ensuring that our culture and values remain vibrant and respected.

Olin's efforts extend well beyond our state. He actively builds relationships and connections across the globe, not for personal recognition, but out of a sincere desire to bring knowledge, opportunity, and perspective back to Hawai'i. His humility is one of his greatest strengths. He leads not for acclaim, but to empower future leaders and to help create lasting initiatives that will benefit generations to come.

I respectfully urge you to give Mr. Olin Lagon your highest consideration for the role of Trustee of Kamehameha Schools. He is a dedicated and principled leader whose actions consistently reflect a genuine commitment to service, stewardship, and the long-term success of those impacted by the trust.

Respectfully,  
Keith K. Sakanashi  
MEd. Educational Administration

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Prem Sooriyakumar <prem.sooriyakumar@concordia.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 12:00 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon

**December 31, 2025**

**To Whom It May Concern,**

**Dear Probate Judge and Members of the Executive Recruitment Committee,**

I am writing in strong support of the nomination of **Olin Lagon** for Trustee of Kamehameha Schools.

My name is Prem Sooriyakumar, and I currently live in Montréal, Canada. I work as a Knowledge Broker at Concordia University, where my role focuses on research impact, knowledge mobilization, and building meaningful connections between academic work, communities, and real-world change. I was born and raised in northern Sri Lanka, where I am Eelam Tamil, and I was forced to flee as a child due to civil war. Since resettling in Canada, part of my personal and professional life has been shaped by working closely with Indigenous communities, particularly through long-term collaborations in research, technology, and education.

Through my work with Jason Edward Lewis, my primary connection to Hawai'i, I have had the privilege of getting to know Olin Lagon through several projects and talking stories anytime I am a guest on the island. I can say without hesitation that whenever there is an opportunity to speak about who Olin is, the ideas he carries, and the work he is doing, I am genuinely eager to do so. I am continually struck by how an individual can shape my worldview from such a distance, through the clarity of their words and the consistency of their actions.

What distinguishes Olin, in my experience, is his ability to engage deeply with technology, science, and innovation while remaining firmly grounded in ancestral knowledge, cultural responsibility, and community accountability. I also closely relate to, and deeply value, the life experience Olin brings to his leadership. Having lived across a wide spectrum of social and economic realities, he carries a level of empathy that cannot be taught or simulated, and this is evident in the perspective, humility, and clarity he brings to his work. In a world that increasingly rewards speed, scale, and abstraction, Olin remains rooted in where he comes from and who he serves. This grounding is not rhetorical; it is visible in how he speaks, how he builds, and how he leads.

I believe Olin represents a particularly important opportunity for Kamehameha Schools at this moment. His leadership in technology, especially in the area of artificial intelligence, is both timely and essential. I am currently involved in multiple AI-related projects myself, and I am convinced that these technologies will fundamentally reshape education, governance, and knowledge systems. For Indigenous and other historically marginalized communities, AI presents not only opportunity but also serious risk. Without care and leadership, it can easily become another form of digital colonialism, capable of eroding existing knowledge systems just as earlier forms of colonization did.

Olin brings a rare and necessary perspective to this challenge. His work is not rooted in purely corporate or extractive technology models. Instead, he has consistently built and supported initiatives that place culture, language, and community values at the center of innovation. This combination of technical

fluency and cultural responsibility is precisely what institutions like Kamehameha Schools need in trusteeship, particularly as education systems navigate profound technological change.

From my position in Canada, I offer my full and unequivocal support for Olin Lagon's nomination. I believe he would serve Kamehameha Schools with integrity, foresight, and deep respect for its mission and the communities it exists to serve.

**Sincerely,**

Prem Sooriyakumar

**Prem Sooriyakumar**

Knowledge Broker

Office of Vice-President of

Research, Innovation and Impact

Concordia University

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## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Spencer Toyama <spencer@sudokrew.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 10:31 AM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Public Comment – Trustee Finalist Olin Lagon  
**Attachments:** Olin Lagon letter of support.pdf

I would like to submit this letter in support of Olin Lagon (PDF version attached):

To the Kamehameha Schools Trustee Screening Committee,

I am writing to offer my strongest support for Olin Kealoha Lagon's application to serve as a Kamehameha Schools Trustee. I am the founder of Sudokrew, a software development agency, and have known Olin since 2013 when I was establishing my company with my business partner. Over the past decade, Olin's guidance fundamentally shaped not just my business model, but my understanding of technology's relationship to communities and culture.

What sets Olin apart is his almost prophetic ability to see the second and third-order effects of emerging technologies on communities—particularly their impact on equity and culture. Years before cryptocurrency's environmental impact became a mainstream concern, Olin was detailing blockchain's carbon footprint to me while simultaneously proposing carbon tokenization as a potential solution. He identified the fundamental hypocrisy in renewable energy credit systems that burden low-income families with energy costs, then built Shifted Energy specifically to address that inequity. Since I've known him, Olin has consistently demonstrated a pattern of anticipating technological developments and building solutions grounded in justice.

When my partner Jason and I were establishing Sudokrew's market focus in the early 2010s, the conventional path in tech was clear: chase high-margin contracts wherever the money was best. Olin consistently challenged us to think deeper: What would our work produce for people, not just our pocketbooks? This wasn't philosophical musing—it led directly to concrete business decisions. We focused on climate science and humanitarian services, building energy monitoring applications for the growing energy storage industry, developing software to move humanitarian aid to Haiti after their earthquake crisis, and creating monitoring systems for Pacific fish populations. We would not have been able to accomplish these critical projects if not for the influence of people like Olin, who see technology as more than a tool for business.

Reading Olin's cover letter about AI as Kamehameha Schools' "Captain Cook 2.0 moment," I immediately recognized his characteristic foresight. He's right. The students entering KS campuses today will graduate into a radically transformed job market, and the institution needs trustees who not only understand technology but also its cultural and equity implications. Olin sees trajectory in technology and their impact on communities, particularly those already marginalized and overlooked. This is exactly the judgment KS needs as it navigates artificial intelligence, workforce transformation, and the preservation of 'ōiwi identity in an increasingly digital world.

Though I come from a settler background, I've long worked to support the cultural sustainability of Kānaka Maoli. My early career included working with Hawaiian musicians like Paula Fuga to protect their intellectual property, and have since developed and maintained [Manomano.io](https://manomano.io), one of the most widely-used Hawaiian dictionary websites. Through this work, I've come to understand how technology can either support or undermine cultural preservation—and how rare it is to find technologists who understand this tension intuitively. Olin is one of those rare people. I've watched friends build careers through Purple Mai'a's technology education programs, seeing firsthand how Olin doesn't just talk about values—he builds infrastructure and opportunities that embody them.

In an era where public figures and officials often succumb to profit-driven incentives, I have complete confidence in Olin's ability to keep Pauahi's will at the center of every decision. His three-decade track record

of choosing service over personal enrichment, building systems for the most vulnerable, and seeing technological transformation through a cultural lens is exactly what this moment demands.

I trust Olin's judgment, his perspective, and his commitment to the lāhui. Kamehameha Schools would be extraordinarily well-served by his trusteeship. I am available for any further questions or background information if needed.

Me ka mahalo a me ka ha'aha'a

Spencer Toyama

Sudokrew Solutions,

Honolulu, Hawai'i

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Spencer Toyama

**Co-Founder** | Sudokrew

mobile: [808.728.2693](tel:808.728.2693)

site: [sudokrew.com](http://sudokrew.com)

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Me ka mahalo a me ka ha'aha'a  
Spencer Toyama  
Sudokrew Solutions,  
Honolulu, Hawai'i



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1200 Ala Moana Blvd. #380  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
(808) 728-2693

## Inkinen Executives

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**From:** Stephany Vaioleti <stephanyvaioleti@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 31, 2025 1:57 PM  
**To:** Inkinen Executives  
**Subject:** Support for Olin Lagon

Aloha,

I'm writing in strong support of Olin Lagon for KS trustee. Olin consistently leads with a growth mindset, intentionality, and honoring the past in the present. He continues to seek high-impact solutions for kānaka and underserved communities. His work—from delivering \$250M in rent relief to co-founding Purple Mai'a and advancing community-driven innovation through Shifted Energy—shows integrity, vision, and proven leadership. With deep expertise, decades of board service, and a lifelong commitment to our lāhui, Olin is an exceptional candidate to help guide Kamehameha Schools through this next chapter.

Mahalo,  
Stephany Vaioleti, KS '90