

# 2025 Board of Directors Candidates

Hawaii State FCU is committed to strong governance and ensuring our leadership reflects the expertise needed to serve our members effectively. As HSFCU continues to grow, our Board of Directors must collectively fit the skill sets and experience needed at this time to take the credit union into the future. Following a thorough assessment, the Board of Directors identified the skills and experience necessary to lead our credit union, and the Nominating Committee has nominated the following individuals for the three (3) open seats available:

- John Katahira – Current HSFCU Director and Secretary
- Garret Yoshimi – Chief Information Officer at the University of Hawaii
- Kira Higa – Director of Human Resources at RCUH



## JOHN KATAHIRA

**Board Qualifications:** I am known to be an out-of-box thinker and strong decision-maker, with an astute ability to communicate effectively with different types of people. I am not afraid to challenge status quo and support leaving things alone if they are working well.

### Most Relevant Other Non-Profit Board Experience

- Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii: Corporate Board Member, Executive Committee Member, Safety Committee Chair
- American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii: President and National Director

**Primary Focus if Elected:** I will focus on maximizing member benefits (such as higher share term/saving rates and lower loan rates) and improving member services (such as digital banking and branch locations) while strengthening the core business of HSFCU.

**Personal Statement:** If re-elected to the board, I will continue to promote governance that maximizes HSFCU's potential for its members and employees by focusing on strong values and actively listening to member input.

### HSFCU Experience:

HSFCU Director and (various) Committee Member since 2022

- HSFCU Board Member
- Executive Committee Member (Treasurer and Secretary)
- Human Resources and Compensation Committee Member (Chair)
- Finance Committee Member
- Nominating Committee
- CEO Retention Task Force, Real Estate Task Force, Merger Task Force

HSFCU corporate account member since 2013

HSFCU member since 1993

**Work Experience:** As president and majority owner of The Limtiaco Consulting Group, my key responsibilities included financial management, human resource management, business development and information technology. I was the principal-in-charge for planning and public outreach services related to water, wastewater, recycled water and stormwater infrastructure. I was with the company for 23 years and retired in 2022.

My first job was being a pineapple trimmer at Dole Cannery...one of my best work experiences ever because it taught me the importance of hard work and working with a team.

### Education:

University High School

BS, Civil Engineering, University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM)

MS, Civil Engineering, UHM

MBA, Business Administration, UHM



## GARRET YOSHIMI

**Board Qualifications:** I have served as a member of both for-profit and non-profit corporations, including several years as the current President of the Physicians Exchange of Honolulu. I have a firm understanding of the role of the Board of Directors, and the ability to collaboratively navigate Boards through changing market conditions.

**Primary Focus if Elected:** Technology touches and impacts all aspects of our lives, including access to healthcare, education, commerce and entertainment. Used properly, it helps to connect us to friends and family across the globe. I would bring my experience as a technology executive to the Board to help guide organizational strategy in the complex areas of information technology and cybersecurity risk management.

**Personal Statement:** Credit unions play an important role in our community to offer locally grounded choices in financial services to Hawaii's families, in particular to help support our large community of public employees.

**HSFCU Experience:** First joined HSEFCU as the child of a member in the 1970s, to help establish credit and then to buy my first car – for which my Mom had to co-sign for the auto loan.

**Work Experience:** I currently serve as the VP for Information Technology and CIO for the University of Hawaii. I also served as the Judiciary's first CIO, Director of Computing and Communication Services for the East-West Center, VP and CIO for DTRIC Insurance, and multiple roles in the private sector.

**Education:** Born and raised in Honolulu, graduated from Kalani High School, Purdue University (BSEE), and the University of Hawaii at Manoa (Graduate certificate in Telecommunications and Information Resource Management).



## KIRA HIGA

**Board Qualifications:** With 15+ years of HR leadership, I bring expertise in workforce development, strategic planning, and employee engagement to HSFCU. Aligned with HSFCU's mission of financial and personal wellness, I will advocate for financial education, innovation, and member-focused solutions to enhance service, convenience, and overall well-being.

**Primary Focus if Elected:** My primary focus will be to enhance member experience, strengthen community engagement, and drive innovative solutions for greater service and convenience. Leveraging my expertise in HR management, workforce development, and leadership, I will assist in fostering a culture of collaboration and efficiency, ensuring HSFCU continues to enrich lives and empower financial wellness for all members.

**Personal Statement:** With extensive experience in human resources leadership, organizational strategy, and employee engagement, I am committed to elevating our credit union with fresh, innovative ideas to enhance service and convenience for all members. Rooted in HSFCU's vision, I strive to build strong relationships and enrich lives in our community by advocating for greater accessibility, financial wellness, and member-focused solutions.

**HSFCU Experience:** I have been a member of HSFCU for 4 years.

**Work Experience:** I currently serve as the HR Director for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i. In this role, I provide strategic leadership and tactical guidance, ensuring HR operations are efficient, compliant, and high-quality. Previously, as HR Director at Hawaiian Telcom, I led company-wide HR initiatives, overseeing performance management, organizational design, and labor negotiations. My expertise includes implementing policies that enhance employee engagement, managing complex labor relations, and ensuring compliance with employment laws. I excel at driving process improvements, cost savings, and strategic workforce planning. My leadership style focuses on continuous improvement, fostering collaboration, and aligning HR strategies with business goals to support organizational success.

### Education:

Concordia University, Irvine

B.A., Behavioral Science: Psychology and Minor in Business Administration

Kamehameha Schools

High School Diploma

## Call for Supervisory Committee Applications

Hawaii State FCU is currently seeking candidates for two (2) open seats on our Supervisory Committee. Both seats carry three-year terms. The Supervisory Committee consists of up to five volunteers, and meets monthly to review various financial and operational activities.

By volunteering to serve on the Supervisory Committee, you have the opportunity to learn about credit union operations, oversee practices and procedures to safeguard members' assets, ensure the credit union meets required financial reporting objectives, and take an active role in making Hawaii State FCU Hawaii's premier credit union.

To obtain an application, contact the credit union's Administrative Office at (808) 447-8050 or email [administration@hsfcu.com](mailto:administration@hsfcu.com). Completed applications must be received no later than 5 p.m., Saturday, May 31, 2025.

## Nominations by Petition Now Being Accepted

Hawaii State FCU is currently accepting nominations by petition to fill the three (3) positions on our Board of Directors. Nominations made by petition must be signed by a minimum of 500 Hawaii State FCU members age 16 and older as of March 31, 2025. A separate petition form must be completed and submitted to the Nominating Committee for each nomination. Along with the petition form, each nominee must submit a statement of qualifications, biographical data and a complete application packet.

To obtain additional information regarding nominations by petition, please call the credit union's Administrative Office at (808) 447-8050 or email [administration@hsfcu.com](mailto:administration@hsfcu.com). The deadline for the Nominating Committee to receive the completed nominations by petition is 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 7, 2025.