



January 30, 2008  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: House Bills Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for  
Maui Preparatory Academy (HB2547) and  
Relating to Island Pacific Academy (HB2614)

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Berg, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS). I am here today to testify in support of measures introduced by two of our member schools, Maui Preparatory Academy and Island Pacific Academy, both of which are seeking approval for Special Purpose Revenue Bonds.

The House Committee on Education has supported similar measures in years past, and we are here to acknowledge and recognize your advocacy and support of the ongoing effort by HAIS to encourage its member schools to use Special Purpose Revenue Bonds as an essential strategy for leveraging capital funds urgently needed for campus development and improvement projects.

Private schools in Hawaii serve everyday families from all walks of life. Many students attending private schools receive financial aid to defray the cost of tuition. It is our steadfast belief that private schools serve an important public purpose here in Hawaii by helping to prepare the next generation of young people to become well-educated, purposeful, and engaged citizens willing to contribute to the greater good.

In addition, Special Purpose Revenue Bonds do not in any way divert funds away from public schools.

For these reasons and others that may be addressed during discussion of these measures today, HAIS strongly supports HB 2547 and HB 2614 and the approval of issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for the two schools present at today's hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.