

April 1, 2008  
10:15 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: HB2547, SD1 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for  
Maui Preparatory Academy

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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 House Bill 2547, Senate Draft 1, which seeks approval of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for Maui Preparatory Academy.

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means has supported similar measures in years past and we are here to acknowledge this committee's support of the ongoing efforts by HAIS to encourage its member schools to utilize Special Purpose Revenue Bonds as an essential strategy for leveraging capital funds urgently needed for campus development and improvement projects.

It is important to note that Special Purpose Revenue Bonds do not in any way divert funds away from public schools; instead, they provide independent schools with the means to better serve their students through improved school campuses and facilities.

Independent schools in Hawaii serve everyday families from all walks of life, as illustrated by the diverse student bodies of our member institutions. These students come from all areas of the state and from a variety of ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, thanks to the financial assistance provided to many students by their schools to defray the cost of tuition. It is our steadfast belief that private schools serve an important public purpose by helping to prepare this next generation to become well-educated, purposeful, and engaged citizens willing to contribute to the greater good.

For these reasons and others that may be addressed during further discussion of this measure, HAIS strongly supports HB 2547, SD1 and the approval of issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for Maui Preparatory Academy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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RE: HB2547, SD1 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds  
for Maui Preparatory Academy

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

My name is George C. Baker and I am the Headmaster at Maui Preparatory Academy, an independent, co-educational day school on the island of Maui. The Academy was founded in 2005 and currently provides a full range of academic, athletic and extracurricular programs for 200 students in grades Pre-K to 10. We are in the process of adding one grade each year to ultimately become a Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade school by the 2009-2010 school year. We offer an educational option for students in West Maui and our diverse student body comes from a wide range of socio-economic groups.

Maui Preparatory Academy will be the sole recipient beneficiary of the Special Purpose Revenue Bond authorization of House Bill 2547, Senate Draft 1. We strongly urge your support of this bill, and thank you for your support earlier this session of its companion bill, SB2035, SD1.

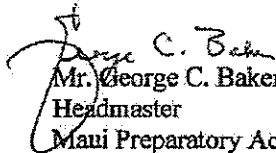
Part VIII, Chapter 39A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes allows the State to issue Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for private school construction and renovation and makes it feasible for the Maui Preparatory Academy to make substantial improvements to benefit our student body and our larger community. Your authorization of this Special Purpose Revenue Bond will allow Maui Preparatory Academy to plan and finance campus capital projects while minimizing our reliance on monetary contributions from parents and friends of the school. These projects are specific to the school and will greatly enhance the school's ability to provide a quality education in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

Maui Preparatory Academy asks for the issuance of a Special Purpose Revenue Bond in the amount of \$25,000,000 for the financing and/or refinancing of improvements to both our Lower and Middle School facilities, built in 2004, and our Upper School, to allow for our expansion to a full Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade school.

Once again, Maui Preparatory Academy strongly supports the passage of HB 2547, SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mr. George C. Baker  
Headmaster  
Maui Preparatory Academy