



January 29, 2008  
8:40 a.m.  
Conference Room 329

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOUSING  
AND EDUCATION

HB 3364 – Making an Appropriation to Facilitate the Sharing of Information of  
Family Court Records with Schools in the Case of Certain Minor Offenders

Dear Chairs Shimabukuro and Takumi, Vice-Chairs Rhoads and Berg, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt, executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, which represents approximately 100 private and independent schools and educates over 30,000 elementary and secondary school students across our state.

We support the intent of HB 3364, which, in cases where minors are accused of serious crimes, allows for the limited disclosure of information from family court records concerning minors under family court jurisdiction.

The Hawaii Association of Independent Schools has previously advocated for such disclosure at legislative hearings in the past, and the association continues to believe that, with all due respect to an individual's right to privacy, school officials and family court officials MUST act in concert to protect the well-being of all students in all schools when it is evident that a juvenile offender will be matriculating at an elementary or secondary school.

We are of the strong opinion that school officials are capable of working closely with family court officials on a confidential basis to both protect the rights of offenders and maintain high standards concerning the rights of all students to study and learn in a safe and nurturing environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.