



January 28, 2008  
1:15 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: Senate Bills Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for Maui Preparatory Academy (SB2035), Relating to Island Pacific Academy (SB2364) and Relating to Education (SB2472)

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, 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 three of our member schools, each seeking approval for a Special Purpose Revenue Bond.

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

Private schools in Hawaii serve everyday families from all walks of life. Many students attending private school 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.

Special Purpose Revenue Bonds do not divert funds away from public schools.

For these reasons, and others that might be addressed during discussion of these measures today, HAIS strongly supports approval of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for the three schools present at today's hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.