



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Taxation
Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2008
9:25 a.m. – Conference Room 224

By Walter Kahumoku, III
Director, Teacher Education and Professional Development
Kamehameha Schools

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Re: SB 2300, SD1 Relating to Taxation

Good afternoon Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Espereo and members of the Economic Development and Taxation Committee. My name is Walter Kahumoku and I am the Director of Teacher Education and Professional Development for Kamehameha Schools. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2300, SD1.

Kamehameha Schools applauds the legislature for its interest in increasing the number of quality teachers in Hawaii. We have been participating extensively in the Early Learning Education Task Force established by the legislature and strongly support, among other education initiatives, funding measures for charter schools. We are in support of SB 2300, SD1. We hope to be a continued participant in the dialog concerning teacher quality and workforce development.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is a statewide educational system supported by a trust endowed by Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop, whose mission is to improve the capability and well-being of Native Hawaiian children through education. We serve 5,400 K-12 students through campus programs on O'ahu, Hawai'i and Maui, and 1,317 three-and-four-year-olds at 31 preschool sites statewide. Last year, we provided \$4.4 million in scholarships to 850 keiki attending community preschools.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.