

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.

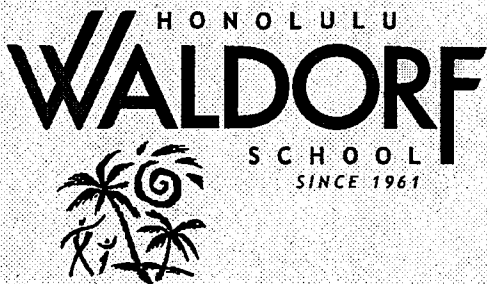
The Committee on Education of the Senate has supported similar measures in past years, and we are here to acknowledge and recognize the leadership and membership of this committee for its advocacy of the ongoing effort at HAIS to encourage its member schools to use Special Purpose Revenue Bonds as an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



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TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SB2472 – Relating to Education

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Genie Sakaguchi, and I have been a teacher at the Honolulu Waldorf School for 26 years. On behalf of the Chair of the College of Teachers, the Administrative Director, the 314 students and 65 dedicated faculty and staff members of Mohala Pua School, doing business as the Honolulu Waldorf School, I strongly support Senate Bill 2472.

Part VIII, Chapter 39A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, which allows the State to issue Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for private school construction and renovation, makes feasible substantial improvements to benefit our student body and our community. The authorization of this Special Purpose Revenue Bond will allow the Honolulu Waldorf School to plan and finance campus projects while minimizing our reliance on the monetary contributions of our alumni, parents, and friends.

Honolulu Waldorf School asks for the issuance of a Special Purpose Revenue Bond in the amount of \$15,000,000 to finance the upgrading and renovation of current facilities, including rooms for music, art, and learning support, and the construction of a building for grades nine through twelve, which are currently held at a separate location.

The Honolulu Waldorf School is a private, nondenominational, coeducational school, founded in 1961 to bring Waldorf education to the children of Hawai'i. In 1994 we started a high school, in order to fully complete the unique Waldorf curriculum through grade twelve. We believe it will greatly enhance the learning situation for all the school's students to have the whole school together on one campus. It will also facilitate the sharing of faculty and resources between the upper and lower grades.

Once again, Honolulu Waldorf School strongly supports the passage of SB 2472.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Genie Sakaguchi
Teacher, Honolulu Waldorf School