

February 22, 2008  
11:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

~~RE: SB 2035 SD1~~ Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for  
Maui Preparatory Academy and  
SB2472 SD1 – Relating to Education

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 measures introduced by two of our member schools, Maui Preparatory Academy and Honolulu Waldorf School, both of which are seeking approval for Special Purpose Revenue Bonds.

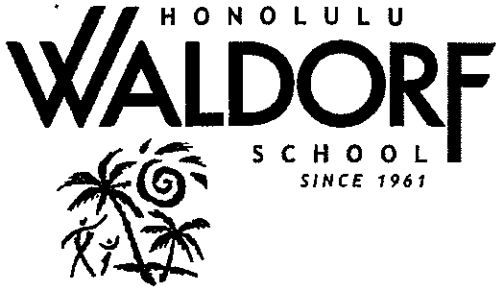
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means has supported similar measures in years past, and we are here to acknowledge and recognize your advocacy and support of the ongoing effort by HAIS to encourage its member schools to use Special Purpose Revenue Bonds as an essential strategy for leveraging capital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

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

In addition, Special Purpose Revenue Bonds do not in any way divert funds away from public schools.

For these reasons and others that may be addressed during further discussion of these measures, HAIS strongly supports SB 2035 SD1 and SB 2472 SD1 and the approval of issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for Maui Preparatory Academy and Honolulu Waldorf School.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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RE: SB2472 SD1 – Relating to Education

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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, Senate Draft 1.

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 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Genie Sakaguchi  
Teacher, Honolulu Waldorf School