

## Kaimuki Christian School

1117 Koko Head Avenue  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816



Representative Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, March 25, 2010; 2:00 PM; Agenda #4

**RE: SB 2172 SD2 -Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Kaimuki Christian School**

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support SB 2172 SD2, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds for Kaimuki Christian School (KCS). Founded in 1968, the school currently has 302 students enrolled in our Preschool and WASC-accredited Kindergarten to 8th grade program. While servicing mainly the East Oahu community, we draw students island-wide. Our student body, assisted by a moderate tuition level and generous financial aid program, reflects a range of academic abilities and socio-economic backgrounds. The common denominator is families looking for a quality education stressing strong values within a nurturing environment.

KCS has been adding a class per grade level for the past six years. Most of the facilities on campus were built in 1969. Two classes meet in a house built in the 1940s or earlier. KCS's campus improvement project will be accomplished in three phases. Phase 1 will include a new facility for our expanding Preschool through 5th grade classes and space for enrichment programs such as music, art, and computer sciences. A preschool playground area and new administrative offices will also be built. Phase 2 will center around a 116-stall multi-level parking structure and gymnasium. Finally, Phase 3 of construction will provide a permanent home for the high school that KCS plans to launch in the fall of 2012. When the three phases are completed, the new facilities will allow us to increase enrollment by over 70%.

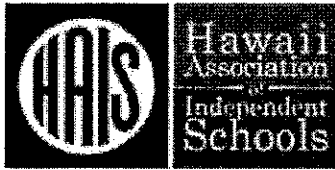
KCS has been an active member of the Kaimuki community for over forty years. We are members of the Kaimuki Business and Professional Association and proud partners with the Kaimuki Regional Library, Queen Lydia Liliu'okalani Elementary School, Leahi Hospital, and HUGS. Our students have participated in service projects to beautify Kaimuki, assist elderly residents with home projects, and provide food to those in need. Recently, students have learned the value of global outreach through our support of disaster relief efforts for Indonesia, the Philippines, Samoa, and Haiti.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 2172 SD2 and for your support of education, including Kaimuki Christian School.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Gallagher".

Mark Gallagher  
Principal  
Telephone (808) 732-1781



Thursday, March 25, 2010  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SB2172, SD2 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist  
Kaimuki Christian School

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee 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 a measure introduced by one of our member schools, Kaimuki Christian School, which is seeking approval for Special Purpose Revenue Bonds.

The Senate Committee on Education and Housing 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 for college, career, and citizenship.

In addition, Special Purpose Revenue Bonds do not in any way divert funds away from public schools, while stimulating Hawaii's economy via construction job creation.

For these reasons and others that may be addressed during discussion of this measure today, HAIS **strongly supports SB 2172 SD2** and the approval of issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for Kaimuki Christian School.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

Aloha. My name is Berry Andelin and I work at the Kaimuki Library. I am writing to you today on behalf of our friends and neighbors at Kaimuki Christian School. We are the lucky recipients of frequent class visits from KCS. It would do your hearts good to see how well behaved these children are. And such lovely manners! It is a pleasure for us to interact with them.

Kaimuki Christian School has also been a staunch supporter of our library in many ways. They have painted over graffiti for us and hauled away rubbish that was dumped into our parking lot. They have made extremely generous financial contributions to buy books for our collection. And, they have shown up in force and worked incredibly hard at our fund raising book sales.

Sincerely,

Berry Andelin  
Head of Circulation  
Kaimuki Public Library

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

KBPA has valued KCS' participation as a member and value the school's contribution in the community for the past 40 years. KCS and its participants have been involved in the annual Celebrate Kaimuki Kanikapila (CKK), Christmas Parade and other community events.

We would fully support KCS in funding capital projects for the school to expand and accommodate more students from the community.

Sincerely,

John E. Kobayashi  
Past President & Director of KBPA

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sandy Christensen and my daughter is a 4<sup>th</sup> grader and my son is a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at Kaimuki Christian School.

Kaimuki Christian School has always meant a lot to our family. My nephew, Michael Kozuma has gone to KCS since kindergarten (he is now in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade) and has thrived there through the quality education and caring attention the school gives each student. Now my daughter and son are attending KCS and are also doing wonderful, not only academically but also as a young-people with values and goals. I have also recommended KCS to many friends who now attend the school.

In addition, KCS offers a wonderful education at an affordable price. Living in Hawaii is expensive and with the current state of the education system it is difficult to find an affordable alternative to some of the larger private schools. I know that each parent wants only the best for their child. KCS provides a quality education at an affordable price. With this bill, it will help provide KCS the means to expand the school to include high school and thereby enabling my children a chance to continue on with a quality education.

Thank you for supporting SB 2172 SD2, which will help Kaimuki Christian School build the best learning environment for my children as well as provide a benefit to the community.

Respectfully yours,

Sandy Christensen  
291 Elelupe Road  
Honolulu, HI 96821

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sachi Matsushita and my son is a preschooler at Kaimuki Christian School. I am writing in support of SB 2172 SD2.

As a Kaimuki resident, I have seen and experienced first-hand the services provided by the school such as Kaimuki library volunteers, community clean-ups, and free activities for children and their families.

I also have close connections to the school as a former teacher and now a proud parent. In the past 15 years I have seen the school grow in population, purpose, and physical space. There is still room for growth and a larger campus with new facilities will help the school and community in large measures. A larger school means more people will be exposed to the values of the school with returns to the community.

Sincerely,

Sachi Matsushita  
943D 9th Ave.  
Honolulu, HI 96816

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mary Bueche and I am a parent of two boys who have attended Kaimuki Christian School. My youngest is a kindergartner. KCS is an amazing 'ohana and outreach for the community.

The campus and program allows the teachers and students to cross-pollinate educationally, socially and culturally. They have an outstanding academic program that fosters learning, and stewardship. We have participated in the school's volunteer opportunities by cleaning up neighborhood graffiti.

The expanded campus/new facilities will benefit my family by allowing my youngest son to graduate from High School. I don't want to send him anywhere else. This is his extended 'ohana. I had to find another school for my older son to attend as they had no High School. My older son feels that KCS offers a much stronger academic and moral program than what he has at his new school.

SB 2172 SD2 will help the students, the parents and the community in more ways than can be listed.

Sincerely,

Mary Bueche  
P.O. Box 754  
Honolulu, HI, 96808

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Conference Room 308

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kathy Matsuki. My 6<sup>th</sup> grade daughter and 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade sons are students at Kaimuki Christian School. I support of Kaimuki Christian School and their upcoming Master Plan Expansion. We feel it will benefit not only our children but the community also. Kaimuki Christian School teaches children not only strong academics to give them a good future, but also a solid foundation teaching them the tools they need in becoming a good citizen in the community and world.

Kaimuki Christian School means so much to our family. My brother and I are alumni of the school. We attended KCS from preschool to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, graduated in the mid '80's and are proud to have both have our children attend there along with friends and other family members. People at KCS are genuine and really care about the parents, children and staff. My Mother also volunteers in the school office twice a week.

Kids that attend KCS are well-behaved and learn respect, good study habits, and kindness. People outside of the school have commented positively many times about kids they see from KCS. Children that have come to KCS from another school can see the difference in the school, such as my stepson. He has said many times that the children at KCS are kind and respectful of others. He also noted that you could tell that the teachers really care about you and go out of their way for you if you need help.

Our family believes the new facilities will benefit the school and community tremendously. KCS offers scholarship programs to help families that cannot afford the full tuition such as ourselves due to us having 3 children that attend there. There are many parents along with myself that would love to have the children stay in a private school setting up until high school getting a good education and where it is close knit setting and the kids are known my name and not numbers.

We believe the community would benefit because KCS students are taught to do outreach to the community. The children have a number of projects that are done outside of the school. The facilities are also used for a number of community activities such as a Fall Harvest Party on October 31.

Thank you for your support for SB 2172 SD2.

Kathy Matsuki





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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ann Au and my sons are in 4<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades at Kaimuki Christian School.

I am asking the legislature to support SB 2172 SD2 because Kaimuki Christian School is an outstanding place spiritually and academically for the community.

Kaimuki Christian School (KCS) has represented a safe and nurturing environment for our family. My husband, Kendall Au, attended KCS from third to sixth grade when it was first founded in 1970. Kendall's older brother Chris, older sister Joleen, and younger sister Brenda also were with him. My three nieces and two nephews all attended KCS and are presently attending private schools. One nephew is presently at University of Redlands. Our two sons have attended KCS from three years of age, Kolby (9 yrs) and Korbin (7 yrs) look forward to attending KCS High School.

The expanded campus and facilities will also benefit the community. It will provide the same safe and enriching environment for all ages, from all over Oahu. The KCS Ohana tradition will be extended to even more families like ours.

Thank you very much for your support on this matter.

Ann Au  
3198 Aloha Aina Place  
Honolulu, HI 96817

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Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Norman G.Y. Hong AIA. I have been a Board-member of Kaimuki Christian School for the past seven years and hereby submit this testimony representing the Board of KCS. I am also Vice Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Group 70 International, one of the largest architectural and planning firms in Hawaii.

I support SB 2172 SD2 for the following reasons:

- KCS has been a vital part of the Kaimuki community for the past 40 years and has served a significant role in providing quality education at a reasonable cost to families in and around the Kaimuki and East Honolulu region. Many of its students have gone on to become valuable contributing members of our community.
- KCS has also been involved in a number of programs serving the surrounding community, including Book Sale Days at Kaimuki Regional Library, and Common Grace, an Oahu-wide program that provides adult mentoring to public school children.
- KCS currently provides education at the preschool, primary and middle school levels for approximately 300 students. For the past 2 years, I have assisted KCS in developing a Master Plan to increase the school to include a High School (Grades 9 through 12), as well as to provide additional classes at all grade levels. The expressed purpose of the High School curriculum is to prepare students who seek to pursue careers in community service. The issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds would enable KCS to implement their Master Plan, thereby achieving its goal of educating more students to be contributors to the community.
- Implementation of the estimated \$20 million Master Plan would contribute towards helping the currently struggling construction industry and economic condition of the State, while providing additional quality educational opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Hong