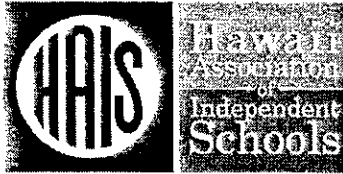


LATE TESTIMONY



Monday, February 28, 2011
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: HB 1313 HD 1 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist
Windward Nazarene Academy

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), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide. We would like to testify in support of a measure introduced by one of our member schools, Windward Nazarene Academy, which is seeking approval for a Special Purpose Revenue Bond.

The House Committee on Finance 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, careers, 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 HB 1313 HD 1** and the approval of issuance of a Special Purpose Revenue Bond for Windward Nazarene Academy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 10:04 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: khishinuma@windwardnazarene.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1313 on 2/28/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for FIN 2/28/2011 10:00:00 AM HB1313

LATE TESTIMONY

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Kay Hishinuma
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: khishinuma@windwardnazarene.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2011

Comments:

February 1, 2011

Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Representatives Oshiro, Lee, and Members:

Re: House Bill 1313

We are in support of Windward Nazarene Academy (WNA) and their request for the issuance of a special purpose revenue bond. We feel it will benefit not only our children, but also the Windward community as a whole. WNA teaches children not only strong academics to give them a good future, but also provides a solid foundation to become good citizens in the community and world.

We have been a part of the WNA family for many years. Our daughters both started at WNA in preschool at age 3 years old and are currently in the 2nd and 5th grades. We also have many friends and family members who are former students. We are blessed to be part of this very loving and supportive extended family.

The WNA administration, teachers, and support staff are genuine and really care about the parents and children. In a recent survey, there were many comments made on the nurturing, loving environment of the staff and how they promote mutual respect, trust, and honest communication. They provide excellent support for single-parent children and those with difficult family situations.

Children that attend WNA are very well behaved and learn respect, good study habits, and kindness. They have a strong spiritual foundation that supports them through life's difficulties. People outside of the school have made many positive comments about WNA students. It is said that the children at WNA are kind and respectful of others, as well as academically strong.

Our family believes the expanded campus and new facilities will benefit the school and community tremendously. We, along with many other parents, would love to have our children stay in at WNA through high school. It is a safe and loving place where everyone knows our children by their names and not be a number. WNA offers scholarship programs and discounted tuition to assist families that have multiple children enrolled such as us.

We believe the community would benefit because WNA children are encouraged to do outreach outside of the school. The current facility is used for a number of community activities such as the annual 10.31 Fun Festival on October 31.

We respectfully and humbly ask for your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Mark and Julie Onl
45-579A Lokea Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

January 31, 2011

LATE TESTIMONY

House Committee on Finance
Chairman, Representative Marcus Oshiro
Vice Chairwoman, Representative Marilyn Lee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB 1313. Issuance of a Special Purpose Revenue Bond – Windward Nazarene Academy

Dear Chairman Oshiro, Vice Chairwoman Lee, and Members:

I am deeply honored to provide a letter of support for the potential expansion of Windward Nazarene Academy. I have interacted on a professional and personal level with the Academy's administration, faculty, and students and have only respect and admiration for their leadership and the quality of student that this school produces.

My business is located just two blocks from the Academy's campus and is frequented by many of their students and parents. The students are usually identifiable by their school uniform; however, they are also identifiable by their politeness and respectfulness toward my employees, other patrons and their parents. It is apparent that the school emphasizes core values and citizenship.

I am also proud of the 15 to 20 students from the Academy that participated in a Morning News Segment promoting my business. I could not have scripted a more positive and entertaining interaction between the news crew and the Academy students during the promotion.

Without a doubt, my business and the surrounding community benefits from the Academy. They have been great neighbors and their expansion would be a good fit for the community.

Sincerely,

Kenn Yuen
Owner, Bay View Mini-Putt, LLC
kenn@bayviewminiputt.com



LATE TESTIMONY

45-568 Kamehameha Highway. Kaneohe, HI 96744

To the House Committee on Finance: Representative Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair. Representative Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair.

RE: HB 1313

I have personally been acquainted with Windward Nazarene Academy for more than a decade, my children having attended school there. The school has provided and continues to provide my children with a solid education and spiritual training as it has since 1967 for the children of the Windward side.

As a businessman from the community, I am very aware of the need for a strong education for the generations that will enter the workforce. Windward Nazarene Academy's program provides sound foundations for higher education. I believe that their expansion into high school can only add to the contributions that it already makes in preparing children well for the years ahead. Students from WNA are not just good students, they are taught to be good citizens – that can only be good for the community of which those students are a part. King Windward Nissan works to support organizations that contribute significantly to the community. We have lent our support to Windward Nazarene on many occasions because this is an institution that makes strong contributions to our community on the Windward side.

I believe that the addition of a high school program at Windward Nazarene would add options that are currently unavailable to the high school students on the Windward side. WNA's tuition is among the lowest on the island, and certainly lower than any high school program on this side of the island. The addition of quality education at a price that is affordable certainly makes sense for the children of this community. I have had conversations with parents of WNA students who wish that one day, Windward Nazarene would expand to include a high school. They have experienced, as I have, not only the quality education that WNA provides but also the support in the area of character building in our children. The future leaders of our community.

Sincerely,

Bill Mickelsen

General Manager

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 10:05 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1313 on 2/28/2011 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: 47 Ronin Actors.jpg; Advertiser Lights.jpg

Testimony for FIN 2/28/2011 10:00:00 AM HB1313

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2011

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:
Chair, House Finance Committee
Honorable Members of the Committee

We oppose HB 1313 HD1.

I recommend that the measure be held. In this time of austerity, the State should not be the middle man for these entities. This is no different that a piece meal bail out by the citizens.

Mahalo nui loa,

Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Chair and Editor
The Mestizo Association

January 31, 2011

HB1313
Support

House Committee on Finance
Chairman Marcus R. Oshiro
Vice Chair Marilyn B. Lee

LATE TESTIMONY

My name is Kainani Inouye and I am the president of the parent teacher organization called T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Achieves Miracles) for Windward Nazarene Academy. I have been on this organization since it started in 2009. As the president, I am confident to say that our TEAM and I as an individual are in complete support of an upcoming master plan expansion for Windward Nazarene Academy. WNA teaches our children a well-rounded balance of Christian values along with an excellent academic program. The school helps guide our children to positively contribute to their community while building a solid foundation for their future.

My children are both at WNA and my husband's sister's children have all attended WNA at some point in their schooling or are attending presently. The school is well known for their academics throughout the community and their involvement hosting events such as our 10.31 Fun Fest for Halloween, which reaches out to the community. WNA also has participated every year with the Hawaii Ocean Expo, which helps educate and bring ocean awareness to the state. The school creates and runs the entire keiki fun zone, which has games and activities, all ocean related, for all the children who attend the expo.

I have only had positive experiences with my children at this school for the past 4 years and look forward to the upcoming years my children have there. All of the staff and parents have a great relationship, and the campus is very inviting and caring. In the community, WNA children present themselves as well-mannered children and are constantly recognized for their genuine kindness and helpfulness.

Academically, my daughter who is currently in first grade has amazed me with her acceleration in reading, writing cursive, math and social skills. WNA teaches the kids to be very well rounded and instills excellent values. We have received numerous compliments on how advanced my daughter's reading and writing ability is and how polite and helpful she is. We have seen leaps and bounds in improvement in our son's behavior and academics since he started preschool 3's in August.

Parents at WNA are very involved and supportive of the school, the activities, fundraisers, and the overall academic program. The children have extracurricular activities which teach them to give back to their community and the less fortunate, and the children embrace these

opportunities. Our families and staff are also excited to become more active in sustainability and learning for about supporting and growing our own herbs, fruits and vegetables locally.

My husband and I firmly believe an expansion for the campus would benefit the school and community greatly! WNA's tuition is extremely reasonable for what our children receive in return, and an expansion would allow more children the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful school. An expansion would also allow the students to continue with high school education rather than having to transfer out. It would also give the school more opportunities to reach out and give more back to the community with more accommodating space for events.

I praise WNA at any and every opportunity I get and am constantly referring friends who are parents to enroll their children here. I have not had any negative experiences, nor have I had any brought to my attention through TEAM. Each year, our parent participation grows with TEAM, and I look forward to launching new activities and events whenever possible.

Thank you ahead of time for your support for this much needed and deserved expansion proposal.

Sincerely,

Kainani Inouye