



Wednesday, February 2, 2011
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, 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 Education 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 and the approval of issuance of a Special Purpose Revenue Bond for Windward Nazarene Academy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

January 31, 2011

House Committee on Education
Chairman, Representative Roy Takumi
Vice Chairwoman, Representative Delia Au Belatti
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: HB1313. Issuance of a Special Purpose Revenue Bond – Windward Nazarene Academy

Dear Chairman Takumi & Vice Chairwoman Belatti:

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@bayveiwminiputt.com



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Will Campbell
Youth Pastor
Ext. 305

Joy Lum Kee
Children's Pastor
Ext. 304

Jennifer Dnucklee
Executive Assistant
Ext. 202

January 31, 2011

Dear Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and members of the committee,

My name is Kay Hishinuma, and I am the school administrator of Windward Nazarene Academy, a private school that serves the children of the Windward side of Oahu. Our school provides educational services for 243 children from preschool three year olds through eighth grade. Ours is a diverse population, reflective of the community we serve. Because WNA works to keep tuition affordable for as many families as possible, our students come from all socioeconomic levels. We believe strongly in the importance of a partnership with our families in the education of their children, knowing that the best chance of success in our mission to educate is to be found in consistency between school and home environments. Embracing families and building relationship is the bedrock upon which we stand.

Windward Nazarene works to give our children the best of what private education has to offer. Our curriculum is academically challenging, and we seek to expand and improve upon it continually. In light of this, WNA has embarked upon several initiatives to enhance the educational experience of our students. We are in the process of accreditation, a process that has yielded rich results in self awareness and focus. We have embarked upon a sustainability program, serving as a pilot school in HAIS and Ulupono's Grow Hawaii Project. Our school garden includes a vermicasting program, and hydroponic garden with plans to expand to aquaponics in the near future. Our sustainability initiative also includes the installation of photovoltaic panels to generate environmentally clean power and as an example to our students in environmental stewardship. Plans for a truck garden (a garden that is planted in an actual truck bed and driven out into the community to teach gardening) are under way.

More than programs, Windward Nazarene Academy is a school built upon relationship, recognizing that it is in relationship that we learn and grow together. WNA seeks to build close partnerships with parents in the nurturing of our children. In that partnership, we work to build consistency between the school and home environment. It is in that consistency that children find the best support to learn and grow. In relationships, children not only acquire knowledge, but learn the art of kindness, compassion, patience, tolerance, and servanthood.

For many years, parents have asked us when we would pursue a high school program, loathe to leave the school and move on to another. My own children have walked this campus and grown within its walls. My last child is in the seventh grade, and I can identify even more with those parents who have waited and hoped for all these years. We believe that the time has come to make concrete steps in that direction. In order to pursue this goal, we hope to secure adequate funding.

We believe that an affordable high school program is a need here on the Windward side, and hope to be a part of providing that option to this generation and generations to come. Thank you for your consideration of HB 1313, a Special Purpose Revenue Bond to assist Windward Nazarene Academy.

Sincerely,

Kay S. M. Hishinuma



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Phone (808) 235-6433
Fax (808) 247-6548

Dear Representative Takumi, Representative Belatti, and the House Committee on Education,

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Mickelsen".

Bill Mickelsen

General Manager



January 31, 2011

House Committee on Education
Chairman Roy Takumi
Vice Chair Delia Au Belatti

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 TEAM, and I as an individual, are in complete support of an upcoming master plan expansion for Windward Nazarene Academy. WNA provides a well-rounded balance of Christian values along with an excellent academic program for its students. 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 sisters' 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 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 foster ocean awareness in the state. The school creates and runs the entire keiki kid zone, providing 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 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 more 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 a child receives 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 space to accommodate 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.

February 1, 2011

Representative Roy M. Takumi, Chair
Representative Delia Au Belatti, Vice Chair
Committee on Education

Dear Representatives Takumi and Au Belatti 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 3 years old and are currently in the 2nd and 5th grade. 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 name and not by 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 Fall Festival on October 31.

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

Sincerely,

Mark and Julie Ono
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Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744