

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

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: HB 773 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for Saint Louis School

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, Saint Louis School, which is seeking approval for a Special Purpose Revenue Bond.

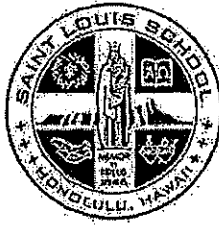
The House Committee on Education has supported similar measures in years past and we are here to acknowledge and recognize your advocacy and support of the ongoing effort by HAIS to encourage its member schools to use Special Purpose Revenue Bonds as an essential strategy for leveraging capital funds 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 773 and the approval of issuance of a Special Purpose Revenue Bond for Saint Louis School.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



February 2, 2011

Representative Roy M. Takumi
Chair, Committee on Education
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: HB773 – RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE
REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 773 - Relating to the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Saint Louis School.

Saint Louis School has proudly educated over 15,000 alumni over the last 164 years. Many of our alumnus have become leaders in Hawaii, including Mayor Neal Blaisdell '20, Governor John Burns '30, Clarence Ching '32, Dr. Richard Mamiya '44, Walter Dods '59, Dean Pitchford '68, and Olin Kreutz '95. The passing of this bill will allow us to seek funding to create a business leadership program, enhanced fine arts department, and Hawaiian studies academy. We intend to introduce laptops to every student and wireless in every classroom through renovations and technology infrastructure upgrades. The bond proceeds will also allow us to create state-of-the-art athletic facilities. All of these campus improvements will directly benefit our current students, as well as increase enrollment so more families can benefit from a Saint Louis education.

Saint Louis School respectfully requests that the special purpose revenue bond amount be increased to \$40,000,000.00 to maintain appropriate cash reserves and cover debt service and unforeseen costs and/or contingencies related to the bond issue. The bond proceeds will allow us to progress on a number of capital projects that will further establish a sound educational facility for the benefit of the community and its families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 773 with the amended bond amount.

Mindful and faithful.

Sincerely,

Hon. Walter S. Kirimitsu '58
President
Saint Louis School



February 2, 2011

Representative Roy M. Takumi
Chair, Committee on Education
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: HB773 - Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds
to assist Saint Louis School**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Belatti, and Members of the House Committee on Education:

It is with great pride that I strongly support House Bill 773, Saint Louis School's bill to pursue the issuance of a Special Purpose Revenue Bond. The use of funds for this revenue bond will go towards our Learning and Technology Center, the first building with new classrooms on our campus in over 80 years. The bond proceeds will also be used to renovate 40 classrooms on campus. Along with renovations, we plan to equip each classroom with wireless and offer one-to-one computing next school year to all of our students. The bond funding will also be designated to replace our Gerber Field House. By doing so, Saint Louis School will further develop our athletic programs and generations of student athlete leaders.

Saint Louis School is a school of opportunity. We are proud contributors to the community of young men with strong moral character who strive for academic excellence. This bill will provide Saint Louis School with unprecedented facilities that will enhance our student's experience.

The Committee on Education continues to make a significant impact on our people and our progress in the community. Thank you for your support of HB 773 and Saint Louis School.

Sincerely,

Anthony R. Guerrero, Jr. '63
Chairman-elect of the Board of Trustees
Saint Louis School



February 2, 2011

Representative Roy M. Takumi
Chair, Committee on Education
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB773 – RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE
REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL

Chair Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I would like to provide my full and complete support for Saint Louis School's bill to seek funding for a special purpose revenue bond. Sharing a campus that has been generously provided to us by the Marianist Center of Hawaii, we have enjoyed a sister-relationship with Saint Louis School for over a half-century. As we have successfully received funding for a special purpose revenue bond ourselves, I understand the magnitude and benefit these measures can have on an educational institution.

In our experience with Saint Louis School, they have exemplified excellent stewardship in both fiscal and academic responsibility. We are confident in the current leadership team at Saint Louis School in undertaking this long-term commitment. After being briefed on how the bond proceeds will be used, we share in Saint Louis School's vision that these capital improvements will enhance their campus for the benefit of its students and others who use their facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel S. Gilmore", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel S. Gilmore Ed.D.
Vice President- Finance & Facilities
Chaminade University

February 2, 2011

Representative Roy M. Takumi
Chair, Committee on Education
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: HB773 - RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE
REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST SAINT LOUIS SCHOOL**

Representative Takumi and Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of Saint Louis School, where my son has been a student for the last two years. Their curriculum is second to none, and provides my son and other young men the skills necessary to lead and compete in the global marketplace. Saint Louis' mission: "to educate and challenge students of various religious, ethnic and economic backgrounds that they may achieve a quality education and become gentlemen of character, reaching individual potential through the Catholic Marianist tradition of spiritual, academic, physical and emotional maturity." A leader with strong values.

Saint Louis continues to give back to the community. Its students instinctively form bonds and develop lasting relationships within these communities through activities such as feeding the homeless, trash pickup, site restorations at locations like the National Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii Food Bank, Ulupo Heiau and the Waikalua Loko Fishpond. As a freshman here at Saint Louis my son is now giving back to the middle school students by being a positive mentor, whether in the classroom or on the athletic field. This school has been like a second home to my son who participates in several physical education programs such as football, soccer and track and field. It has been a "support" to my family. I am proud to say that I have had the opportunity to recommend this campus to friends and family.

Saint Louis now seeks to improve enrollment and develop the next generation of Hawaii's leaders. Their focus on student to teacher ratio has been outstanding and enabled my son to perform at a higher level. However, expansion is costly and The Special Purpose Revenue Bond will lend to further a school whose academic standards far exceed all expectations.

Sincerely,

Audrey Straple
92-1488 Pokeo St
Waipahu, HI 96797