



Monday, March 14, 2011
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

RE: SB 1349 SD 1 – Relating to Nonprofit Corporations

Chair Herkes, Vice Chair Yamane, 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 support SB 1349 SD 1, which would amend the Hawaii Nonprofit Corporations Act to allow member actions by ballot and electronic voting, use of electronic notice, and conduct of meeting by teleconference.

Last session our association testified on behalf of a similar measure which became Act 63 (SLH 2010), allowing the Early Learning Council to conduct meetings by teleconference. Our belief at that time, and now, is that in an era of decreasing revenues along with an aspiration for more cost-effective community participation in urgently needed non-profit work, the added flexibility provided by this measure is a much needed 21st century strategy that will have benefits for many.

We support extending the use of technology for voting, notices, and meetings to all Hawaii nonprofit corporations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.