



AMERICAN
Savings Bank

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**Presentation to the House Committee on Higher Education
Thursday, February 03, 2011, 2:30 PM**

Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair, and
members of the committee:

My name is Terry O'Reilley. I am a Senior Vice President and the Director of Marketing and Product Development for American Savings Bank ("ASB"). ASB is a Federal savings bank doing business in Hawaii for eighty-six (86) years, and has assets of over \$4.8B.

ASB supports the intent of House Bill 830, and respectfully requests passage to the next committee for further discussion.

Since 1991 ASB maintained a business relationship with USA Funds, Hawaii's student loan guarantor, to offer student and parent loans under the federal guaranteed student loan program. Subsequently, ASB entered into an agreement with SMS Hawaii to help finance loans to Hawaii students and parents. ASB was pleased to work with SMS Hawaii because it supported reduced interest rate loans for borrowers who made their payments on time. However, the Federal health care legislation that was enacted last March contained provisions that ended the role of lenders, like ASB, and student loan secondary markets, like SMS Hawaii, in originating new federal student loans, effective last June 30.

Although its role in financing new federal student loans has ended, SMS Hawaii has advised ASB of its intent to continue to provide services to Hawaii's students and families as a IRC §501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. It's the understanding of ASB that for SMS Hawaii to pursue continued support of higher education in Hawaii, the enactment of this legislation is necessary.

I appreciate your kind attention.

February 3, 2011

Chairman Nishimoto and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Lorraine Teniya. I am Director of Customer Relations for USA Funds and SMS Hawaii. For the past 31 years, I have worked with Hawaii's colleges, universities, banks, and credit unions in support of the guaranteed student loan program. Beginning in the early 1980s I was very much involved in seeking the approval for legislation which authorized the establishment of SMS Hawaii, but today I am requesting your support to repeal that legislation.

Specifically, HB 830 seeks to repeal section 309-1.5, which authorized Secondary Market Services Corp., "SMS Hawaii," to serve as a not-for-profit student loan secondary market. SMS Hawaii used tax-exempt financing to support the purchase of federal student loans from Hawaii's lending institutions, in order to continually replenish the supply of capital to fund new loans to students and parents, and ensuring liquidity in the student loan program.

With the passage of the federal Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, new student loan originations under the Federal Family Education Loan program ended. Thus, the function of a student loan secondary market for Hawaii has been eliminated.

The repeal of section 309-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, will permit SMS Hawaii to continue to support higher education in Hawaii in other educational and charitable activities authorized for tax-exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and will seek advice and input from state officials, colleges and universities, and community organizations that support college access and success.

SMS Hawaii's parent company, USA Funds, has served as Hawaii's designated student loan guarantor since 1979. USA Funds, a 501 (c) (3) organization, has provided significant support to higher education in Hawaii, providing millions of dollars in scholarship support, grants to local organizations that support college access and success, funds to support STEM initiatives, and assistance to families in overcoming major paperwork barriers in obtaining financial aid for college. If HRS Section 309-1.5 is repealed, SMS Hawaii envisions providing comparable support to benefit higher education in Hawaii.

Please support HB 830. Thank you very much.



Travel Institute OF THE PACIFIC

February 01, 2011

Chairman Nishimoto and Members of the Education Committee,

I am Frank Green, president of Travel Institute of the Pacific, which is located here in Honolulu and is of the nation's oldest and most respected training organizations specializing in travel, hospitality, food and beverage service and culinary arts studies.

I am asking for your support of HB 830, legislation that would repeal a section of Hawaii statute that has been made obsolete by federal legislation and, which if allowed to remain on the books, would unfortunately limit resources to promote access to college for Hawaii students and parents.

The provision in question designates a student loan secondary market for Hawaii. The current secondary market is SMS Hawaii, which is an affiliate of USA Funds, our state's student loan guarantor.

Because Travel Institute of the Pacific uses the Federal Direct Loan Program to serve its students, we have not used the student loan services of USA Funds or SMS Hawaii. But I can tell you that in my experience, there is no stronger partner than USA Funds for supporting higher education access in this state. Let me give you just two examples.

Financial and staff support from USA Funds 10 years ago helped us launch and continues to support our annual College Goal Sunday program in Hawaii. College Goal Sunday provides free help to students and parents in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is the form required to qualify for federal grants, work-study and loans, as well as many other sources of financial aid to help pay college costs. It's a complex form, especially for families with no previous college experience. So the help we provide through College Goal Sunday can really make the difference in whether a student can afford to go to college.

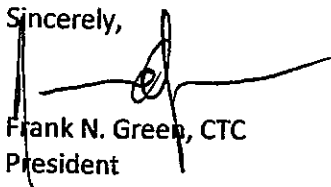
Through PacFAA, our association of state financial aid administrators, we deliver financial aid nights to parents and high school students so they understand the variety of options that are available to pay for education and training after high school. Financial support from USA Funds has enabled us to take this valuable information throughout the state.

My understanding is that, if this legislation passes, SMS Hawaii will convert to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and undertake charitable activities, similar to those supported by USA Funds, to help more students and parents in this state benefit from higher education.

If we are to strengthen the economy in Hawaii, we need to have a better- educated workforce, one that has the skills needed to perform the jobs of the 21st century. Additional support for activities that promote higher education, such as those that SMS Hawaii could support, is vital for enhancing the education levels of our state's workforce.

For this reason, I would ask you to support HB 830. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Frank N. Green, CTC
President

Chairman Nishimoto and Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Adam Hatch. I am director of financial aid at Hawaii Pacific University. I am also the past president of PacFAA, an association of college and university financial aid administrators in Hawaii, and I am currently vice president of the Western Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, which represents financial aid professionals throughout the Western states.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee in support of HB 830, which would repeal a section of Hawaii state law that designates a student loan secondary market for Hawaii.

My interest in this issue stems from my familiarity with the work of Hawaii's student loan secondary market, SMS Hawaii, and its parent company, USA Funds, the designated student loan guarantor for Hawaii. Both organizations have demonstrated a commitment to helping Hawaii residents benefit from higher education.

USA Funds has supported a variety of charitable activities —including scholarships, financial aid nights, college fairs, and financial aid application assistance — that have helped thousands of Hawaii students and parents plan and pay for college. Together, USA Funds and SMS Hawaii supported initiatives that reduced fees and interest rates on federal student loans for Hawaii residents.

With passage last year of federal legislation requiring all new federal student loans to be financed directly by the federal government, there no longer is the need for a secondary market like SMS Hawaii to support private financing of these loans. But the need for programs that help Hawaii families prepare for, pay for and succeed in higher education continues.

It is my understanding that SMS Hawaii intends to support charitable activities that promote higher education in Hawaii, but the current provisions of Hawaii state law would prevent it from doing so. That's why I would urge you to support HB 830, to eliminate these outdated provisions and permit SMS Hawaii to pursue its mission of higher education access and success as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony for HED 2/3/2011 2:30:00 PM HB830

Conference room: 309

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Adam Hatch

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Submitted on: 2/1/2011

Comments: