



March 16, 2012  
1:25 p.m.; Auditorium

TESTIMONY TO  
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

RE: SCR 95 – REQUESTING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS, TO EXAMINE LOCAL AND NATIONAL MODELS OF BEST PRACTICES FOR THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOLS AND RECOMMEND ANY NEW GUIDELINES TO INCREASE INTERNET ACCESS TO ALLOW THE RESPONSIBLE AND POSITIVE INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE CLASSROOM, WHILE ENSURING NECESSARY PROTECTIONS TO PREVENT ABUSE.

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 elementary and secondary students statewide.

**HAIS supports SCR 95 and is pleased to inform the Committee that collaboration between the DOE and HAIS concerning advanced uses of technology is already underway.** Over the last three years, HAIS has worked in partnership with the Hawaii Community Foundation on a groundbreaking initiative known as Schools of the Future (SOTF), an annual conference designed to explore the ramifications of the changing global economy on the education practices in Hawaii's schools. Last year, of the 1,000 attendees, 250 were DOE educators. This October, the 2012 SOTF Conference will be co-sponsored by Hawaii Department of Education.

While the ongoing conversation between the DOE and HAIS will benefit from the requests made in this Resolution, the parameters of this dialog could be broadened to explore all manners of technology-enhanced teaching and learning. Furthermore, such a study could include an examination of how the boundaries between public and private schools may become blurred via this type of collaboration, strategies for re-training teachers to understand and know how to use 21<sup>st</sup> century technology applications, and more.

Thank you for the opportunity to support SCR 95.