



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 04/02/2013

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0239,SD1,HD1 RELATING TO EDUCATION

Purpose of Bill: Moves the framework for establishing an annual conference of secondary school students into Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Amends the framework of the annual conference and student conference committee. Clarifies the role of the student conference advisory committee. (SB239 HD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports SB 239,SD1,HD1. It provides much needed clarity to Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 317 in regards to the framework and advisory committee's role for the annual conference of secondary school students. This bill also repeals the requirement of an annual evaluation report of the student conference proceedings.



April 2, 2013
2:00 PM; Agenda #1
Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY TO
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

RE: SB 239 SD1 HD1– Relating to Education

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson 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 students statewide.

HAIS supports SB 239 SD1 HD1 which improves the framework of the annual Conference of Secondary School Students by moving it to chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes and further authorizes participation of HAIS.

The Student Conference Committee provides secondary students with the opportunity to learn valuable skills and connect with and learn from other secondary schools students. HAIS supports all programs that positively impact a student's journey which this annual conference has done. Students who take the initiative to attend this conference should also be afforded a voice in the planning of the event. Thus, with the proper framework, this conference can excel further and be an important stepping stone for our future leaders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.