



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

**Date:** 03/11/2013

**Committee:** House Education

**Department:** Education

**Person Testifying:** Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

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

**Purpose of Bill:** Moves the framework for establishing an annual conference of secondary school students from chapter 317, HRS, to chapter 302A, HRS. Removes the governor's authority to appoint members of the student conference committee. Authorizes the superintendent or the superintendent's designee to select the public school members of the student conference committee. Authorizes a representative of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools to select the members of the student conference committee from schools represented by the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools. Clarifies that the student conference advisory committee will provide guidance to the student conference committee in carrying out its purpose and duties. Repeals the mandatory legislator and department of education membership and instead clarifies that the department of education shall maintain guidelines and procedures for selecting the student conference advisory committee. Clarifies that the annual student conference is subject to program and funding limitations and removes the three day limit. Repeals the requirement for an evaluation report on student conference proceedings. Repeals chapter 317, HRS. (SD1)

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education supports SB 239, SD1. 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.



March 11, 2013  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

TESTIMONY TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION

**RE: SB 239 SD1 – Relating to Education**

Chair Takumi, Vice Chair Ohno 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** 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 social, emotional and academic journey; this annual conference has a strong track record as a catalytic experience in all three of these areas of growth development. 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.