



February 21, 2013
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 239 SD1 – Relating to Education

Chair Ige, 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 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 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.