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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2446 on Feb 19, 2014 09:10AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 3:05:02 PM

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**SB2446**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:10AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanya Abalos-Arceneaux	HSTA	Support	No

Comments:

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eliminating racism  
empowering women  
**ywca**  
o'ahu

February 19, 2014

Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB2446 – Relating to Education – Support  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means – February 19, 2014  
Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the Committee:

My name is Noriko Namiki and I am the Chief Executive Officer of the YWCA of O'ahu. I am testifying in support of SB2446, which requires the Department of Education to name the new public high school in Kihei, Maui, the "Patsy Takemoto Mink High School."

Naming a new public high school after Rep. Mink anywhere in Hawai'i seems appropriate, but Maui will be the best place as we look upon the history and the legacy of Rep. Mink and her personal association with the county. Her dedication and commitment to promoting educational access and fighting gender discrimination in education will continue to be appreciated by the community and by the students studying in the school.

As the host of the Patsy T. Mink Center for Business and Leadership, we have seen the impact and the significance Rep. Mink's name brings to a place – a sense of pride and inspiration. Aspiring women entrepreneurs and career professionals gain strength and reaffirm their goals as they visit our center and we know the source of the encouragement comes from the name of the center. We firmly believe naming the new public school in Kihei is a positive step for the community and we humbly urge members of this committee to pass SB2446.

Since its founding in 1900, the YWCA of O'ahu has existed to cultivate opportunities for women's and girls' growth and leadership, to help them create fulfilling lives for themselves and their families, and facilitating social change with positive economic impact for their communities.

Sincerely,

Noriko Namiki  
CEO  
YWCA of O'ahu

for every woman