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CRAIG K. HIRAI
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
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ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 757

March 2, 2021
9:30 A.M.
Via Videoconference

RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST LE JARDIN
ACADEMY, INC.

The Department of Budget and Finance offers the following comments on Senate Bill No. 757 which authorizes the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRB) to assist the Le Jardin Academy, Inc., a Hawaii nonprofit corporation, in financing or refinancing the costs of planning, designing, constructing, reconstructing, renovating, acquiring, equipping, and improving educational and education-related facilities pursuant to Part VIII, Chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Department would like to inform the Legislature and prospective SPRB parties that should the legislation be approved, approval of the SPRB issuance and conduit loan will require further review of the financing proposal to ensure compliance with all federal, state and credit underwriting requirements. For additional information, please consult our FAQ located at the following link: <http://budget.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SPRB-FAQ.pdf>.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



LE JARDIN ACADEMY

February 26, 2021

Aloha Members of the Senate Ways and Means (WAM) Committee,

Hello, I'm Lizbeth Smith the High School Registrar at Le Jardin Academy. I've been at this school for over 30 years, starting way back when as a 4th grade teacher, moving into the Computer teacher position before changing to my latest role at the High School Registrar. I do believe that the approval of the Special Purpose Revenue Bonds will both greatly benefit the school as well as our community. Therefore, I kindly request the approval of the House Ways and Means Committee on SB757 which authorizes up to \$25m in Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for facilities that will enhance the educational experience of children across Ko'olaupoko and other parts of O'ahu.

Le Jardin Academy (LJA) would be solely responsible for servicing the bonds--not a nickel would come from taxpayers; yet, all children from the windward side and beyond would benefit from the enhancement and use of our facilities. Some have misunderstood the source of SPRB funds and erroneously presumed that they would come at the expense of our colleagues in the public schools. As the previously submitted Department of Budget and Finance FAQs on SPRBs makes clear, nothing could be further from the truth. LJA alone incurs this debt.

By authorizing SPRBs, the greater public will benefit in keeping with the intention of the legislation authorizing SPRBs for non-profit education institutions doing work in the public interest. Bonds would be used:

- To add much needed preschool seats for our region--a proportion of which are scholarshiped to serve those who would otherwise be "unschooled"
- To provide a Center for visual arts exhibitions, performing arts productions and design/fabrication facilities--the only one of its kind on the Windward side
- To provide sustainable kitchen facilities to model best practices for food sourcing and waste reduction
- To increase capacity for youth sports and fitness programs

LJA 's programming directly serves the public interest. It is Windward O'ahu's largest PK-12 private school and one of its largest employers. We serve ~1,100 students throughout the year and employ approximately 500 staff including coaches and summer staff. Our programs also intentionally serve students and staff from other private and public schools--some of which maintain a 1:1 public:private ratio. These collective IMPACT programs include but are not limited to:

- Partnership with public schools and Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project to provide a mobile plastic recycling makerspace to reuse collected marine debris

- Partnership with public schools to provide and expand robotics instruction
- Partnership with community-based organizations (e.g., Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi) to restore the 250+-acre Kawainui-Hāmākua Wetlands
- Partnership with Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and HanaHou Volleyball clubs to provide access to high-caliber athletic training
- Partnership with Hawai'i Youth Symphony and the Boys & Girls Club to provide access to instrumental music and other summer programs starting at age 8

The facilities enhancements funded by these bonds will meet real educational needs of students across our region and not just LJA students. Moreover, we envision our facilities becoming home to even greater private-public ventures that will increase opportunities for all as well.

LJA's SPRBs are an investment with real returns--not only to the students and families we serve but also to our greater community. We all know the return on a dollar spent on preschool education. Arguably, there is no public investment with as great a return. To the extent that LJA is able to add seats specifically for those who are currently unschooled preschoolers, that return is multiplied. We know the benefits of excellence in teaching and extraordinary learning opportunities: greater education attainment and greater return to the individual and his/her community. I know there are myriad projects being proposed for SPRB financing, but I hope that WAM members demonstrate their support for this bill which promises to increase returns to schooling at no cost to taxpayers.

I'm excited about the approach and opportunities that LJA is taking to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. I hope we can count on your sponsorship and continued support!

Mahalo nui for all that you do for Hawai'i's keiki and for your support for SB757.

Sincerely,



Lizbeth Smith



LE JARDIN
ACADEMY

Celebrating 60 years of excellence, learning, and community.

Lizbeth Smith
Middle School/High School Registrar
O: 808.261.0707 ext 3070

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Melissa A Handy
Date: February 26, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward community member, an Alumni parent, and a current LJA educator I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, programs, and plans for facilities enhancement and believe that they serve the public interest. As the school's robotics coach and education technology director I have seen firsthand how Le Jardin is able to reach out to the Windward Oahu community in support of our public school partners. Our middle and high school robotics team has presented over a dozen outreach events involving schools including 'Aikahi Elementary, Kalihi Elementary, Dole Middle School, Kailua Elementary, Maunawilli Elementary, and Mālama Honua Charter School. In fact, we prepared nearly 500 distance learning STEM kits for students served by these area schools this school year. Over the years, we've hosted numerous FIRST Lego League and FIRST Tech Challenge robotics tournaments with hundreds of Hawaii students competing on our campus.

The School's plans for these bonds include moving LJA's preschool to a safer and more integrated location on its main campus, which will increase capacity and add seats for preschoolers, including underserved children that might otherwise go unserved. Plans also call for a future center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. LJA also aims to increase its capacity to serve windward youth through sports and fitness programs on its campus. Since Special Purpose Revenue Bonds are not funded by the State of Hawaii and nor do they impact the state's credit rating but rather are paid for by the Le Jardin who is the borrower, approving this bill will only result in a benefit to the community.

Le Jardin's commitment to widening its reach and increasing impact through access to quality facilities and programming is clear to those familiar with the School. Our students partner with public school students to restore Kawaiinui Marsh and reuse marine debris creatively through a Plastics Makerspace in partnership with Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project. Windward students from many schools unite in Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and Hana Hou Volleyball clubs which provide access to high-caliber athletic training across the region. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Ko'olaupoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757, and for keeping education top of mind.

Sincerely,



Melissa Handy
Director of Education Technology
melissa.handy@lejardinacademy.org

SB-757

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:13:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Kilty	Testifying for Le Jardin Academy	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward community member and the Director of Business & Finance at Le Jardin, I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, programs, and plans for facilities enhancement and believe that they serve the public interest. On a personal note, both my children have attended Le Jardin since pre-school and are now in the 9th and 7th grades.

The School's plans for these bonds include moving LJA's preschool to a safer and more integrated location on its main campus, which will increase capacity and add seats for preschoolers, including underserved children that might otherwise go unserved. Plans also call for a future center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. LJA also aims to increase its capacity to serve windward youth through sports and fitness programs on its campus.

Le Jardin's commitment to widening its reach and increasing impact through access to quality facilities and programming is clear to those familiar with the School. Our students partner with public school students to restore Kawainui Marsh and reuse marine debris creatively through a Plastics Makerspace in partnership with Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project. Windward students from many schools unite in Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and HanaHou Volleyball clubs which provide access to high-caliber athletic training across the region. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Koolauapoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757, and for keeping education top of mind.

Sincerely,

Stacy Kilty



Pacific Electro-Mechanical, Inc.

96-1276 Waihona St #105 Pearl City, HI 96782

Tel (808) 842-0852 Fax (808) 848-1630

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To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Sid Kent

Date: February 26, 2021

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757/HB533: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757/HB533 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRBs) to assist Le Jardin Academy. All of my grandchildren have attended Le Jardin Academy, one having graduated in 2015, and four currently in attendance. When I started my business on Molokai 50 years ago, I was fortunate to have had excellent role models and mentors to guide me through the ins and outs of running a service business which now employs over 24 people on Oahu, Molokai, Maui and the Big Island. I see the same quality of role models and mentors in the educators and staff at Le Jardin Academy, people who genuinely care about the children and go above and beyond the classroom setting. Each of my grandchildren have had life changing opportunities that they would have missed out on if they were at another school and I am encouraged to see how the hands-on, experiential learning the school provides prepares the students for higher education and real world work. The impact that Le Jardin Academy has made becomes more evident every day as I watch my oldest grandchild start a career focused on creating a healthier environment for Hawaii and North America. I believe strongly in the mission and vision of Le Jardin Academy. Your support for Le Jardin Academy's bonds serves a clear public interest.

By authorizing SPRBs, **the children of Ko'olaupoko will immediately benefit** and our collective future will be positively impacted. Bonds will be used to enhance and expand LJA's facilities to include an **innovation and sustainability space open to all students on the Windward side**. This type of learning opportunity is fundamental to a sustainable future for Hawaii, allowing our young people to create novel solutions to the problems we collectively face.

Importantly, this bill offers Le Jardin access to private funds with no impact on the taxpayers' dollar. Allowing this community school to manifest its vision of collective impact is an invaluable legacy that the Senate Ways and Means Committee can create.

Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Sid Kent
President, Pacific Electro-Mechanical, Inc.

innovative solutions to Hawaii's technical problems

SB-757

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 6:48:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Sibley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Christopher Paul Sibley

Date: February 27, 2021

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a father of a fourth grader and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Le Jardin Academy, I have experienced first hand the positive impacts of the School's facilities, innovative programming, and long commitment to community and collective impact. We believe that your support for Le Jardin Academy's bonds provides strong sustainability to the education platform across the entire community.

We support that Le Jardin Academy:

- Enrolls nearly 1,000 windward and island families year around and looks now to actively expand its own enrollment and outreach programs to serve more students across the region

- Has a history of partnering with our neighboring public schools and community-based organizations to provide innovative and extraordinary learning experiences to all students
- Plans to relocate and expand Le Jardin's preschool to a more secure and familial location on the main campus, which exemplifies their deep commitment to building community and connecting families, and that these values benefit our communities and increase access for underserved families
- Provides access to extraordinary opportunities for students by sharing its facilities and campus resources to serve students beyond the boundaries of LJA through innovative community-partnerships, which also benefits our communities,
- Would use these bonds to enhance and expand campus facilities--sports fields, swimming facilities and visual/performing arts and design facilities--to have a greater impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for additional students through Hawai'i's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School

This bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Christopher Paul Sibley
Father for Class of 2029
Chairman Board of Trustees

SB-757

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:04:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Meehan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Jennifer Meehan (LJA Board Member & Parent)

Date: February 28, 2021

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue

Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy.

I am Vice Chair of Le Jardin Academy's (LJA) Board of Trustees and a parent of two high school students attending LJA. One of the primary reasons I joined our Board was to grow outreach of our unique teaching approaches and experiential programs - particularly in extracurricular programming - to children and students across Winward O'ahu. At LJA, we have an opportunity **and** a responsibility to contribute to a healthy and thriving local community.

The School's plans for these bonds include moving LJA's preschool to a safer and more integrated location on its main campus, which will increase capacity and add seats for preschoolers, including underserved children that might otherwise go unserved. Plans also call for a future center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. LJA also aims to increase its capacity to serve windward youth through sports and fitness programs on its campus.

Le Jardin's commitment to widening its reach and increasing impact through access to quality facilities and programming is clear to those familiar with the School. Our students partner with public school students to restore Kawainui Marsh and reuse

marine debris creatively through a Plastics Makerspace in partnership with Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project. Windward students from many schools unite in Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and Hana Hou Volleyball clubs which provide access to high-caliber athletic training across the region. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Koolauapoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757, and for keeping education top of mind.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Meehan



To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Maya Soetoro
Date: February 26, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757/HB533: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757/HB533 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRBs) to assist Le Jardin Academy. Since 1961, Le Jardin has cultivated students of exceptional character and intellect. One of the foundational elements of the school's mission is a commitment to global-mindedness and students capable of a positive impact on our world through sustained community engagement and innovation. Faculty and students actively and intentionally serve peace through compassionate interaction, the development of intercultural-communications, and the cultivation of healthy relationships. These characteristics, which coalesce with LJA's International Baccalaureate World School curriculum, are evidenced even in LJA's youngest learners in pre-kindergarten.

Your support of SB757 amplifies the School's ability to continue this work and serves a clear public interest--access to excellence in excellence in character and education for a better world for future generations. In fact, I am so confident in Le Jardin's capabilities to shape positive outcomes for our future through its programs that I served as the keynote speaker for LJA's commencement ceremonies in 2018.

By authorizing SPRBs, **the children of Ko'olaupoko will immediately benefit** and our collective future will be positively impacted. Bonds will be used to enhance and expand LJAs facilities, increasing capacity to serve more windward students through enrollment and community partnerships designed to unite LJA and public school students in collective impact initiatives that have value for the community. This type of learning opportunity is fundamental to a sustainable future for Hawaii, allowing our young people to create novel solutions to the problems we collectively face.

Importantly, this bill affords Le Jardin access to private funds with no impact on the taxpayers' dollar. Allowing this community school to manifest its vision of collective impact is an invaluable legacy that the Senate Ways and Means Committee can create.

Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Maya Soetoro
Founder and Peace Educator, Ceeds of Peace

SB-757

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:52:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dean spagnoli	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Dean Spagnoli

Date: February 26, 2021

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward community member, Le Jardin father of two students and Board Trustee. I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, programs, and plans for facilities enhancement and believe that they serve the public interest. Having been involved with the LJA community for over fifteen years, I have seen firsthand, not only the tremendous young graduates they form, but also the positive impact the school plays within the community.

The School's plans for these bonds include moving LJA's preschool to a safer and more integrated location on its main campus, which will increase capacity and add seats for preschoolers, including underserved children that might

otherwise go unserved. Plans also call for a future center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. LJA also aims to increase its capacity to serve windward youth through sports and fitness programs on its campus.

Le Jardin's commitment to widening its reach and increasing impact through access to quality facilities and programming is clear to those familiar with the School. Our students partner with public school students to restore Kawainui Marsh and reuse marine debris creatively through a Plastics Makerspace in partnership with Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project. Windward students from many schools unite in Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and HanaHou Volleyball clubs which provide access to high-caliber athletic training across the region. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Koolauupoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757, and for keeping education top of mind.

Sincerely,

Dean A. Spagnoli,

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Kerrie Urosevich
Date: February 28, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757/HB533: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757/HB533 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRBs) to assist Le Jardin Academy in expanding its reach in the **Ko`olaupoko**. As a mother of three, my faith in the school comes first hand. My son, Kili, graduated from Le Jardin in 2018. My daughter, Hanalei, is a sophomore, and my youngest, Sequoia, is in 7th grade. The mission of the school is worth considering: *Globally oriented with a strong sense of community, Le Jardin Academy equips students to achieve individual excellence, develop sound character, and positively impact the world.* Essentially, this institution has embedded in its fabric the value of healthy relationships, the importance of diverse pathways for success, and the expectation that everyone contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable world. I have experienced this in practice vicariously through my children, directly through my engagement as a parent, and as a peace educator partnering with the high school.

Le Jardin Academy seeks to serve more families with young children on the Windward side, to unify public and private school students through its collective impact initiatives, and to grow more young people of exceptional character who will positively impact Hawai`i and our world. By securing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for use of capital improvements (which will be paid back to private investors), the school can redirect other funds to use for keiki who do not have access to early learning opportunities due to cost. Given the State's economic challenges, this is an excellent opportunity to expand child care/early learning seats and to support the implementation of Act 46. It is a win-win for keiki, families and our State. **Your support of SB757 matters to the families of Ko`olaupoko.** Authorizing SPRBs for Le Jardin Academy ensures that this small community school can bolster its level of engagement and its depth of service.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee has an opportunity for substantial impact by authorizing these private bonds to support our keiki. Please invest in our children's future.

Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Urosevich

Kerrie Urosevich
Co-founder, Ceeds of Peace

LATE

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Connie Smales
Date: February 28,2010
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members

I have served on the Board of Le Jardin for over forty years and have watched Le Jardin Academy grow from a small preschool and elementary school a full-fledged institution that serves the Windward Side in Grades PK (3 years) through high school. The quality of education provided by this school to windward students as well as those from the Leeward side of the Koolaus is exceptional, and the institution's continued growth is vital to the broad community it serves.

With this growth comes challenges, and Le Jardin has met those challenges to date by acquiring its own land and building facilities, and greatly enhancing the education program it offers.

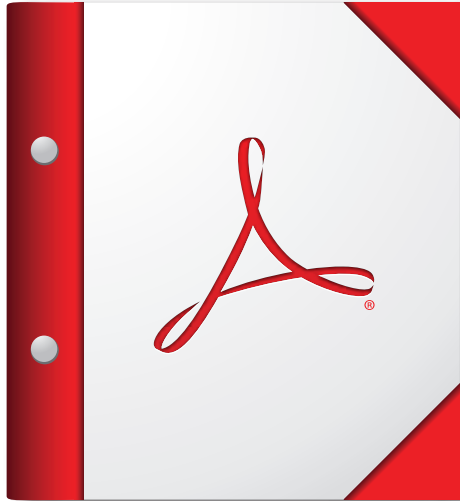
The continued progress of this institution now focuses on relocating and expanding the preschool to a more secure location, expanding campus sports facilities, and creating visual/performing arts and design facilities.

You can help to move this plan forward with your support of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds. It is important to note that LJA will be solely financially responsible for the debt and no funds will be required from taxpayers or other state programs. This is a unique opportunity for community enhancement at no cost to the State. I encourage you to support adoption of SB757.

Sincerely,

Connie Smales

Trustee, Le Jardin Academy



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SB-757

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 4:44:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: John David Kennedy

Date: February 26, 2021

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward community member and a parent of a Junior at LJA with another daughter entering next year as well as serving on the Board of Trustees I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, programs, and plans for facilities enhancement and believe that they serve the public interest.

The School's plans for these bonds include moving LJA's preschool to a safer and more integrated location on its main campus, which will increase capacity and add seats for preschoolers, including underserved children that might otherwise go unserved. Plans also call for a future center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. LJA also aims to increase its capacity to serve windward youth through sports and fitness programs on its campus.

Le Jardin's commitment to widening its reach and increasing impact through access to quality facilities and programming is clear to those familiar with the School. Our students partner with public school students to restore Kawainui Marsh and reuse marine debris creatively through a Plastics Makerspace in partnership with Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project. Windward students from many schools unite in Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and HanaHou Volleyball clubs which provide access to high-caliber athletic training across the region. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Koolauoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757, and for keeping education top of mind.

Sincerely,

John David Kennedy

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Susan M. Christensen
Date: February 26, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward community member and parent since 2008, I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, programs, and plans for facilities enhancement and believe that they serve the public interest. On a personal note, I have two children who have graduated from Le Jardin and one still attending the school. All three of them have greatly benefitted from the school's commitment to community service, environmental consciousness, and inclusivity.

Le Jardin's plans for these bonds include: 1. Moving its preschool to a safer and more integrated location on the main campus, which will increase capacity and add seats for preschoolers, including underserved children that might otherwise go unserved. 2. Construction of a center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. 3. Updated and enhanced athletic facilities, including a regulation sized pool, to increase its capacity to serve windward youth through sports and fitness programs on its campus.

Le Jardin's commitment to widening its reach and increasing impact through access to quality facilities and programming is clear to those familiar with the school. Our students partner with public school students to restore Kawainui Marsh and reuse marine debris creatively through a Plastics Makerspace in partnership with Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project. Windward students from many schools unite in Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and Hana Hou Volleyball clubs which provide access to high-caliber athletic training across the region. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Ko'olaupoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support for SB757 and for keeping education a top priority.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Christensen

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Katie Brown
Date: February 27, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward community member, Le Jardin parent, and teacher. I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, programs, and plans for facilities enhancement and believe that they serve the public interest. The Le Jardin community has served my family in myriad ways. The school serves not just as an academic institution, but also a gathering place for community groups, a supportive community for youth athletics, and a springboard for community involvement and service.

The School's plans for these bonds include moving LJA's preschool to a safer and more integrated location on its main campus, which will increase capacity and add seats for preschoolers, including underserved children that might otherwise go unserved. Plans also call for a future center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. LJA also aims to increase its capacity to serve windward youth through sports and fitness programs on its campus.

Le Jardin's commitment to widening its reach and increasing impact through access to quality facilities and programming is clear to those familiar with the School. Our students partner with public school students to restore Kawainui Marsh and reuse marine debris creatively through a Plastics Makerspace in partnership with Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project. Windward students from many schools unite in Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and HanaHou Volleyball clubs which provide access to high-caliber athletic training across the region. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Koolaupoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757, and for keeping education top of mind.

Sincerely,

Katie M. Brown

Aloha Members of the Senate Ways and Means (WAM) Committee,

I kindly request the approval of the House Ways and Means Committee on SB757 which authorizes up to \$25m in Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for facilities that will enhance the educational experience of children across Ko'olaupoko and other parts of O'ahu.

Le Jardin Academy (LJA) would be solely responsible for servicing the bonds--not a nickel would come from taxpayers; yet, all children from the windward side and beyond would benefit from the enhancement and use of our facilities. Some have misunderstood the source of SPRB funds and erroneously presumed that they would come at the expense of our colleagues in the public schools. As the previously submitted Department of Budget and Finance FAQs on SPRBs makes clear, nothing could be further from the truth. LJA alone incurs this debt.

By authorizing SPRBs, the greater public will benefit in keeping with the intention of the legislation authorizing SPRBs for non-profit education institutions doing work in the public interest. Bonds would be used:

- To add much needed preschool seats for our region--a proportion of which are scholarshiped to serve those who would otherwise be "unschooled"
- To provide a Center for visual arts exhibitions, performing arts productions and design/fabrication facilities--the only one of its kind on the Windward side
- To provide sustainable kitchen facilities to model best practices for food sourcing and waste reduction
- To increase capacity for youth sports and fitness programs

LJA 's programming directly serves the public interest. It is Windward O'ahu's largest PK-12 private school and one of its largest employers. We serve ~1,100 students throughout the year and employ approximately 500 staff including coaches and summer staff. Our programs also intentionally serve students and staff from other private and public schools--some of which maintain a 1:1 public:private ratio. These collective IMPACT programs include but are not limited to:

- Partnership with public schools and Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project to provide a mobile plastic recycling makerspace to reuse collected marine debris
- Partnership with public schools to provide and expand robotics instruction
- Partnership with community-based organizations (e.g., Ahahui Mālama i ka Lōkahi) to restore the 250+-acre Kawainui-Hāmākua Wetlands
- Partnership with Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and HanaHou Volleyball clubs to provide access to high-caliber athletic training
- Partnership with Hawai'i Youth Symphony and the Boys & Girls Club to provide access to instrumental music and other summer programs starting at age 8

The facilities enhancements funded by these bonds will meet real educational needs of students across our region and not just LJA students. Moreover, we envision our facilities becoming home to even greater private-public ventures that will increase opportunities for all as well.

LJA's SPRBs are an investment with real returns--not only to the students and families we serve but also to our greater community. We all know the return on a dollar spent on preschool education. Arguably, there is no public investment with as great a return. To the extent that LJA is able to add seats specifically for those who are currently unschooled preschoolers, that return is multiplied. We know the benefits of excellence in teaching and extraordinary learning opportunities: greater education attainment and greater return to the individual and his/her community. I know there are myriad projects being proposed for SPRB financing, but I hope that WAM members demonstrate their support for this bill which promises to increase returns to schooling at no cost to taxpayers.

I'm excited about the approach and opportunities that LJA is taking to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. I hope we can count on your sponsorship and continued support!

Mahalo nui for all that you do for Hawai'i's keiki and for your support for SB757.

SB-757

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:02:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Ferandin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Susan Ferandin

Date: February 27, 2021

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As an existing parent of two students, Trustee, and long-time supporter of Le Jardin Academy, I have experienced first hand for the past 13 years the positive impacts of the School's facilities, innovative programming, and commitment to community and collective impact. We believe that your support for Le Jardin Academy's bonds improves our community.

We support that Le Jardin Academy:

- Has an extraordinary and continual outreach to the public schools and greater community in the areas of water safety which is crucial as an island state. Le Jardin Academy supports Island Swim School which allows children ages 4 and up to receive personalized instruction in water safety. They also allow Kalaheo Swim Team to practice daily in their pool so they can compete in the OIA. Many public school students benefit from Le Jardin opening their pool facility to Aulea Swim Club and more.

- Fosters an open environment for parents to have their child(ren) have inclusive lessons with their soccer academy, Chelsea Soccer, Keiki on the Run, and WILD KIDS for healthy outdoor athletic and meaningful experiences.
- Would continue to work to have blood drives for the Hawaii Blood Bank, as well as welcome students from all schools on Oahu to the Global Issues Network (GIN) Conference that aims to gather youth to collaboratively create positive environmental and social change on a local, national and even global scale. Each year, these conferences feature community leaders, non- profit organizations, and **GIN** educators.
- Has developed partnerships with Hawaii Youth Symphony and Boys and Girls Club Kailua to provide a safe space for students to have exposure to the musical arts.
- Would use these bonds to enhance and expand campus facilities--sports fields, swimming facilities and visual/performing arts and design facilities--to have a greater impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for additional students through Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School

This bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Ferandin

SB-757

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:12:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Settle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and committee members, I am writing in support of SB 757 which would provide Le Jardin Academy the opportunity to access much needed funding to improve the school for current and future generations of Windward Oahu residents. I am on the board of trustees for the school, a parent of 3 LJA students and a volunteer coach for the Windward Water Polo Club. I have seen first hand the huge community benefit the school provides to the windward community. In addition to educating hundreds of students in all age groups each year, the school opens its campus to numerous community groups for a variety of extra-curricular activities including sports, arts, conservation and others. It provides absolutely essential and critical educational infrastructure to windward Oahu and at no cost to the state or county governments. Approval of this bill will not burden state government or use any taxpayer money. The bonds will be secured and repaid solely by the school. Approval of this bill will, however, greatly assist the school in accessing long term and less costly borrowing for its improvement and ability to better service windward students, families and residents. Please support and pass this bill. Aloha and thank you.

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Rebecca Postema
Date: February 26, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Committee on Ways and Means:

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. I have been the Lower School Librarian at Le Jardin for over 20 years, and I am the parent of an alumnus who attended Le Jardin from age 3 to graduation. I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, values, and programs, and feel strongly that they serve the public interest. Le Jardin's plans for facilities enhancement will only increase our capacity to serve the public via community outreach and our ability to enrich the lives of those who live on the Windward side and elsewhere on Oahu.

Le Jardin Academy already has a strong track record of serving the larger community. Our summer school program and summer fun programs are attended by many non-LJA students in the Windward area, and our scholarship programs help make attending Le Jardin during the school year possible for others.

When we built our gymnasium in 2009 we immediately began partnerships with *Ka Ulu Koa* and *HanaHou*, local volleyball clubs who use the gymnasium on the weekends and for other special events. The Annual Aloha *Gymfest* has been held at our gymnasium for many years now. This high caliber gymnastics meet draws teams from Australia, Canada, Guam, Japan, New Zealand, the US Mainland and the Hawaiian Islands. With the addition of our pool and soccer field we also began partnerships with Chelsea FC Soccer and the *Aulea* Swim Club.

The authorization of these Special Purpose Revenue Bonds would increase our ability to serve the Windward Community. For example, these funds would allow us realize our plans to build a center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. Imagine the possibilities for partnering with musical, drama and robotics groups from other schools and organizations. Think of the increased offerings for summer and weekend classes in arts and design.

Additionally, the Special Purpose Revenue Bonds would greatly assist with the integration of our Le Jardin Preschool on the main campus, increasing our ability to accommodate more preschool students including more spaces reserved for students receiving scholarships.

Le Jardin Academy also contributes to the Windward Side by being one of its largest employers, and we are a good neighbor in Kailua.

Walt Disney realized that, "Our greatest natural resource is the minds of our children." The philosopher, Herbert Spencer recognized that, "The great aim of education is not knowledge but action. Le Jardin's values and mission compel us to grow students who take action and give back locally and globally. Investing in Le Jardin is an investment in Kailua and Oahu through our students and through the school's demonstrated commitment to outreach and community. Your approval of these Special Purpose Revenue Bonds directly serves the public interest by investing in education and community.

Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Postema
Lower School Librarian

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Steven Ai
Date: February 26, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As an **individual who does not live in the windward community**, I have seen first hand the positive impacts of the School's facilities, innovative programming, and commitment to community and collective impact. I believe that your support for Le Jardin Academy's bonds improves not only the Windward community but for our island community as well.

I support that Le Jardin Academy:

- Enrolls nearly 1,000 windward and island families year around and looks now to actively expand its own enrollment and outreach programs to serve more students across the region
- Has a history of partnering with our neighboring public schools and community-based organizations to provide innovative and extraordinary learning experiences to all students
- Plans to relocate and expand Le Jardin's preschool to a more secure and familial location on the main campus, which exemplifies their deep commitment to building community and connecting families, and that these values benefit our communities and increase access for underserved families
- Provides access to extraordinary opportunities for students by sharing its facilities and campus resources to serve students beyond the boundaries of LJA through innovative community-partnerships, which also benefits our communities,
- Would use these bonds to enhance and expand campus facilities--sports fields, swimming facilities and visual/performing arts and design facilities--to have a greater impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for additional students through Hawai'i's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School

This bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Steven Ai

ROGER A. ULVELING

358 E Kaelepulu Drive
Kailua, Hawaii 96734

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chairman
Senate Ways and Means Committee
Members of the Committee
Hawaii State Capitol

Dear Chairman Dela Cruz and members of the Committee:

I support approval of SB 757, authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy (LJA).

These bonds do not take away from public schools or other State programs. They are established by law to provide access to private funds and repayment is solely the responsibility of LJA.

As a long time Windward resident and as a Trustee of for over 15 years, I am very familiar with the school from the days when it went through 6th grade and its subsequent growth through 8th grade and now through High School. Its mission, its programs and plans for growth have always focused on the needs of the community and it includes multiple programs through partnerships and sponsorships that not only teach preservation, culture, stewardship, responsibility, good citizenship.

LJA draws from Koolaupoko, including Kaneohe, Kailua, Waimanalo as well as some constituents from Leeward Oahu. It offer parents a quality education for their children from pre-school through High School without the commutes and long days often a part or attending Leewqrd private schools

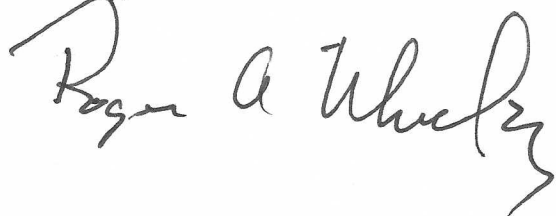
LJA partners with public schools and community based organizations on projects such as Plastics Marine Debris Project and robotics instruction and provides additional opportunities to youth through partnerships with Chelsea FC soccer, Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and HanaHou volleyball for high-caliber athletic training, as well as with the Boys and Girls Club and the Hawaii youth Symphony.

The facilities to be funded by these bonds will enable LJA to increase much needed pre-school seats (a portion of which are provided on scholarship for students that would otherwise not have the opportunity), creation of a performance and visual arts center to serve the Windward community, to provide kitchen facilities and to increase capacity for youth sports and fitness activities

I urge approval of SB 757

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,



SB-757

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:53:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MaryLou Foley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: MaryLou Foley, Community- Waimanalo Resident

Date: February 28, 2021

SUBJECT: Testimony to Support SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Chair DelaCruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757 authorizing Special Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward Waimanalo community resident, I have experienced the positive impacts of the School's facilities, innovative programming and commitment to community. I am thrilled my grandsons will be attending summer school at Le Jardin.

LeJardin has a history of partnering with neighboring public schools and community-based organizations to provide extraordinary learning experiences to all students that serve the public interest such as the Papahanaumokuakea Plastic Marine Debris Project, assistance to restore the 250+acre Kawainui-Hamakua Wetlands, robotics, partnership with Chelsea FC soccer, Aulea swim and Ka Ulu Koa and Hana Hou volleyball clubs, and partnership with Hawaii Youth Symphony and Boys & Girls Club to provide access to instrumental music and other summer programs starting at age 8.

The use of these bonds will enhance and expand facilities- sports fields, swimming facilities and visual/performing arts education providing access to the greater Ko'olaupoko region and the state as Hawaii's only Pk-12 International Baccalaureate World School.

This bill will help LeJardin Academy continue to expand its approach and opportunities to help our communities thrive. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Regards,

MaryLou Foley

41-874 Laumilo St. Waimanalo 96795

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Cynthia Thielen
Date: February 28, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757/HB533: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757/HB533 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRBs) to assist Le Jardin Academy. In the 30 years that I served House District 50, I was consistently impressed with Le Jardin Academy. The school's mission is rooted in developing knowledgeable, responsible, and compassionate young people who actively participate in their local and global communities. Its faculty are dedicated to civics education, which I have happily participated in over the years, teaching students how our governmental process works through my legislative roadshow. Its students consistently testify on proposed legislation and have even proposed amendments to the Honolulu City Charter. Le Jardin Academy is deeply committed to community stewardship and environmental sustainability, and the students continue to fulfill the school's mission to have "a positive impact on the world."

By authorizing SPRBs, you will enable Le Jardin Academy to increase its capacity to serve more Windward families through expanded facilities. Its planned Early Childhood Learning Center will help fill the need for more early childhood care on the Windward side, and, through additional classrooms in each division, more young people will be able to benefit from its world class International Baccalaureate program. Additionally, the school intends to build an innovation and sustainability center, designed to serve public and private school students in collaboration, as they work to solve the problems we collectively face. I am certain that your support of SB757 will ensure that **the children of Ko'olaupoko will enjoy more opportunities for meaningful learning and community engagement.**

Please support this community school in its endeavor to grow and further manifest its vision of a more peaceful and sustainable world.

Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Thielen
Former Hawaii State Representative for House District 50

SB-757

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:04:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Schaberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

I support the approval of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward community member and parent of an LJA student. I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, programs, and plans for facilities enhancement and believe that they serve the public interest.

The School's plans for these bonds include moving LJA's preschool to a safer and more integrated location on its main campus, which will increase capacity and add seats for preschoolers, including underserved children that might otherwise go unserved. Plans also call for a future center for visual and performing arts and design, which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side. LJA also aims to increase its capacity to serve windward youth through sports and fitness programs on its campus.

Le Jardin's commitment to widening its reach and increasing impact through access to quality facilities and programming is clear to those familiar with the School. Our students partner with public school students to restore Kawainui Marsh and reuse marine debris creatively through a Plastics Makerspace in partnership with Papahānaumokuākea Plastic Marine Debris Project. Windward students from many schools unite in Chelsea FC (Soccer), Aulea Swim Club, Ka Ulu Koa and HanaHou Volleyball clubs which provide access to high-caliber athletic training across the region. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility

solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Koolaupoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757, and for keeping education top of mind.

Sincerely,

Dan Schaberg

SB-757

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:54:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Chow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on Ways and Means,

Please approve and advance SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a Windward community member and parent of two LJA students in grades 2 and 4, I am well-acquainted with Le Jardin's mission, programs, and plans for facilities enhancement and believe that they serve the public interest. In my 14 years of service to Hawaii's education, arts, and culture nonprofit communities, I have not encountered a more generous and vibrant vision for engaging students in our community through access to excellence in education, facilities, and collective impact programs that unite the students of our region and benefit our people, our place, and our world.

My children has blossomed in their time at LJA. They are confident thinkers and creative problem solvers who are learning to use their talents to positively impact their school and community, as well as our natural environment. LJA gives them access not only to exceptional instruction, but to a diverse array of learning experiences that are making them awesome human beings. I can imagine no greater community service than to advocate for support so that these resources and experiences can reach more deserving students. When education wins, we all win. Le Jardin Academy is Hawaii's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School, and as such, is uniquely situated to deliver programs and opportunities that create positive impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for all students through its resources and programs. Please, let's help them do so.

Approving this bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. And, because the funds are private and the debt responsibility solely the School's, it seems a fruitful investment in education that will yield significant positive outcomes for Koolaupoko and beyond. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757, and for keeping education top of mind.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,

Courtney Chow

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
From: Makani and Dean Maeva
Date: February 26, 2021
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB757: Relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Le Jardin Academy, Inc.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keither-Agaran, and Committee Members,

Please accept this testimony in support of SB757 authorizing Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy. As a **windward community members, parents and alumni class 1968** of Le Jardin Academy, I have experienced first hand the positive impacts of the School's facilities, innovative programming, and commitment to community and collective impact. We believe that your support for Le Jardin Academy's bonds improves our community.

We support that Le Jardin Academy:

- Enrolls nearly 1,000 windward and island families year around and looks now to actively expand its own enrollment and outreach programs to serve more students across the region
- Has a history of partnering with our neighboring public schools and community-based organizations to provide innovative and extraordinary learning experiences to all students
- Plans to relocate and expand Le Jardin's preschool to a more secure and familial location on the main campus, which exemplifies their deep commitment to building community and connecting families, and that these values benefit our communities and increase access for underserved families
- Provides access to extraordinary opportunities for students by sharing its facilities and campus resources to serve students beyond the boundaries of LJA through innovative community-partnerships, which also benefits our communities,
- Would use these bonds to enhance and expand campus facilities--sports fields, swimming facilities and visual/performing arts and design facilities--to have a greater impact across Ko'olaupoko by increasing access to excellence in education for additional students through Hawai'i's only PK-12 International Baccalaureate World School

This bill will help Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand its approach and opportunities to make the lives of students across our region richer and to help our communities to thrive. Thank you for your consideration of support of SB757.

Sincerely,

Evan I. Scherman

LATE

March 1, 2021

Subject: Testimony in support of SB757, relating to Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy

Aloha Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

Please allow me to provide my reasoning below to support the approval of SB757 which will allow Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist Le Jardin Academy.

I was born and raised in Kailua. I was fortunate enough to have attended Le Jardin Academy from grades two through six. Unfortunately, the school only went to grade 8 and therefore I attended another private institution in Honolulu from grades seven through twelve. Had Le Jardin Academy gone through high school I most certainly would have continued on as I truly had a marvelous experience at this fine school. A lot has changed since my childhood days at Le Jardin, however in the most positive of ways!

I have two children (grades 5 and 8) who are currently enrolled at Le Jardin Academy and have since PK. They intend to graduate from Le Jardin Academy. They both love it there.

I am also fortunate enough to live and work in Kailua. I also serve on Le Jardin Academy's board of trustees. Therefore, I am very familiar with its mission, programs, and its plans for expand its facilities offerings for the student body as well as the community-at-large.

The school actually does already provide access to its facilities and programs to the community. There are programs which focus on the restoration of Kawainui Marsh, sports programs such as Aulea Swim Club, Chelsea Soccer, volleyball clubs, etc.

It's a really special place. It has the potential to become even better as the school plans to use the Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to increase capacity for preschoolers (including underserved children who would otherwise go unserved), provide for a future visual and performing arts and design center (which would be the first of its kind on the Windward side), and increase capacity to serve windward youth through various sports programs on its campus.

Approving this bill will assist Le Jardin Academy continue to actively expand opportunities throughout the community. Since the funds are private and the school is ultimately the sole responsible party for the debt, this is great investment in the education of today's youths. I sure hope that you feel the same way and will support SB757.

Respectfully,

Evan Scherman

354 Uluniu Street, Suite 301 Kailua, HI 96734
Phone : (808) 263-1234 Fax : (808) 263-1230