

SB2172



Wednesday, February 3, 2010

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 225

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND HOUSING

RE: SB2172 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist
Kaimuki Christian School

Dear Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Witt, executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS). I am here today to testify in support of a measure introduced by one of our member schools, Kaimuki Christian School, which is seeking approval for Special Purpose Revenue Bonds.

The Senate Committee on Education and Housing has supported similar measures in years past, and we are here to acknowledge and recognize your advocacy and support of the ongoing effort by HAIS to encourage its member schools to use Special Purpose Revenue Bonds as an essential strategy for leveraging capital funds urgently needed for campus development and improvement projects.

Private schools in Hawaii serve everyday families from all walks of life. Many students attending private schools receive financial aid to defray the cost of tuition. It is our steadfast belief that private schools serve an important public purpose here in Hawaii by helping to prepare the next generation of young people for college, career, and citizenship.

In addition, Special Purpose Revenue Bonds do not in any way divert funds away from public schools, while stimulating Hawaii's economy via construction job creation.

For these reasons and others that may be addressed during discussion of this measure today, HAIS strongly supports SB 2172 and the approval of issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for Kaimuki Christian School.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Kaimuki Christian School

1117 Koko Head Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816



Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senate Committee on Education & Housing
Wednesday, February 3, 2010; 1:15 PM

RE: SB 2172-Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Kaimuki Christian School

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support SB 2172, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds for Kaimuki Christian School (KCS). Founded in 1968, the school currently has 302 students enrolled in our Preschool and WASC-accredited Kindergarten to 8th grade program. While servicing mainly the East Oahu community, we draw students island-wide. Our student body, assisted by a moderate tuition level and generous financial aid program, reflects a range of academic abilities and socio-economic backgrounds. The common denominator is families looking for a quality education stressing strong values within a nurturing environment.

KCS has been adding a class per grade level for the past six years. Most of the facilities on campus were built in 1969. Two classes meet in a house built in the 1940s or earlier. KCS's campus improvement project will be accomplished in three phases. Phase 1 will include a new facility for our expanding Preschool through 8th grade classes and space for enrichment programs such as music, art, and computer sciences. A preschool playground area and new administrative offices will also be built. Phase 2 will center around a 116-stall multi-level parking structure and gymnasium. Finally, Phase 3 of construction will provide a permanent home for the high school that KCS plans to launch in the fall of 2012. When the three phases are completed, the new facilities will allow us to increase enrollment by over 70%.

KCS has been an active member of the Kaimuki community for over forty years. We are members of the Kaimuki Business and Professional Association and proud partners with the Kaimuki Regional Library, Queen Lydia Liliu'okalani Elementary School, Leahi Hospital, and HUGS. Our students have participated in service projects to beautify Kaimuki, assist elderly residents with home projects, and provide food to those in need. Recently, students have learned the value of global outreach through our support of disaster relief efforts for Indonesia, the Philippines, Samoa, and Haiti.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 2172 and for your support of Kaimuki Christian School.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Gallagher".

Mark Gallagher
Principal
Telephone (808) 732-1781

Testimony In Support of HB 2277 and SB 2172
Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for Kaimuki Christian School

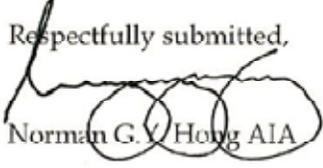
My name is Norman G.Y. Hong AIA. I have been a Board-member of Kaimuki Christian School for the past seven years and hereby submit this testimony representing the Board of KCS. I am also Vice Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Group 70 International, one of the largest architectural and planning firms in Hawaii.

I support the proposed House and Senate Bills that would authorize KCS to seek Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to help finance the school's implementation of its Master Plan for the following reasons:

- KCS has been a vital part of the Kaimuki community for the past 40 years and has served a significant role in providing quality education at a reasonable cost to families in and around the Kaimuki and East Honolulu region. Many of its students have gone on to become valuable contributing members of our community.
- KCS has also been involved in a number of programs serving the surrounding community, including Book Sale Days at Kaimuki Regional Library, and Common Grace, an Oahu-wide program that provides adult mentoring to public school children.
- KCS currently provides education at the primary and middle school levels (Preschool to Grade 8) for approximately 300 students. For the past 2 years, I have assisted KCS in developing a Master Plan to increase the school to include a High School (Grades 9 through 12), as well as to provide additional classes at all grade levels. The expressed purpose of the High School curriculum is to prepare students who seek to pursue careers in community service. The issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds would enable KCS to implement their Master Plan, thereby achieving its goal of educating more students to be contributors to the community.
- Implementation of the estimated \$20 million Master Plan would contribute towards helping the currently struggling construction industry and economic condition of the State, while providing additional quality educational opportunities.

For all of the above reasons, I respectfully ask for your support of HB 2277 and SB 2172. Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,


Norman G. Y. Hong AIA

From: Joyce Riley RN, MSN
836 Hokullani St.
Honolulu, HI, 96825
Tel. 808-391-2194

February 1, 2010

To: Our State of Hawaii Legislature RE: HB 2277 and SB 2172

I am writing this letter of support Kaimuki Christian School, where my son has attended for five years. I believe this school is an asset to the community and it provides an excellent education. The school has been in existence for forty years. Due to word of mouth, the demand has grown and the administrators have responded by gradually increasing the enrollment. The school offers an excellent education with Christian values for a reasonable price. I have personally recommended this school to three other families who now have children attending. However, the expansion is costly and it would help immensely if the school were to qualify for tax exempt bonds.

Kaimuki Christian School offers many wonderful programs for the children. My son has enjoyed the "Reading Buddies" program for years. In kindergarten, he was read to by a third grade student. Now, as a fourth grader, he is giving back by reading to the new kindergarten students for the second year in a row. The children take SAT tests yearly that provide the parents with a measure of their progress. The kids perform very well on the test, there is no need for a "no child left behind" statute here. My son's kindergarten class size was 12. His fourth grade class size is 16 so I know he is getting the attention and help he needs.

Recently, the children's chapel offering was donated to the Haiti Earthquake relief fund. Unlike some other private schools, Kaimuki Christian accept children on a first-come, first-serve basis because the school belief is that all children deserve a quality education, not just the top five percent. This school has been a second home for my child where he can learn in a safe caring environment. The school offers music and physical education programs as part of the regular curriculum along with computer instruction beginning in kindergarten. As of fourth grade he has been able to play basketball on the school team.

Kaimuki Christian School gives back to the community by offering value, solid academics, and a safe Christian environment. The children are forming bonds and developing support systems that will hopefully last a lifetime. The school values community in turn by supporting the Kaimuki Christmas Parade, the library, the local businesses, an annual walkathon to raise money for scholarships, and volunteerism. The children participate in Christmas caroling at the Leahi Hospital and donate shoebox Christmas gifts for needy children. This school is teaching children to grow into responsible contributing members of the community. In addition, the expansion of the school is providing much-needed jobs for the economy.

Sincerely,

Joyce Riley, RN, MSN

Brian Lock
Kathy Lock Matsuki and Patrick Matsuki
834 17th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: HB 2277 and SB 2172

January 29, 2010

Dear Senator Les Ihara and Representative Barbara Marumoto:

We are in support of Kaimuki Christian School and their upcoming Master Plan Expansion. We feel it will benefit not only our children but the community also. Kaimuki Christian School teaches children not only strong academics to give them a good future, but also a solid foundation teaching them the tools they need in becoming a good citizen in the community and world.

Kaimuki Christian School means so much to our family. We have been a part of KCS for many years. My brother and I are alumni of the school. We attended KCS from preschool to 6th grade, graduated in the mid '80's and are proud to have both have our children attend there along with friends and other family members. I am also a former Preschool teacher at KCS and currently substitute teach there when my schedule allows. Working there is a wonderful blessing and very rewarding. People at KCS are genuine and really care about the parents, children and staff. My Mother also volunteers in the school office twice a week.

Kids that attend KCS are very well behaved and learn respect, good study habits, and kindness. Other people outside of the school notice and have commented positively many times about kids they see from KCS. Children that have come to KCS from another school can see the difference in the school, such as my stepson. He has said many times that the children at KCS are kind and respectful of others. He also noted that you could tell that the teachers really care about you and go out of their way for you if you need help.

Our family believes the expanded campus and new facilities will benefit the school and community tremendously. KCS offers scholarship programs to help families that cannot afford the full tuition such as ourselves due to us having 3 children that attend there. There are many parents along with myself that would love to have the children stay in a private school setting up until high school getting a good education and where it is close knit setting and the kids are known my name and not numbers.

We believe the community would benefit because KCS does not only stick within its campus. The kids are taught to do outreach to the community. The children have a number of projects that are done outside of the school. The facilities are also used for a number of community activities such as a Fall Harvest Party for October 31.

Thank you for your support on this bill.

Sincerely,
Kathy and Patrick Matsuki
Brian Lock

From: Dr. Kevin Lui, MD [mailto:drkevinlui@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 10:33 AM
To: kcs@kaimukichristian.org
Subject: Testimony In Support

RE: HB2277 and SB 2172

The Honorable Senator Les Ihara and Representative Barbara Marumoto,

Please allow us to express our strong support and thanks for introducing a Special Purpose Revenue Bond bill on behalf of Kaimuki Christian School.

Our nine-year-old twins have attended Kaimuki Christian School since kindergarten and are currently in the fourth grade. They have benefitted greatly by the quality education KCS is known for. Just as importantly, we appreciate the upright values KCS emphasizes to help them become good citizens.

We wholeheartedly support Kaimuki Christian School's efforts to expand their facilities so more families will have an opportunity to experience their fine program. We thank you again for helping the school accomplish this most worthy endeavor.

With kind regards,

Kevin Lui
Elna Masuda
Candace & Ethan Lui

From: Mary Bueche [mailto:mary.bueche@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 6:46 AM

To: kcs@kaimukichristian.org

Subject: Special Purpose Revenue Bonds

RE: HB2277 and SB 2172

Dear Senator Les Ihara and Representative Barbara Marumoto,

I am a parent of two boys who have attended Kaimuki Christian School. My youngest is 5. KCS is an amazing 'ohana and outreach for the community.

The campus and program allows the teachers and students to cross-pollinate educationally, socially and culturally. They have an outstanding academic program that fosters learning, and stewardship. We have participated in the school's volunteer opportunities by cleaning up neighborhood graffiti.

The expanded campus/new facilities will benefit my family by allowing my youngest son to graduate from High School. I don't want to send him anywhere else. This is his extended 'ohana. I had to find another school for my older son to attend as they had no High School. My older son feels that KCS offers a much stronger academic and moral program than what he has at his new school.

The Special Purpose Revenue Bond will help the students, the parents and the community in more ways than can be listed.

Sincerely,
Mary Bueche

February 1, 2010

RE: HB 2277 and SB2172

Dear Sir or Madam,

I proudly write this letter to ask for your support of the Special Purpose Revenue Bond which would help Kaimuki Christian School acquire tax exempt bonds.

As a Kaimuki resident, I have seen and experienced first hand, the services provided by the school such as library volunteers, community clean-ups, and free activities for children and their families.

I also have close connections to the school as a former teacher and now a proud parent. In the past 15 years I have seen the school grow in population, purpose, and physical space. There is still room for growth and a larger campus with new facilities will help the school and community in large measures. A larger school means more people will be exposed to the values of the school with returns to the community.

Sincerely,

Sachi Matsushita
(808)626-5280

From: Kaimuki Public Library [mailto:okkcirc@imail.librarieshawaii.org]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 7:23 PM
To: mgallagher@kaimukichristian.org
Cc: berry@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimonial

RE: HB 2277 and SB 2172

Dear Members of the Senate and House Education and the House Finance and Senate Ways Means and Committees,

Aloha. My name is Berry Andelin and I work at the Kaimuki Library. I am writing to you today on behalf of our friends and neighbors at Kaimuki Christian School. We are the lucky recipients of frequent class visits from KCC. It would do your hearts good to see how well behaved these children are. And such lovely manners! It is a pleasure for us to interact with them.

Kaimuki Christian School has also been a staunch supporter of our library in many ways. They have painted over graffiti for us and hauled away rubbish that was dumped into our parking lot. They have made extremely generous financial contributions to buy books for our collection. And, they have shown up in force and worked incredibly hard at our fund raising book sales.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Berry Andelin
Head of Circulation
Kaimuki Public Library