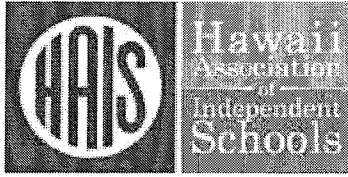


SB 2172, SD1



Wednesday, February 24, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Conference Room 211

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB2172, SD1 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to assist
Kaimuki Christian School

Dear Chair Mercado Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, 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 SD1 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 Donna Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, February 24, 2010; 10:00 AM

RE: SB 2172 SD1 -Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Assist Kaimuki Christian School

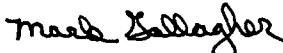
Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to strongly support SB 2172 SD1, 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 5th 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 SD1 and for your support of education, including Kaimuki Christian School.

Respectfully submitted,


Mark Gallagher
Principal
Telephone (808) 732-1781

February 24, 2010

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: S.B. 2172 SD1 - Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds
for Kaimuki Christian School

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

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 Senate Bill 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 preschool, primary and middle school levels 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 SB 2172 SD1.
Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Hong

February 24, 2010

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: S.B. 2172 SD1 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds
for Kaimuki Christian School**

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

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
834 17th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

February 24, 2010

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: S.B. 2172 SD1 – Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds
for Kaimuki Christian School**

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

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
943D 9th Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816
(808)626-5280

February 24, 2010

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol, Conference Room 211
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**RE: S.B. 2172 SD1 - Relating to the Issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds
for Kaimuki Christian School**

Chair Kim and Members of the Committee:

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 accepts children on a first-come, first-serve basis because the school's 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
836 Hokulani Street
Honolulu, HI 96825
Tel: 808-391-2194