



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE

THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

ON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007

By

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UH System Director, Office of International Education

SB 1177 SD2 (HSCR430 Making An Appropriation for a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee, I thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Global Youth Center in Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i supports the overall concept of this bill as it includes initiatives that are integral to our international education goals. We believe that giving Hawai'i youth and youth from around the world opportunities to become actively engaged in discussing and influencing many of the global, trans-boundary challenges facing the world is critical.

The University of Hawai'i looks forward to continuing to support state and non-profit entities that broadly promote international education, enhanced understanding and appreciation of peoples, cultures and traditions and ultimately develop global competency skills.

Therefore, the University of Hawai'i Office of International Education is willing to serve as the facilitating entity to enable the GYCH funds to be expended by the East-West Center, charging a reasonable administrative fee to provide the necessary fiscal support services.

If the scope of the Office of International Affairs at DBEDT is expanded, it would be a natural partner for the Global Youth Center and both share either similar or complimentary goals that include: developing a comprehensive database and inventory of international programs and opportunities, serving as a resource for connecting Hawai'i youth groups, developing strategic and innovative partnerships, among numerous others.

In the Committee's decision making, it is essential that funding provided to the University of Hawai'i for the Global Youth Center not replace or adversely impact UH's priorities as indicated in our BOR approved Executive Biennium Budget.