UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE

SENTATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2007
By
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SCR 173/SR 113 Relating Expressing Support for International Education

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Senate Committee on Education, I thank you for the opportunity to testify on Expressing Support for International Education.

The University of Hawai'i system strongly supports this resolution whose purpose is for the State legislature to endorse activities, partnerships, and decisions that promote Hawai'i as a preeminent destination for education and training and raise Hawai'i's profile in the global economy.

If passed, Region XII of NAFSA: Association of International Educators, composed of California, Nevada, and Hawai'i, would become the first region in the nation to have all its state legislatures pass resolutions or statutes that recognize and endorse the importance of international education in each respective state.

We firmly believe that the presence of international students and scholars enriches our campuses and contributes to promoting global competency in our local student populations. Additionally, their presence makes a significant financial contribution to our state's economy. It is equally important to provide opportunities and funding for local students to study abroad in order to broaden their understanding of the world and their place in it

Your support of SCR 173/SR 113—expressing Support for International Education, will indicate that our state values the necessity for global connectedness that often begins with education. Engaging fully in the global economy and participating in cultural exchanges that open our doors ultimately produce open minds.

Thank you for your support.