



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 3258 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance

February 27, 2006

By

Jenny S. Samaan
System Director, Office of International Education
University of Hawai'i

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**HB 3258 RELATING TO EDUCATION- EXCHANGE STUDENT AND
FACULTY PROGRAM WITH PHILIPPINES**

Chair: Rep. Dwight Y. Takamine, Vice Chair: Rep. Bertha C. Kawakami and
Members of the Committee:

TESTIMONY

IN SUPPORT OF H.B. 3258

The University of Hawai'i agrees that student and faculty educational exchanges between Hawai'i and the State's sister provinces in the Philippines can serve to strengthen cultural, social, and economic ties.

The University of Hawai'i has had long-standing and a wide array of relationships with various academic institutions in the Philippines that include language teaching, agricultural research, student exchange, business school collaboration, distance education learning, among other activities. The complete list of relationships across the UH system is attached to this testimony for reference.

The University of Hawai'i system-wide Office of International Education (OIE) assists UH to achieve Goal 3, of the University's Strategic Plan, which strives for the University to be a "Model Local, Regional, and Global University" with unique strengths in Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Affairs. In part, this goal is achieved by establishing and maintaining international exchange agreements that facilitate the mobility of UH students, faculty, and researchers and assist incoming exchange students and scholars.

All exchange agreements are developed based on the interest and support of faculty members whose involvement is vital to the success of any partnership. It is therefore always necessary to assess interest across the University of Hawai'i System in order to determine if there is ample commitment to establishing and nurturing mutually-beneficial exchange relationships. Agreements are easily entered into but require time, commitment, and funding to actually fulfill their intent. Given the University's limited resources currently to support its relationships with partner institutions in the Philippines, it is essential that no new partnerships be entered into without careful planning and adequate funding.

In addition to a lack of funding, another deterrent to successfully hosting Filipino students, faculty, and conference attendees is the reality of the extremely low issuance rate of U.S. visitor and student visas to Filipinos. This barrier is beyond our control and requires a great deal of care in selecting, mentoring, and counseling prospective Filipino students and faculty wishing to come to the United States. Often times the inability to satisfy a visa officer of one's intent to return to the home country means a student cannot come to pursue a degree or engage in short-term training, despite months of preparation. In many cases, this translates into UH faculty members having to go to the Philippines to deliver courses or training or to rely upon distance education as a means of collaboration.

Despite these challenges, the University certainly recognizes that more vigorous cultural and educational ties with the people of the Philippines simultaneously enrich the citizens of Hawai'i and the Philippines by providing a foundation for intercultural exchange, understanding and collaboration, but urges great caution and extreme care when considering new academic relationships. Such consideration must include the academic community at the onset in order to set realistic expectations that can be met by all parties.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Philippine / UH Relationships
February 27, 2005

Province	City	Philippine Institution	University of Hawai'i Campus	Agreement	Dates
Metro Manila	Quezon City	University of the Philippines-Diliman	Mānoa	Basic, included Study Abroad	2001-2006, expiring & will not be renewed
Metro Manila	Manila	St. Luke's College of Medicine, William H. Quasha Memorial	Mānoa - John A. Burns School of Medicine	Letter of Agreement	2003 - ongoing
Metro Manila	Manila	UP-School of Nursing	KCC	Nothing formal established	
Metro Manila	Manila	Asian Institute of Management	Mānoa - CBA / PACIBER	PACIBER	1995- present
Metro Manila	Manila	De La Salle University Graduate School of Business	Mānoa - CBA / PACIBER	PACIBER	2003 - present
Metro Manila	Manila	De La Salle University Graduate School of Business	Mānoa / CBA	Proposed / in process	2006-2011
Benguet	Baguio City	UP-Baguio Cordillera Studies Center	Mānoa & East-West Center	Research studies	
Laguna	Los Baños	University of the Philippines-Los Baños	Mānoa / CTAHR: cooperative research, possible faculty exchange; crop breeding, agro forestry, biotechnology, FSHN	Basic Agreement for International Cooperation - pending funding from both ends, and follow through from Philippines	Jan. 2006-2011
Ilocos Norte	Laoag City	Mariano Marcos State University	KCC - Nursing	Basic Agreement for International Cooperation	Jan. 2006-2011
Ilocos Sur	Vigan City	University of Northern Philippines	KCC - Nursing	Basic Agreement for International Cooperation	Jan. 2006-2011
Ilocos Sur	Vigan City	University of Northern Philippines	LCC - ESL	Letter of Intent	2004/5
Pangasinan	San Carlos City	Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation	KCC - Nursing	Basic Agreement for International Cooperation	Jan. 2006-2011
Negros Oriental	Dumaguete City	Silliman University School of Nursing	KCC - Nursing		
Cebu	Cebu City	Cebu Normal University	KCC - Nursing		Jan. 2006-2011
Zamboanga del Sur	Zamboanga City	Ateneo de Zamboanga	Mānoa - SHAPS	On-line exchange course, ASAN 491P	Fall Semester 2001 to present