



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ON  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2007

By

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### **HB 540 Making An Appropriation for a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i**

Chair Cabanilla, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the House Committee on International Affairs, I thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Global Youth Center in Hawai'i.

One of the University of Hawai'i's strategic plan goals is to become a Model Local, Regional, and Global University. In order to achieve this goal we ensure that there are opportunities for our students to engage in educational exchange by bringing to our campuses international students and scholars. We also establish international university partnerships and study abroad programs for UH students so that they can experience other cultures, languages, and peoples firsthand. We firmly believe that developing global awareness and competencies to function effectively in a global environment must be a critical component of today's educational landscape.

The University therefore strongly supports the Hawai'i Global Youth Center's *broad* goal of generating an effective international framework in which youth from Hawai'i and from around the world can become actively engaged in discussing and influencing many of the global, trans-boundary challenges facing the world.

We note that the current Hawai'i Global Youth Center Work Plan (January – December 2007) cites a major challenge as identifying "its own particular mission" that will be additive to the plethora of youth-oriented organizations. There are indeed numerous natural partners, both in Hawai'i and abroad, who share similar goals as those envisioned by the HGYC. However at this time, it appears that further dialog and consultation, clarification of audience, participants, and desired concrete outcomes would be beneficial for the Center's long term viability.

While the University endorses the overall concept of this bill as it includes initiatives supportive of our international education goals, we are concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal as it is currently written. If this bill passes in its present form, it is essential that it not replace or adversely impact UH's priorities as indicated in our BOR approved Executive Biennium Budget.

The University of Hawai'i looks forward to continuing to explore with the relevant parties what the appropriate funding, administrative, and support mechanisms might be necessary to carry this concept forward.

Mahalo.