

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



## **HB 2750 Making an Appropriation to the University of Hawai'i for Peace Education**

Written Testimony for the  
House Committee on Higher Education

January 31, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

by  
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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Chair Chang, Vice Chair Bertram, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Unfortunately, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa can only support the intent of the bill at this time because of our pressing priorities, such as our tremendous need for repairs and maintenance and health and safety issues, which are critical to our ability to perform our core mission for the State of Hawai'i. We are grateful for the Legislature's attention to these needs. We recognize that you have many priorities and issues to weigh for the state, so the following substantive information on this program is provided to assist you in your decision-making process.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa is fully committed to the mission of the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and the Program on Conflict Resolution (the "Institute"). In this time of increased conflicts, both globally and in our own community, it is essential that students have the opportunity to take courses in peace studies and conflict resolution. Students need to strengthen their theoretical understanding of human rights and the issues that can divide communities. They also need to develop mediation and facilitation skills, so that they can work toward just and peaceful solutions. The courses and academic programs offered by the Matsunaga Institute give students this opportunity and we hope to build and strengthen its programs, in order to fulfill Senator Matsunaga's dream, that all students in the University of Hawai'i system be exposed to peace studies. We are also proud of the mediation and training services that the Institute is providing to University departments and the broader community, including the Safe Schools Advisory Committee. These services help to promote peace and also provide important clinical training for our students. Students who participate in mediations and facilitations on campus or in the community (under the Institute's supervision) will be better equipped to address conflicts when they graduate, whether in the workplace, in government, or in their own families.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, we appreciate all interest in the University, and want to emphasize that we will be able to perform better in all arenas and best serve the state with support of the current campus priorities approved by the Board of Regents.