



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1374, SD 2 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Tourism & Culture,
Economic Development & Business Concerns and
International Affairs

March 15, 2005

by

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

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Chair Rep. Jerry L. Chang and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i has long-standing historical and cultural ties to China, and the University of Hawai'i is one of the few American universities where area studies infuse the entire curriculum, rather than being confined to one department or program. A Chinese perspective can be found in more than 150 courses across the curriculum, including history, literature, philosophy and theatre. Mandarin, Cantonese and Taiwanese are taught in UH's extensive language program.

All told, UH offers greater breadth and depth in Chinese studies than any other institute for higher education outside of Asia. The nexus for many of these offerings is the Center for Chinese Studies that includes 43 faculty specialists in 26 departments at UH Mānoa. Together with the university's Centers for Japanese and Korean Studies, it is one of only 12 East Asia National Resource Centers funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The Center for Chinese Studies conducts research, publishes study materials and hosts seminars. This wide-ranging expertise ensures that engagement with China is executed by informed UH faculty and students.

In the areas of training, UH Mānoa's College of Business Administration has conducted 5 years of executive MBA programs for Guangdong Senior Managers, all of whom have returned home to positions of greater responsibility and continue their strong ties to Hawai'i. This program's success is credited in large measure to DBEDT's unceasing support of this training program. DBEDT also played a key role in Honolulu Community College's contract with the Guangdong Labor Bureau, which facilitated teacher training in Hawai'i. The William S. Richardson School of Law has faculty members engaged with Chinese institutions as they struggle to develop their legal understanding of the impact of China joining the WTO.

The School of Travel Industry Management, the Community Colleges Culinary Institute of the Pacific, and affiliated tourism and hospitality programs have already been engaged with entities in China. As the entire nation gears up to host the 2008 Beijing Olympics, there will be even greater opportunities for Hawai'i's tourism industry, for education and training.

In the areas of health and medicine, the John A. Burns School of Medicine has incorporated traditional Chinese medicine, complementary and alternative medicine into its training and research agenda and has formed linkages with Chinese institutions. A U.S. leader in problem-based learning, JABSOM has been teaching the patient-oriented instructional techniques to faculty at medical schools in East Asia for the past six years with recent workshops in Shanghai

and soon in Guangdong. These seminars bring Chinese and American medical students together to use a problem-based approach in learning about health care issues in their respective countries.

In conclusion, the University of Hawai'i is deeply committed to its China relations and to growing them in harmony with a larger State initiative. We therefore strongly endorse the establishment of a China/Hawai'i Economic Strategic Plan Working Group in order to develop a unified, comprehensive, and forward-looking strategic plan for engaging Hawai'i with China. If formed, we are ready and willing to serve on this working group and look forward to working collaboratively with Hawai'i's private industry to ensure enhanced economic, educational, and cultural ties with China.