



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE

**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
HIGHER EDUCATION
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
AND
FINANCE
ON TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2007**

**By
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SB 1177 SD2 (SSCR 966) Making An Appropriation for a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i

Chairs Chang, Cabanilla, and Oshiro, Vice Chairs Bertram, Tokioka, and Lee, and Members of the Committees, I thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Global Youth Center in Hawai'i.

The University of Hawai'i supports the overall concept of this bill as it includes initiatives that are integral to our international education goals. We believe that giving Hawai'i youth and youth from around the world opportunities to become actively engaged in discussing and influencing many of the global, trans-boundary challenges facing the world is critical.

Furthermore, the Office of International Education is willing to serve as the facilitating entity to enable the GYCH funds to be expended by the East-West Center, charging an administrative fee to provide the necessary fiscal support services.

If DBEDT's Office of International Affairs expands its scope of responsibility to include international education and training, it would be most appropriate for the Global Youth Center of Hawai'i to work very closely with the Office of International Affairs as both have similar or complimentary goals.

The University of Hawai'i looks forward to continuing to support state and non-profit entities that broadly promote international education, enhanced understanding and appreciation of peoples, cultures and traditions and ultimately develop global competency skills.

It is essential that funding provided to the University of Hawai'i for the Global Youth Center not replace or adversely impact UH's priorities as indicated in our BOR approved Executive Biennium Budget.