



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
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By
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SB 1177 Making An Appropriation for a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i

Chair Sakamoto, Vice Chair Tokuda, 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.

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.

We are however concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal as it is currently written. It is our understanding that the original intent of the Hawai'i Global Youth Center working group was to designate the East West Center as the expending agency. Since General Funds can only be given to a State agency, the University of Hawai'i has thus been designated.

We offer two options for this Committee to consider. The first is to amend the language of this bill to reflect the changes that have been made to the companion bill, HB 540 that now designates the East-West Center as the expending agency through the University of Hawai'i. If this option is selected, the University would be willing to facilitate this arrangement but would have to retain funds to cover the costs for administration.

The second option would be to amend the language of this bill to designate the Office of International Affairs within DBEDT as the expending agency or the State pass through agency, if HB1281 passes, which expands the scope of the Office of International Affairs to include education and training and funds this office. Many of the goals of the Global Youth Center and the Office of International Affairs are either similar or complimentary. These include: developing a comprehensive database and inventory of international programs and opportunities, serving as a resource for connecting Hawai'i youth groups, developing strategic and innovative partnerships, among numerous others.

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 to carry this concept forward.

Finally, 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.