UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
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by
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SB 2233 - Relating to Establishing a Global Youth Center

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding the Global Youth Center in Hawai'i.

One of the University of Hawai'i's strategic goals is to "Become a Model Local, Regional, and Global University". In order to achieve this goal, it is critical that we provide opportunities for our students to engage in educational exchange by bringing to our campuses international students and scholars, infusing global perspectives into curriculum, and providing inter-cultural co-curricular activities. Additionally, UH establishes international university partnerships and education abroad programs for UH students so that they are able to 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. It is critical to expand world views and grow global citizens who value diversity and are trained to effectively communicate across boundaries.

While the University endorses the overall concept of establishing a global youth center in Hawaii, it is unclear at this time exactly how the Center will be situated "within" or "under" the University of Hawai'i. We are concerned about the cost implications to the University that may be generated by this bill. We look forward however to exploring further, with the relevant parties, a workable administrative structure and obtaining appropriate funding, administrative, and support mechanisms that may be necessary to carry this concept forward.

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 Supplementary Budget.

Mahalo.