

MAR 14 2007

SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION.

WHEREAS, the foundations of international education are:

- (1) The mobility of students and scholars who serve as cultural ambassadors between and among countries by participating in programs such as exchanges and study abroad;
- (2) A curriculum that teaches foreign languages, addresses global issues, and provides in-depth understanding of other cultures; and
- (3) Collaborative multi-national research that leads to new knowledge and technological breakthroughs;

and

WHEREAS, with today's increasingly complex international trade relations, concern for the preservation of our global environment, and the constant goal of world peace, the promotion and support of international education becomes increasingly important to our national security, foreign policy, economic competitiveness, and capacity for tolerance; and

WHEREAS, because tourism and foreign trade are key sectors of Hawaii's economic future, it is vital that this State promotes mutual understanding between the people of Hawaii and citizens of other countries through international education programs in a variety of settings, including public and private elementary and secondary schools; colleges, universities, and other proprietary academic institutions; and other educational and research organizations; and



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii enrolled over 6,000 international students
2 at the post-secondary level alone during the 2005-2006 academic
3 year but sends less than two percent of its local students
4 abroad to study each year, while the most competitive U.S.
5 educational institutions are increasing their targets to have 10
6 percent to 100 percent of their students engage in formal
7 international study prior to graduation; and

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9 WHEREAS, international education enhances social and
10 cultural diversity both in and out of the classroom, and
11 contributes in excess of \$110 million to the state economy each
12 year; and

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14 WHEREAS, Hawaii has historically welcomed immigrants who
15 bring diverse talents and perspectives; and

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17 WHEREAS, Hawaii's educational institutions must continue to
18 strengthen their capacity to provide necessary skills,
19 knowledge, and training for new residents from abroad, while
20 increasing opportunities for local students to acquire the
21 linguistic and intercultural skills to interact effectively
22 within the changing multicultural context of the state; and

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24 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S.
25 Department of Education have sponsored a nationwide
26 International Education Week since 2000 to raise Americans'
27 awareness of the importance of international education; and

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29 WHEREAS, the Governor issued a proclamation on November 6,
30 2006, declaring the week of November 13 through 17, 2006, as
31 International Education Week in Hawaii; now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fourth
34 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2007,
35 that this body finds that international education is an
36 essential component of Hawaii's future; and

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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body supports and
39 encourages international education to ensure that students and
40 future leaders are prepared to meet the challenges of a global
41 society; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body recognizes that the
2 international students and scholars of this state contribute
3 significantly to the cultural diversity of Hawaii's educational
4 institutions and, through their representation, enhance the
5 educational experience of all students while making important
6 contributions, and this body therefore supports the
7 participation of Hawaii's students, teachers, administrators,
8 and educational policymakers in international studies and
9 exchange programs, and other activities that advance
10 intercultural awareness and promote mutual understanding and
11 respect for the citizens of other countries; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages colleges
14 and universities to:

- 15
16 (1) Develop and enhance courses of study to increase
17 students' understanding of global issues and cultural
18 differences;
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20 (2) Continue efforts to further develop courses in foreign
21 languages to prepare students to seek careers in a
22 global marketplace and enhance their understanding of
23 the values of other nations;
24
25 (3) Facilitate the presence of qualified students from
26 other countries with sufficient geographic diversity
27 to inspire an appreciation for differences among
28 cultures and a deeper understanding of the values and
29 perspectives of other people;
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31 (4) Facilitate scholarly exchanges and collaborative
32 research partnerships with educational institutions in
33 other countries;
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35 (5) Encourage educational institutions to recruit and
36 retain excellent faculty to enable Hawaii's students
37 to become competent global citizens;
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39 (6) Develop greater participation in education abroad
40 programs by local students in all disciplines,



1 especially underrepresented students who historically
2 have not participated in such opportunities;

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4 (7) Support the efforts of educational institutions to
5 provide opportunities for domestic and international
6 students to interact effectively and routinely to
7 share their views, perceptions, and experiences; and

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9 (8) Develop innovative public educational forums and
10 venues to explore global issues and showcase world
11 cultures;

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13 and

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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii State Legislature
16 will consider these goals when creating laws that will impact
17 international education efforts in the state; and

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
20 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, President of the
21 Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chair of the
22 Board of Regents, President of the University of Hawaii, Chair
23 of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and the
24 respective executive directors of the University of Hawaii
25 Professional Assembly, NAFSA: Association of International
26 Educators, Hawaii Association of Independent Schools, and Hawaii
27 State Teachers Association.

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30 OFFERED BY: Waman Sakuma

