



**THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION**  
**Of the United States of America**  
**— HAWAII DIVISION —**  
**“UNITING THE WORLD WITH ALOHA”**  
**“CELEBRATING 40 years in HAWAII”**

TESTIMONY

By JOANNE TACHIBANA, President  
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION- (UNA)-USA HAWAII DIVISION  
To the  
COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Chair, Senator Roslyn H. Baker  
Vice-Chair Senator Shan S. Tsutsui

Date: March 27, 2008

Time: 9:45 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211

In consideration of

HB#2045

*Toward establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i*

*The UNA-USA Hawaii Division is writing in support of the Hawaii Global Youth Center. The UNA Hawaii is part of the founding participants for this most important initiative.*

*The creation of the Global Youth Center is a unique opportunity for youth around the world to actively engage in the construction of a better future and making a difference beginning here in Hawaii. The Global Youth Center will be an important catalyst for the youth leaders to meet and work together to create peaceful and sustainable communities worldwide.*

*We are proud to have our first Global Youth Ambassadors – who all gained first hand experience as participants in the East West Center sponsored program in Cambodia.*

*Your support for HB #2045 is most appreciated.*

[info@unahawaii.org](mailto:info@unahawaii.org) (808) 387-7271

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Testimony  
by  
**TERESITA G. BERNALES, ED.D.**  
to the

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Chair: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker

Vice-Chair: Senator Shan Tsutsui

DATE: March 27, 2008

TIME: 9:45AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**In Consideration of  
HB2045  
toward establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i**

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008, STATE OF  
HAWAII

Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in favor of HB # 2045 relating to establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawaii.

I am Teri Bernales, Coordinator for the Global Youth Center Hawaii. I have been involved in this project from the very beginning. My interest in international and global affairs goes a long way back. I came to the United States as an international student and I had experienced first hand the dynamics of living, studying and working in a global environment. My work with youth as a School Counselor for 31 years and my immediate past work with international visitors through the International Visitor Leadership Program of the US Department of State have given me a deep appreciation and understanding of peoples of the world while at the same time promoting mutual understanding and world peace. I truly believe that we can achieve peace and harmony by being engaged in public diplomacy.

Hawaii is definitely the right place for the establishment of the Global Youth Center Hawaii and now is also the right time for it. Hawaii has the potential to be a great instrument of peace being the crossroads of the east and the west. By engaging the youth to be active participants in a variety of ways, we will develop a global population that is ready to meet the challenges of the future in attaining world peace, sustainability and productivity. This Youth Center will develop a truly international framework where youth around the world will actively participate in planning their future. It will offer youth around the world an opportunity to identify what they see as the major global issues to be addressed and will train these future leaders to communicate their concerns more effectively with current policy makers so that they can help shape the debate over issues that will directly affect them. GYC will serve youth in Hawaii as well as a clearinghouse and focal point for Hawaii youth activities concerning global affairs and providing opportunities for Hawaii youth to be more fully engaged in international activities.

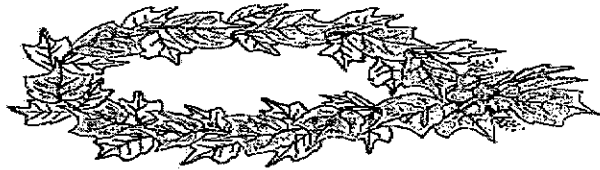
The Global Youth Center will work side by side with Hawaii educational, political, business leaders, and experts at the East-West Center, the International Student/Young Pugwash, and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and will continue involve more local, national and international institutions/ organizations as we go along.

We thank the House for passage of this bill and we look for the same in the Senate.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to give my testimony in support of HB # 2045 and I urge you to pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted by:

Teresita G. Bernales, Ed.D.  
Coordinator  
Global Youth Center Hawaii



*'O'ohie pau ka 'ike i ka hualau hio'okahi*

## ***Connections Public Charter School***

*A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana*

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 2045

John Thatcher, Principal, Connections PCS

Senators Baker, Tsutsui and members of the COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS:

With NCLB forcing homogenized curricula upon so many schools, educators need to take a stand and advocate for "quality education." Too many of our nations youth are being force-fed an education purposely designed for increasing test scores. Curricular integrations with the arts and interdisciplinary approaches are disappearing in our public schools. The phenomenon that we know as globalization has radically transformed our contemporary world but few schools attempt providing students with an opportunity to learn about issues that are defining their future today. Beginning with processes in place since the 1960's growing global economic interdependence has triggered exchange and interaction behavior throughout the world that links economies, societies, cultures, communications, and idea systems as never before in human history.

One compelling aspect of contemporary globalization is the rate and degree of change that it produces. Events in one part of the world move through the global circuits of exchange rapidly producing effects that are distributed (however differently) through a multitude of countries. Seemingly almost no aspect of modern life is exempt from this pattern. We experience the effects of increased global interdependence in trips to the grocery store and to the mall, in responding to how jobs are created and distributed in our society, in the patterns of tourism that sustain the Hawaiian economy, and, indeed, as we have recently learned, in how the sub-prime mortgage crisis of the mainland US has been exported to global financial markets. Close examination reveals global dimensions to how health care is generated and provided, how crime affects our national borders and social processes, how our food is grown, priced and consumed, and a wide range of others.

One of the students from my school in Hilo participated in the East West Center's AsiaPacificEd "Partnership for Youth" Program this past summer. She and two other students from Hawaii joined a group of students from the mainland and focused on the Khmer Rouge War Crimes Tribunal as a case study. They explored the media's role in covering internationally significant events and media's role in the democratic process. In Phnom Penh, the students worked with Cambodian youth, researching the progress of the Tribunal, and interviewed judicial, governmental, and NGO staff members. The majority of the expenses for the students from Hawaii were covered by the Global Youth Center of Hawaii (GYC). As a principal, I was so impressed with this project that I joined the GYC and have been attending meetings virtually from Hilo.

The GYC has also helped facilitate my school's involvement in other exciting opportunities for our middle and high school students. For some years the Globalization Research Center of the

University of Hawaii, Manoa (GRC) has been developing an on-line high school globalization curriculum. That work ended in 2004 as funding ran out. A current proposal is moving this effort beyond its current stage and model, which exists as a beta site accessible at [www.earthwindow.com/grc2](http://www.earthwindow.com/grc2), and into a successor model that can be made available free of charge to all schools that wish to use it. A group of our students and staff are working with the GRC to explore the expansion of this exciting curriculum to its full measure and to actively test new manifestations of the program. We have briefed the GYC as to our intentions and anticipated partners in this endeavor.

High school curricula are typically crowded, conservative with response to change, and expensive with respect to the development of new curricular material. The result is that in terms of novel content, high school curricula often lag behind the developments of the "real world". The situation becomes critical in an era of rapid and highly novel social change, such as that represented by globalization. High school students live a life dominated by the facts of a rapidly changing globalized world and often experience a disconnect between their own understandings and the materials studied in the classroom. The result is a range of well-documented difficulties associated with notions of motivation and relevance.

If "we" do not address this disconnect in a compelling and purposeful way, we risk educating students to a world that no longer exists. The pretense of this remark is as unsettling as it is true in that it signals the enormous challenges we face in all our social institutions to adapt in meaningful ways to the changes that have come upon us as a result of these phenomena. The globalization curriculum is one step in the direction of engaging young people in the confrontation with these dynamics and consequences of rapid change.

Senate Bill 2233 provides Hawaii with an incredible opportunity to take a role of leadership as we forge a bridge between the East and West and showcase our diverse cultural heritage. Please help us bring our vision of peace and meaningful education to the world by supporting this bill.

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Testimony

**Sue Berg**

**Ke Ea Hou**

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**Ways and Means (WAM) COMMITTEE**

**DATE: March 27, 2008**

TIME: 9:45

PLACE: Conference Room 221

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

HB #2045

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008 STATE OF  
HAWAII

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2045 for the Hawaii Global Youth Center.

My name is Sue Berg. I testify as Donor Advisor, Ke Ea Hou, a Donor Advised Fund, Hawaii Community Foundation.

The Hawaii Millennium Commission established Ke Ea Hou in 2000 during The State of Hawaii's Millennium Celebration. Ke Ea Hou is new beginning.

One of the primary intents of Ke Ea Hou is the establishment of an International – Intergenerational Center in Hawaii. For the past 2 years, I have served on the volunteer committee providing support for the design and development of the Global Youth Center.

One of our most recent accomplishments is finalization of the Global Youth Center's bylaws. The bylaws clearly state the intents of the organization:

“This corporation (The Hawaii Global Youth Center) has been formed for charitable purposes, to support collaboration between youth from Hawaii and around the world to shape a more peaceful and healthier Earth. The four goals of the corporation support collaboration between Hawaii youth and International youth in order to:

1. Identify and address major global issues
2. Develop and use their leadership potential
3. Interact directly with policy decision makers and public opinion makers
4. Develop and lead partnership projects that positively impact communities and people locally and worldwide.

Thank you for your consideration of this worthy measure and giving Hawaii's young people experiences and education as part of a global community and to shape global events.

Please contact me by phone: 282-7011 or email:[susanberg@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:susanberg@hawaii.rr.com) if I can be of assistance. A complete copy of GYC's bylaws is available for your review.

Dear Chair Rosalyn H. Baker and  
Vice Chair Shan s. Tsutsui and  
Members, Ways and Means Committee

Thank you for allowing me to send you my testimony on H.B. 2045. I am in favof this bill and request that you pass it.

I wish I could get to your public hearing on HB2045 on 3/27/08, but I am not able to get back to the legislature. As a former legislator and the Chair of the International Affairs Committee I am still involved with the HCR151 HD1 to promote the Global Yourth Center. Your Committee supported it then. As a retired volunteer my main focus has been to continue to work for peace.

Back in 1999 it was through the efforts of former Representative Dennis Arakaki and Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland the first World Youth Conference was held in Honolulu. Their theme was "BE THE CHANGE" and it attracted almost 1000 young people from all over the world, determined to prepare themselves to lead a safer, more secure and peaceful world. It started a program that was carried on through the 2nd World Youth Conference in the Kingdom of Morocco and the 3rd World Youth Conference in Scotland, both at which I was fortunate to be an observer. I was so proud to represent Hawaii because I have always believed that Hawaii should lead the world to a more peaceful world.

As we approach the election of 2008, hopefully we can finally get rid of the Bush disastrous government. This is an opportune time for Hawaii to lead the nation to train our youth to be the leaders in this better world.

I urge you to continue the work of former Representative Dennis Arakiki and Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland that started a youth world movement that is still trying to carry on their work.

Because of the interest in this idea, the East West Center has been a temporary office, manned by volunteer workers, but this bill would help put the State of Hawaii on record to lead the nation for a more peaceful world.

Please pass this bill.  
Helene H. Hale



**Written Testimony**

**Of**

**Roland Lagareta**

**To the**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair**

**DATE: March 27, 2008**

**TIME: 9:45AM**

**PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street**

**In Consideration of HB2045**

**TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008 STATE OF HAWAII**

**Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony on HB2045, relating to establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawaii.**

**I write to you to express my enthusiastic support of HB2045.**

**During the course of the last several decades I have enjoyed participating in several programs and initiatives that have focused on encouraging the exchange of cultures between Hawaii and its neighbors in the Asia Pacific region. In the late 1960's and early 1970's I was on the staff of the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council ("PAAC"), and today I serve as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the East-West Center. My belief echoes that of our former Governor Burns, which is that Hawaii strive to be the "hub of the pacific."**

**I believe that HB2045 is a bill that promotes this concept and furthers this objective.**

**In the past, there have been several programs that have allowed Hawaii's youth to meet and engage youth from other islands and other countries in this region. The East-West Center, sent hundreds of its participants from Asia and the Pacific into Hawaii schools. The concept was that these visitors would share their cultures and perspectives with our young people and communities and we would be able to share Hawaii with them. Hawaii's Department of Education ("DOE") supported these programs wholeheartedly. An example of this support was DOE's encouragement of its teachers to facilitate the integration process between the children from Hawaii and the visitors from abroad. Additionally, the University of Hawaii had several programs that reached into the community such as the Pan-Pacific Education and Communication Experiments by Satellite ("PEACESAT") program, which still does fine work connecting Hawaii and its youth with other young people in the Pacific region. Another example of a program that encouraged the exchange of cultures was the University of Hawaii International Student Office which supported efforts by University of Hawaii students to share their cultures in schools and the community.**

**It is my position that the Global Youth Center will complement and build upon the past and continued success of these programs. Today, it is clear that Hawaii has the unique opportunity of playing an integral role in the continued development of the Asia Pacific region. The growth of the Asian economy and that economy's increased role in the world arena only emphasizes all that Hawaii has to gain from supporting initiatives that encourage the exchange of ideas with our neighbors in this region.**

**At the East West Center, I have been privileged to work with East West Center President Morrison, other national and international members, and the staff of the East-West Center in developing the East-West Center's 2005-2010 Strategic Plan. Among other strategic goals the plan calls for developing "leadership capacity" by providing and encouraging quality education for current and future leaders. This particular strategic goal involved discussions on strengthening the center's involvement with the local community and supporting community efforts to project Hawaii into the Asia Pacific region.**

**The Global Youth Center is an idea that has been in development for several years. It represents the efforts of educators and business leaders from Hawaii and around the world. The establishment of a Global Youth Center in Hawaii is an idea "whose time has come" and I and many other members of the Hawaii and world community look forward to working together in the development and growth of this idea.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB2045.**

**Roland Lagareta**

**testimony**

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**From:** Teresita Bernales [tgb103@hawaii.rr.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2008 9:28 PM

**To:** testimony

**Subject:** FW: testimony of support for HB2045

Testimony  
by  
VERONIKA LINTON,  
North Hawaii Youth Coalition, World Youth Congress Series Representative  
to the  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker  
Vice-Chair Senator Shan Tsutsui  
DATE: March 27, 2008  
TIME: 9:45AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**In Consideration of  
HB2045  
toward establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i  
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008, STATE OF HAWAII**

Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker and Senator Shan Tsutsui and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

It is my pleasure to add words of support to HB2045 relating to the establishment of the Hawaii Global Youth Center. My interest goes back to 1999 when the first World Youth Congress was held in Honolulu, bringing nearly 1000 young people from over 100 countries together to see how they could affect positive change in the new millennium. The event was life changing for many involved in the congress, and the next 2 congresses in Morocco and Scotland changed the lives of the Hawaii delegates I accompanied.

We had a strong group of 13 Hawaii delegates, our Hawaii Hui, that we took to the Moroccan congress. When we met after the congress to ask what the youth wanted to bring back to Hawaii as a result of their experiences there, they unanimously said they wanted to create a Global Youth Center on Oahu, "the gathering place". They wanted to continue the momentum of the congress and bring young people from around the world to Hawaii to learn, volunteer, network, and create ways to make a difference in their communities and the World.

Through skills learning and educational classes and workshops, mentorships, action projects, international exchanges, involvement with local decision makers, etc, the Global Youth Center Hawaii

will be a hub for the young generation to have a voice and make a difference in themselves, and the world. Hawaii will also benefit greatly from the action projects, learning opportunities, and international perspectives the local youth will gain from participating with the GYCH. Hawaii young people will play in integral part of creating, maintaining, and evolving the GYCH as there will be a youth advisory board and several seats on the executive board for young people. Empowering young people to make a difference in this time of great concern in regards to environmental, social, and economic issues is our duty.

The next generation is very aware of what is happening in the world and that they will inherit the problems. Let's make Hawaii a shining example of profound support and empowerment for youth to help them secure a healthy, beautiful, harmonious future for themselves, their children's children, and all beings everywhere. Please support measure HB2045, the creation of the Global Youth Center Hawaii. Thank You.

Sincerely,

Veronika Linton  
[spandahawaii@mac.com](mailto:spandahawaii@mac.com)

## testimony

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**From:** myrnam@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2008 9:09 AM  
**To:** testimony  
**Cc:** myrnam@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** HB2045

TO: SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE Chair: Senator Rosalyn H. Baker  
Vice-Chair: Senator Shan Tsutsui

DATE: March 27, 2008 TIME: 9:45AM PLACE: Conference Room 211 State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street.

FROM: Myrna B. Murdoch Children's Rights Council

In Consideration of HB2045 toward establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008, STATE OF HAWAI'I  
Chair Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in favor of HB # 2045 relating to establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawaii. I truly believe that we can achieve peace and harmony by being engaged in public diplomacy. Hawaii is definitely the right place for the establishment of the Global Youth Center Hawaii and now is also the right time for it. Hawaii has the potential to be a great instrument of peace being the crossroads of the east and the west. By engaging the youth to be active participants in a variety of ways, we will develop a global population that is ready to meet the challenges of the future in attaining world peace, sustainability and productivity. This Youth Center will develop a truly international framework where youth around the world will actively participate in planning their future. It will offer youth around the world an opportunity to identify what they see as the major global issues to be addressed and will train these future leaders to communicate their concerns more effectively with current policy makers so that they can help shape the debate over issues that will directly affect them. GYC will serve youth in Hawaii as well as a clearinghouse and focal point for Hawaii youth activities concerning global affairs and providing opportunities for Hawaii youth to be more fully engaged in international activities. The Global Youth Center will work side by side with Hawaii educational, political, business leaders, and experts at the East-West Center, the International Student/Young Pugwash, and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and will continue involve more local, national and international institutions/ organizations as we go along. We thank the House for passage of this bill and we look for the same in the Senate. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to give my testimony in support of HB # 2045 and I urge you to pass this bill.

Testimony

by

**STEPHANIE MCCANDLESS REFORD**

**Cofounder, Global Youth Center**

To the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: March 27, 2008

TIME: 9:45AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**In Consideration of HB #2045  
Establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i**

**TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008 STATE OF HAWAII**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in favor of HB # 2045 for the establishment of a Global Youth Center in Hawaii. We are grateful to the East-West Center for providing the location and environment for its development.

**As you know, swift passage of Bill HB 2045 into Hawaii law will not require any funds, but it offers three important benefits to leaders of today and tomorrow – and to the future of Hawaii.**

**First, Bill HB 2045 creates an opportunity for our Hawaii Global Youth Center to be the Pacific focal point for a new global youth initiative recently launched by the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon himself — and to increase recognition for the ability of many**

**of the best minds in Hawaii to help youth to tackle the most pressing global issues of the day, including poverty, illiteracy and the environment. Let me explain ...**

In just the past months, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched his own youth initiative: A Global Youth Center at the United Nations. The recently released UN World Youth Report, 2007, compiled by UN Youth Focal Point, Patience Stephens, gives vivid testimony to the progress and challenges facing youth today.

Patience Stephens and her UN Global Youth Initiative colleagues are the key. It is our hope to make our Hawaii Global Youth Center (GYC) their presence in the Pacific and the world. The goals and purposes they have stated (see link <http://www.un-gaid.org/en/node/589> ) are so consistent with our own that we — and they — can only benefit by working together to achieve them.

The UN Secretary-General's new Youth Initiative calls for our investment in the best thinking of the young people around the world. Already, the GYC in Hawaii has begun providing this in collaboration with the International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP) leadership and other groups, such as Peace Child with its World Youth Congress. We have the incentive and the means within the GYC, here in Hawaii, for the world's finest young minds to deal with the world's greatest problems: poverty, health issues, illiteracy and the environment. This would fulfill the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a leadership that the UN supports.

This is why a strong message from our State Legislature supporting the Global Youth Center in Hawaii law is vital to achieving this end. We must speak with one voice to bring about the fulfillment of Hawaii's leadership role for young people in the world. This Hawaii Global Youth Center is an initiative of leaders in our Legislature. Its early enthusiastic passage deserves our strongest priority.

**The second important reason why this Bill should be swiftly passed is that it is the culmination of extensive work here in Hawaii to launch the GYC — and by others in countries around the globe who share our belief that Hawaii is the perfect place to host such an important new “global” organization that promotes ideas and leadership.**

My experience with the roots of the GYC goes back to the 1960s when, as a Punahou Academy history teacher and then as Executive Director of the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council (PAAC), I was privileged to deal with an impressive legacy of experience in international education in Hawaii.

The vision initiating a Global Youth Center in Hawaii has grown to project an even greater potential for the State of Hawaii, and for the youth of Hawaii and the world. In the years that we have been preparing to establish this Global Youth Center, its potential and magnitude have grown to exceed even the original vision. The reasons are well-developed in the early legislation: HCR 153, HCR 151, and now HB 2045, as well as in supporting testimony. Hawaii is a perfect place to house such potential: Hawaii's ideal positioning in the Pacific; our multi-cultural diversity and history; the global need for Hawaii's unique contribution — no need to elaborate further. What is clear today is that the readiness is now. It is time for launching, time for lift-off. The United Nations has seen this importance. Our vision must not be caught wanting.

The foundation and superstructure of this Center have been well-defined, developed, and thorough, over many years — almost totally by volunteer service. It is more than ready for the resources now available. This represents considerable work and endorsements from the United Nations, from thinkers and doers from all over the world — the United States, Canada, Mexico, (Pacific Rim countries too), the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Europe, from younger people and



senior professionals, from individuals and well-respected organizations — all people of skill and vision (see *GYC Family Tree* attached). **All eyes are on Hawaii.** The time is right to move forward.

Governor Linda Lingle puts it powerfully. She speaks of the importance of transcending Hawaii's land and tourist-based economy to develop a new base of intellect and ideas. **The Hawaii Global Youth Center should become the single, most dynamic vehicle for coming of age in the 21st Century.** As Governor Lingle said in her 2006 Inaugural remarks: *"Our shared vision for the future is an assurance that there will always be a place here at home for our young people when they are ready to build their own lives, and that they will be a part of finding solutions to the challenges that lie ahead."*

**The third and final reason why we strongly endorse the passage of HB 2045 to establish a Global Youth Center is that it has the potential to influence the lives of every high school and university student here in Hawaii — and tens of thousands more around the globe — who want to train and prepare for leadership in dealing with truly global issues. This is perhaps the most important reason for urgency.**

Our traditional treatment of young people has been to care for them, nurture, educate and train them, and then to trivialize their role in our society. However, in 1970, United Nations Under-Secretary-General Simeon O. Adebo brought to his United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) a means to apply Hawaii's successful approach to creating youth leaders (the programs of PAAC) to developing nations. I joined his UNITAR staff in New York with this direct assignment. He found, instead of receptivity at the United Nations, roadblocks of traditional disdain for the role of youth: *"What have we to do with children? This is a serious and respectable Institute"*, so I was relegated to developing training programs for baby diplomats, new delegates coming to the

United Nations for the first time. I couldn't help recalling the wisdom of Elizabeth Barrett Browning,

*"Earth's crammed with heaven,*

*And every common bush afire with God;*

*But only he who sees takes off his shoes;*

*The rest sit 'round it and pluck blackberries."*

The tsunami of December 2005 made the reality of global citizenship apparent to every child, man and woman on this planet with the knowledge, for the first time in history, that they are global citizens. There was an outpouring of compassion, an agony of shared response, and an eagerness to help, from all over the world. It unleashed unprecedented wealth from unimaginable sources from everywhere, from all generations, and these resources remain. There are still serious lessons in management and distribution to be learned, but we cannot afford to miss this potential for our Hawaii Global Youth Center.

The Hawaii GYC will develop for youth, both in Hawaii and globally, a Center that will give our young people the means and incentive to take their place in the world, not only later when they are educated to do so, but now when many generations can benefit from their insights from new ways of thinking — from the different ways they see the world from the ways in which we do. Never in history has it been more important to develop new ways of thinking, of doing everything to save humanity and the planet from the imminent threats of nuclear suicide, the entrapment terrorism and environmental degradation. We need the new thinking of our young people now. The call of this century is expressed in the mandate of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto of 1955: "*We have to learn to think in a new way.*" and "*Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.*"

How do we do that? How do we escape the perceptions that lock us into the fear of terrorism and the realities of nuclear proliferation, and provide for real environmental sustainability? We need all the help we can get. How can we create the opportunities for our youth to unlock their potential and encourage their contributions to our mutual future now? The Hawaii Global Youth Center presents the groundwork for this new hope, not only for youth in Hawaii, but, by invitation, from members of their generations all over the world. There are tremendous efforts taking place today that would provide great partnerships within our Global Youth Center. They would give us the mandate and imperative for seeking funding that is equal to the challenge. Thousands of small efforts, related but unconnected, can be gathered in the embrace of our Global Youth Center, providing a basis for funding that is worthy of the effort required. There are mega-foundations and funds seeking projects of the magnitude we propose. We are faced with global challenges. In the Global Youth Center lies the vision that is seeking responses of global magnitude.

It is time to launch. This Bill HB 2045 presently before the 24th State Legislature is presented for action now. All the ingredients are ready, and so are we! We support this Bill and ask for its immediate passage without reservations.

What an honor it has been for me to work with this vision since the 1960s and now to be welcomed home to Hawaii to see this fulfillment take place.

Greatest thanks to Hawaii for the privilege of gathering support for Hawaii's Global Youth Center from around the world: from the United Nations, the United States, Canada, Mexico, (Pacific Rim countries too), the United Kingdom, Nigeria, Europe. We look forward to working with youth at all economic levels, both locally and globally, in realizing the benefits of Hawaii's Global Youth Center. Bravo for this incentive, Hawaii — and IMUA.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stephanie McCandless Reford*

*Co-founder, Global Youth Center*

*(from the Global Youth Center by-laws: Intent and details relevant to legislation)*

SECTION 1. World peace is a major collaborative goal and youth are the key to attaining world peace, environmental sustainability and human health and well being for future generations. Hawaii's location at the center of the Pacific rim region between Asia and the Americas, its diverse culture, and its many shared languages provide an excellent strategic forum for meetings and exchanges, as demonstrated by the Millennium Youth People's Congress that was held in Hawaii in October, 1999.

This act is consistent with the vision to effectively address our global society threats from international conflict and violence, as well as social, economic, and environmental problems that put human security at increasing risk. New tools and methods need to be developed within an interdisciplinary framework in order to actively search for and realize sustainable and equitable solutions. To this end, the people of the world, particularly the youth, must learn to think and act collaboratively in new ways.

The purpose of this Act is to establish a Global Youth Center in Hawaii within and in collaboration with the University of Hawaii.

SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part IV, subpart M, to be appropriately designated to read as follows:

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collaboration linking Hawaii youth with people around the world, working together to discover creative ways to develop our global future, and help shape a more peaceful and healthier Earth.

(b) The Global Youth Center shall support collaboration between Hawaii and International youth in order to empower them to accomplish the following four goals:

(1) Identify and address major global issues

(2) Develop and use their leadership potential worldwide

(3) Interact directly with policy decision makers and public opinion makers

(4) Develop and lead partnership projects that positively impact communities and people locally and world-wide.

(c) For purposes of subsections (a) and (b), the Global Youth Center shall collaborate with Hawaii's leaders in education, politics, business and appropriate international organizations."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

### **Important Background:**

This Global Youth Center for Hawaii is the outcome of years of local effort and tradition. In 1887, King David Kalakaua knew that a modern Hawaii would need leaders to take its place among the nations of the world. He initiated a youth leadership education program to provide opportunities for future leaders to study abroad.

In the 1930s, the forerunner of the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council (PAAC) began international education activities in Hawaii's high schools. I was privileged to continue these in the 1960s as PAAC's Executive Director. In 1970, my work

at the United Nations' Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) only sharpened the clear perception of the need to build on Hawaii's experience to benefit the world's young people. The outgrowth of Hawaii's PAAC experience in Canada, called "INTRODUCING: THE WORLD", provides an excellent prototype and model for the Hawaii GYC, as well as potential software for worldwide projects like Nicholas Negroponte's One Laptop per Child (OLPC) — a proposed Space Camp for Hawaii, ongoing dialogue, and exploration across continents and cultures among young people and mentors all over the world. Today, the alumni of both PAAC and the Canadian experience that grew out of it advise us on the development of the GYC and want to be part of it. These alumni of all ages are people whose lives have been changed by their experience and these opportunities. Dr. Jeffrey Boutwell, Executive Director, International Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (Nobel Peace Prize 1995) came to Hawaii in 2007 to help launch the proposals that will put this Global Youth Center into being.

When you read the work contributed by Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra, Chairman International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP), Dr. Jeffrey Boutwell, my own records and those of local leaders, you will see how this experience developed. You'll also find inspiring achievement. See its history in the Summary and Talking Points presented to Hawaii's Legislature last year. This project was launched by the Hawaii Legislature after experience with the Millennium Youth Congress in 1999 and because of the vision of its leaders: Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Representatives Dennis Arakaki and Helene Hale and now Representatives John Mizuno and Rida Cabanilla. I was invited to join them as they launched HCR 153 and 151 bringing this into being. The Volunteer Committee that grew out of those early hearings in 2003 has already contributed valuable thought, dedication and hours of effort. Just since the last session of the Legislature, they have formed themselves into a Board with Roland Lagareta, President, Sister Joan Chatfield, Treasurer, and Teresita Bernales, Co-ordinator. During these past months, this Board, along with volunteer specialists, created and approved the mission

statement, by-laws, registrations and procedures for moving forward. In 2007, the Bill presenting the Global Youth Center successfully passed every committee of the House and Senate that heard it. However, that Bill now remains in the final Conference Committee without having been cleared by that Committee. It remains there today, waiting for passage, with the powerful testimony that caused it to clear all the committees that heard it. The present Bill, HB 2045 asks the support of the Legislature in Hawaii law without reservation and without asking for funds to make clear Hawaii's support of this vision and to enable it to move forward internationally.

Testimony  
by  
**Joshua Gorman**  
to the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**  
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair  
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: March 27, 2008  
TIME: 9:45 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 211  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**In Consideration of HB #2045**  
**Establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i**

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008 STATE OF HAWAII

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Tsutsui and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in support of HB # 2045 for the establishment of a Global Youth Center in Hawaii.

As we continue forward in this new global millennium, the state of Hawai'i finds itself charged with a unique calling: the establishment of a Global Youth Center that will lead the way in the development of the next generation both at home and in communities all around the world.

As a place, Hawai'i is a point of convergence for people, cultures, and thinking from all corners of the planet. It lies as the crossroads between the East and the West and has become a center for cultural diversity and social



innovation as all places of coming together give rise to new life and creative expression. No setting could be more ideal for the education of our next generation of global leaders than the islands of Hawai'i.

Youth are the hope and promise of humanity. It is our young generations that are coming-of-age on today's world stage—with fresh energy, new thinking, and hopeful spirits—that hold the bright future of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is within them that we must invest our highest vision and values, for they will lead the world tomorrow as they are already leading the world of today.

As a young leader who is a highly active member of the emerging global youth movement, I affirm with great conviction the creation of the Global Youth Center Hawai'i. As a student who has created an interdisciplinary bachelor's degree called "Global Youth and Social Change" at George Mason University, and one who has deeply researched issues surrounding global youth, I clearly recognize the immense value of creating such a center of study, collaboration, and education.

With the passage of this bill, it is certain that the Global Youth Center Hawai'i will play a role of historical importance and influence through its impact on the young generations coming-of-age in the twenty-first century. As this legislature holds the power to help usher in this promising future, I ask that you support the GYCH in its entirety and that you further its path towards becoming an embodied reality.

This is the right place. These are the right people. These are the right times. Let us seize this opportunity together!

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Gorman  
Founding Director, Generation Waking Up  
Co-founder & Director, Global Passageways  
Big Island of Hawai'i & Washington, DC  
[joshua@generationwakingup.org](mailto:joshua@generationwakingup.org)  
(703) 380-0913

*(from the Global Youth Center by-laws: Intent and details relevant to legislation)*

SECTION 1. World peace is a major collaborative goal and youth are the key to attaining world peace, environmental sustainability and human health and well being for future generations. Hawaii's location at the center of the Pacific rim region between Asia and the Americas, its diverse culture, and its many shared languages provide an excellent strategic forum for meetings and exchanges, as demonstrated by the Millennium Youth People's Congress that was held in Hawaii in October, 1999.

This act is consistent with the vision to effectively address our global society threats from international conflict and violence, as well as social, economic, and environmental problems that put human security at increasing risk. New tools and methods need to be developed within an interdisciplinary framework in order to actively search for and realize sustainable and equitable solutions. To this end, the people of the world, particularly the youth, must learn to think and act collaboratively in new ways.

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(b) The Global Youth Center shall support collaboration between Hawaii and International youth in order to empower them to accomplish the following four goals:

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SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

**Important Background:**

Whereas, Hawai’i is noted for its strategic location from both the military and educational perspectives; the East West Center was placed here on that merit; the author James Michener wrote of Hawai’i as *“no place on earth that even began to compete with these islands in their capacity to encourage natural life to develop and radically up to its own potential best”*;

Whereas, being a researcher of sustainable development, Hawai’i offers the best living laboratory of a paradise that appears to be reaching its visible carrying capacity; in other words an observable small scale Earth;

Whereas, I was also participated in the Global Youth Assembly (UNESCO) project in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 2007 where over 600 international youth gathered to provide a “speak out” on global issues; the proceedings of which are being incorporated into Alberta’s primary school curriculum;

Whereas, Hawaiian indigenous population are well on the road to empowerment through the expanding UH Hawaiian Studies program thus offering a collaborative approach by contributing towards the transformational educational shift; and Agenda 21 recognizes the need for the integration of “traditional knowledge” (sensitive to intellectual property rights) into sustainable development practices;

Whereas, the GYC initiative dovetails with international trends as the United Nations has concluded a change in our learning will improve the quality of our life and “Education is a motor for change” (UNESCO, 2005); therefore the United Nations launched the “UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development – 2005-2014” and developed an International Implementation Scheme (IIS) for the decade; as with most United Nations initiatives the draft IIS was a result of extensive consultation, and the information can offer guidance to such an endeavour;

These factors are only a part of a much larger trend that the GYC can capitalize on and I hope my research of these developments will contribute to the success of the timely initiative.

Testimony  
by  
**R. Don Peel, P.Geol. MSc.**  
to the

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**As an earth scientist (geologist) I have been studying the field of “sustainable development” for over eight years, towards a Masters degree (University of Alberta) and now a doctoral degree (graduating 2010) through the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawai’i (UH), Mānoa, as an East-West Center Student Affiliate.**

The research has led me to the conclusion our youth are an important component to formulate the answers to the issues the World is now facing. Those answers will be expressed if we can induce the youths' participation by incorporating “transformative learning” into our educational institutions. The concept of the Hawai’i’s GYC, holds much promise to be a “change agent” for this much needed learning paradigm, and can tap into the progress the EWC’s *Education Leadership Institute* has been generating through the *International Forum for Education 2020*. The GYC initiative also comes at a time of urgency as indicated by the Worldwatch Institute and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In support of this initiative I am tailoring my doctoral studies towards the initiation of the GYC, therefore I am following and assisting the process wherever possible.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Don Peel, P.Geol., MSc.  
*Sustainable Development Researcher and Practitioner*

*(from the Global Youth Center by-laws: Intent and details relevant to legislation)*

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