

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair; Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Higher Education, House of Representatives

From: Karen Cross
Program Manager,
Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Program on Conflict Resolution

Re: Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 2750

For: Hearing on Thursday, January 31, 2008, 3:00 p.m. (Conference Room 309)

I support H.B. 2750, which provides support for the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Program on Conflict Resolution. The bill will allow the Institute to meet the needs of its expanded student base and increased course offerings by providing support for essential staffing and services. Today I am testifying in my personal capacity. I have served as the Program Manager for the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Program and Conflict Resolution for the past twenty years.

U.S. Senator Spark M. Matsunaga expressed his hope that “every student enrolled in Hawai`i’s public university system will be exposed to peace studies.” Our courses are offered at both undergraduate and graduate levels, but it is the multidisciplinary nature of peace and conflict resolution that makes it possible to imagine that Senator Matsunaga’s dream could become reality for Hawai`i. Our courses draw in future and current lawmakers, educators, social workers, business managers, international aid workers, organizational leaders, professors and administrative personnel. Our students use their practical peacemaking skills to transform their workplaces, schools, organizations, governance structures, communities, families, and fellow global citizens. Peace and conflict prevention, management and resolution are woven into the university curriculum.

We offer both theory and practice opportunities for our students. When the Institute is asked to provide a service to an organization, we try to package it as a clinical experience in practical peacemaking by offering mediation, facilitation, dialogue, or nonviolent action. Our students acquire the tools to contribute to a peaceful Hawai`i and beyond. Our graduates know it is the time to discuss, study and participate in finding solutions to local and global problems. It is critical to help Hawai`i become a working model of practical peacemaking locally and globally. A good way to do it is to support House Bill No. 2750 and help the Institute to build and strengthen its programs. Please note, that I would not want this bill to supplant any other essential funds in the University of Hawai`i budget.

Haunani Olds

From: Louann Guanson [guanson@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 6:58 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Cc: shields@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony in support of HB2750

LATE TESTIMONY

Rev.Dr.Kaleo Patterson and Dr. Haaheo Guanson Lecturers - Pacific Peace Seminar at the Matsunaga Peace Institute, University of Hawaii

Committee on Higher Education - House of Representatives

DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2008

TIME: 3:00 pm

HB 2750
Making An Appropriation to the University of Hawaii for Peace Education

We are in support of HB2750 Making an Appropriation to the University of Hawaii For Peace Education.

There is a need for more faculty positions and administrative staff to support the University of Hawaii's Peace Education efforts.

We feel that Hawaii has much to offer in the field of peacemaking, especially in the areas of indigenous peacemaking and ho'oponopono. Courses on topics such as indigenous peacemaking and ho'oponopono can help to promote peace and nonviolence in Hawaii.

More than ever, in this United Nations Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World - 2001 to 2010, there is a need to increase peace education to help in making a shift from a culture of violence to a culture of nonviolence.

Mahalo for taking the time to consider this important and timely issue.

Hauhani Olds

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Britain Eakin [britain@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2008 9:08 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HB 2750

Aloha. My name is Britain Eakin. I am an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii, Manoa campus pursuing a degree in Peace Studies through the Peace and Conflict Education Department and the Spark M. Matsunaga Institute for Peace. This e-mail is intended for the Committee on Higher Education regarding HB 2750 to be heard on January 30, 2008.

As a student seeking a degree in Peace Studies, I can attest to the dire necessity to improve the funding of the program. The contents of the program are immensely important to the the enhancement of global peace and security and to our collective futures. The more widely available this program becomes, the better. Alternative methods for the resolution of conflict locally, nationally and globally are high in demand, particularly as we find ourselves in the midst of a very long and drawn out war in Iraq and at the doorstep of yet another military engagement with Iran.

Furthermore, I can also attest to the incredible richness of the program, which has enhanced my life dramatically and pointed me down a positive and productive path towards contributing to something greater than myself - leaving behind a better world than I was given. The program needs assistance in order to grow. Peace Studies is such an important field and it is such important work. Do not underestimate the value of fostering this program and helping it move forward. It is such a blessing to have this department at our University. I have been looking for graduate programs in Peace Studies in the U.S. and I have not been able to find one yet. The program is inovative, groundbreaking and absolutely necessary. Please show your support for the training of individuals who can come up with creative solutions to some of the world's greatest problems and conflicts.

Sincerely,
Britain Eakin

University of Hawaii at Manoa

The William S. Richardson School of Law

2515 Dole Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Phone (808) 956-6546, Fax (808) 956-5569

January 30, 2008

To: Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair; Representative Joe Bertram III, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Committee on Higher Education, House of Representatives

From: Professor John Barkai, William S. Richardson School of Law

Re: Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 2750

For: Hearing on Thursday, January 31, 2008, 3:00 p.m. (Conference Room 309)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2750, which would enable the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and the Program on Conflict Resolution (the "Institute") to strengthen and expand its programs. I am a Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law, although today I am testifying today in my personal capacity.

I am one of the founding members of the Program on Conflict Resolution and have been involved with its work since its inception more than 20 years ago. I serve on the advisory board for the Program on Conflict Resolution. Dispute resolution is one of my primary teaching areas. I am particularly pleased that the Institute is offering a Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution, which graduated its first students in 2003. Several of the Institute's students have taken my Negotiations and ADR class at the Law School.

The Institute and its affiliated faculty have engaged in large amount of University and community activities related to peace and conflict resolution over the past 20 years. Their performance has been excellent. They have contributed – and often lead – peace and conflict resolution activities in our state. They are well respected nationally and internationally. They have published a variety of papers and done other important research. Their activities reflect very positively on the Institute, the University, and our state.

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This program is growing, due in part to the strong demand for professionals with conflict resolution skills. The Institute frequently hires outside teachers to staff courses in the Graduate Certificate. This gives students an opportunity to learn from practitioners in the field. However, the Institute also needs to expand its internal faculty, to ensure that core courses are offered each year and that students receive academic counseling and supervision.

I am also a strong supporter of the mediation and facilitation work that the Program on Conflict Resolution provides to University departments and organizations outside the University, and I have participated in many of those projects. These projects promote harmony in our community and provide important clinical experience for students, who can assist faculty and develop their own conflict resolution skills. However, the Institute is presently operating with a very tiny staff and cannot sustain these programs without additional support.

More financial support would increase the impact of the Institute and further improve the Graduate Certificate. Thus, I strongly support House Bill No. 2750. I do wish to note, however, that I would not want this bill to supplant any other essential funds in the University of Hawaii budget.

Professor John Barkai

Hauani Olds

From: Manoa MEDIATION and Peace Club [mmpc@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 1:33 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION Testimony



kevin duffy
estimony.doc (8 K..)

From: Kevin Duffy, The Manoa Mediation and Peace Club at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa
To: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2008
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Measure Number: HB 2750: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR PEACE EDUCATION.
1 Copy

LATE TESTIMONY

On behalf of the Manoa Mediation and Peace Club at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and as a Major in Peace Studies myself, I would like to attest to the importance of Peace Studies to our University and to the amount of student interest that there is in Peace and Conflict studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Business majors, Political science majors, ethno-botany majors, and so on... I've taking Peace studies classes that have accommodated students who study in a wide variety of subject areas. Still, despite these differences in academic directions, there is at least one thing that all of these students have in common; an interest in Peace and Conflict studies. My classmates were among many students from various disciplines who chose Peace Studies courses over hundreds of other classes offered at UH. One look at the enrollment of students in Peace Studies classes this semester and anyone can see that there is considerable student interest in this program.

<http://myuh.hawaii.edu/uhdad/avail.classes?i=MAN&t=200830&s=PACE>

At the undergraduate level these numbers demonstrate overwhelming popularity when compared with other departments.

Within such a class is where the seeds for our club were planted. A club based on the lone interest of one student cannot exist and likewise it was through a collective effort that our club was formed. After less than a semester of existence our club's themes have captured the interest of 62 students who subscribe to our club's weekly emails. Students eyes and interest spark at the idea of Peace and Conflict resolution. With short notice we expect 10 or more students to attend our club's first mediation training session to be held this coming weekend. We expect both of these numbers to double by the end of the semester as we expand our services and as students learn about us. For more information on our student created, student run club please visit our website at: <http://www2.hawaii.edu/~mmpc/>

The world today is a precarious environment at the international, national and individual levels. One thing however does remain stable and that is the importance of Peace and Conflict Education. This growing field will prove to be instrumental in all of our futures. The interest in Peace Studies that I have mentioned many times today must be understood in terms of its contemporary context, that is to say that interest in Peace Studies has developed out of necessity. I believe with utmost conviction that Peace Studies is going to shape the leaders of tomorrow and days to come. We must recognize the opportunity we now have to equip students in Hawai'i with the skills that they need to lead the way.

Thank you for your consideration to my testimony and for your consideration to our Peace Studies Department.

Sincerely,
Kevin Duffy

HEDtestimony

LATE TESTIMONY

From: Lindsey D Lewis [llewis@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2008 11:34 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Measure Number: HB 2750: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR PEACE EDUCATION.

From: Lindsey Lewis
To: COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Date: Thursday, January 31, 2008
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Measure Number: HB 2750: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR PEACE EDUCATION.
1 Copy

I'm a senior at the University of Hawaii at Manoa majoring in International Relations with a minor in Japanese. Though I am not a peace studies major, an important aspect of my degree is peace and conflict resolution. I've had classes with Carolyn Stephenson, Brien Hallet, Bruce Barnes and am currently taking Carole Petersen's Human Rights and Peace class. All of these teachers and the subjects they have taught on have really had a positive impact on my college career and my future career choice. I know with enough funding this program can influence the lives of many students in a positive and encouraging way. With all the wars, genocides, and human suffering in the world we could all use a better understanding of how to solve conflicts in peaceful ways.

Thank you,
Lindsey Lewis