

testimony

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L A T E

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> Testimony in strong Support of SB 2233
>
> > Submitted originally to testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
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> >> Hearing: Feb 6, 2008
> >
> > Time 1.15 p.m
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> > Room 225 State Capital
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> COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING
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> > Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
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> > Senator Jill Tokuda. Vice Chair
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> From: Myrna B. Murdoch Children's Rights Council Commission on
Fatherhood
> Subj: Testimony in strong Support of SB2233
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> > My name is Myrna B. Murdoch.
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> >>
> TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008, STATE OF HAWAII
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> Chair Senator Sakamoto, Vice-Chair Senator Tokuda and members of
the
> House Committee on Education, my great thanks for this opportunity to
> testify before you to strongly endorse SB 2233 establishing a Global Youth
> Center in Hawaii, within and in collaboration with the University of Hawaii.
> We are grateful to the East-West Center for providing the location and
> environment for its development.
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> As you know, swift passage of Bill SB 2233 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.
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> First, Bill SB 2233 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, health issues, illiteracy and
> the environment. Let me explain ...

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> 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.

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> 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 Peacechild 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, 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.

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> 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.

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> 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 SB 2233, 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.

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> 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.

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> 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."

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> The third and final reason why we strongly endorse the passage of
SB
> 2233 to establish a Global Youth Center is that it has the potential to
> influence the lives of every student here in Hawaii at all levels— 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.

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> 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. 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,

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> "Earth's crammed with heaven,
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> And every common bush afire with God;
>
> But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
>
> The rest sit 'round it and pluck blackberries."

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> 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.

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> 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 of 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."

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> 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.

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> It is time to launch. This Bill SB 2233 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.

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> 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.

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> 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.

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

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> 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.

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

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> 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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> "SS304A- Global Youth Center; establishment. (a)
> There is established a Global Youth Center within and in collaboration with
> the University of Hawaii. This Global Youth Center is established for
> educational purposes, to support 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.

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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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> (1) Identify and address major global issues
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> (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.

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> (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."

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> SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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> Important Background:

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> 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.

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> 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.

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> 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 heard 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, SB 2233 asks the support of the Legislature in Hawaiian 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.

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EDUCATION PROGRAM

Testimony on SB 2233
by
Namji Steinemann
Director, Asia Pacific Education Program
East-West Center

I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB2233, which calls for the establishment of the Hawaii Global Youth Center (HGYC). The HGYC would provide educational programs and other opportunities for Hawaii's youth to become actively engaged with the world and many of the major global issues that directly affect them and the rest of us. This is a vital interest for the State of Hawaii, and I congratulate the authors of this proposed bill for their vision.

Because of its location in the cradle of the Pacific and its cultural, economic, political, and military links to the Asia Pacific region and other parts of the world, Hawaii is well positioned to provide leadership in training Hawaii's youth – our future leaders – to work toward constructing a better future. However, we now live in a knowledge-based, interconnected global economy in which technology helps bridge geographic distance to facilitate market transactions. This fast-changing new world requires a citizenry that is better attuned to the world and more adaptable to its changes. Therefore, to fully take advantage of the opportunities inherent in its own global linkages, Hawaii needs to provide more opportunities, especially for its youth, to develop a strong base of global knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a global world. As such, the SB2233 outlines a task of vital importance to the State of Hawaii.

East-West Center is a national organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1960 to promote understanding and relations between the United States and the nations of the Asia Pacific region. As part of this mission, the Center seeks to prepare Americans for an era of much greater global involvement with the Asia Pacific region and the larger world. We do this through a wide array of cooperative study, research, and public programs we offer, but most especially through our educational programs including the Asia Pacific Leadership Program, a graduate certificate program that combines the development of Asia Pacific regional expertise and the cultivation of individual leadership capacity in future world leaders, and the Asia Pacific Education Program, which promotes understanding of the Asia Pacific region by K-12 teachers and students.

The Asia Pacific Education Program, formerly called CTAPS (Consortium for Teaching Asia and the Pacific in the Schools) has worked in partnership with the Hawaii Department of Education to offer professional development support to Hawaii's teachers for nearly 20 years and, more recently, to work directly with Hawaii's youth to provide them with exposure to issues that affect them and to provide with a forum to develop strategies to address these issues. As such, the goal of SB2233 is directly relevant to the goals of the Asia Pacific Education Program, and I am personally prepared to support the work of the Hawaii Global Youth Center.

The EAST-WEST CENTER is an education and research organization established by the U.S. Congress in 1960 to strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. The Center contributes to a peaceful, prosperous, and just Asia Pacific community by serving as a vigorous hub for cooperative research, education, and dialogue on critical issues of common concern to the Asia Pacific region and the United States. Funding for the Center comes from the U.S. government, with additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations, and the governments of the region.