



EAST-WEST CENTER

TESTIMONY

By

NAMJI STEINEMANN
Director, Asia Pacific Education Program
East-West Center
to the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: February 27, 2008

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

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

In Consideration of SB #2233

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008 STATE OF HAWAII

I appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony in support of SB #2233, which calls for the establishment of a Global Youth Center (GYC) in Hawai'i. The GYC would provide educational programs and other opportunities for Hawai'i's youth to become actively engaged with the world and the global issues that directly affect them and the rest of our communities. This is a vital interest for the State of Hawai'i, and I congratulate the authors of this proposed bill for their vision.

Because of its location in the heart of the Pacific and its cultural, economic, political, and military links to the Asia Pacific region and other parts of the world, Hawai'i is well positioned to provide leadership in training its 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 communication not to mention market transactions. This fast-changing new world requires a citizenry that is better attuned to the world and more knowledgeable about as well as adaptable to its changes. Therefore, to fully take advantage of the opportunities inherent in its own global linkages, Hawai'i needs to provide more opportunities, especially for its youth, to develop a strong base of global knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in today's global world. As such, the SB #2233 outlines a task of vital importance to the State of Hawai'i.

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 Asia and the Pacific. 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, including the Asia Pacific Education Program (AsiaPacificEd), established in 1987 (then named CTAPS/Consortium for Teaching Asia and the Pacific in the Schools) to better prepare our future leaders – the students in our classrooms today – with up-to-date knowledge, a global perspective, and cross-cultural skills to engage productively with the Asia Pacific region.

Specifically, AsiaPacificEd works to:

- **Provide** K-12 school educators in Hawai'i on the U.S. mainland with firsthand experience in and exposure to Asia and the Pacific region and challenging them to expand their own learning and teaching styles.
- **Involve** an international community of educators through workshops and institutes, held at the East-West Center here in Honolulu, and school visits to share "best practices" in education that will enrich and enhance all students' learning.
- **Prepare** students and teachers to work collaboratively with their peers nationally and internationally, developing connections that give them a global perspective in their teaching and learning.
- **Engage** school communities with global issues and cultures during international teacher and student visits, providing a common experience that fosters cross-cultural understanding and a greater awareness of and appreciation for our interdependence.
- **Support** teachers and schools with hands-on experiential learning programs, high-quality resources, and unsurpassed networks of educators, schools, scholars, and youth leaders in the State of Hawai'i, throughout the U.S. mainland, and in the Asia Pacific region, which schools can tap to globalize the curriculum.

The program also partners directly with high schools on Oahu and neighbor islands to provide our youth with a forum as well as skills training aimed at developing strategies to address issues, such as building disaster-resiliency and environmental sustainability, that are both local and global and affect our communities and the world. As such, the goal of SB #2233 to establish the Global Youth Center in Hawai'i is directly relevant to the work of AsiaPacificEd, and I am personally prepared to support the programs and activities of the Global Youth Center.



THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America
— HAWAII DIVISION —
“UNITING THE WORLD WITH ALOHA”

“CELEBRATING 63rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS”

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB#2233
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, February 27, 2008, 2008
10:30 a.m. Conference Rm. #211

The Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair &
The Honorable Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair and Committee Members

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB #2233 – Relating to the Establishment of a Global Youth Center.

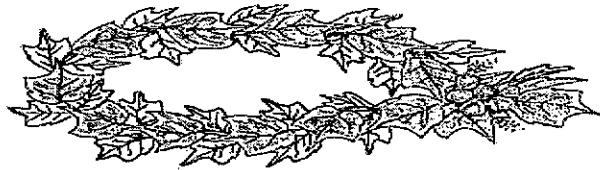
The United Nations Association (UNA) – Hawaii Division is writing in support of the Hawaii Global Youth Center. The UNA Hawaii is part of the founding participants for this most important initiative.

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.

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

Your support for SB #2233 is most appreciated.

Mahalo, Joanne Tachibana, President
UNA-Hawaii Division
www.unahawaii.org
(808) 387-7271



'A'ohie pau ka 'ike i ka hualau hio'okali

Connections Public Charter School

A Community, Business & Education Learning 'Ohana

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2233
John Thatcher, Principal, Connections PCS

Senators Baker, Tsutsui and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

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, 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

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: February 27, 2008

TIME: 10:30AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

In Consideration of SB #2233

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 SB # 2233 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 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.

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, 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 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.

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 SB 2233 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 **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.

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:

“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.

(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, SB 2233 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.

ILLUSTRATING OUR ROOTS IN THE GLOBAL YOUTH CENTER HAWAII (GYCH) FAMILY TREE

CONGRESS AND HAWAII LEGISLATURE (HCR 143, 161) HUI O HAWAII

Sen. Suzanne Chun Oakland (HVC 1999 - GYCH 2003 -)
 (Rep. Dennis Arakaki) (HVC 1999-2003; GYCH 2003 -)
 (Rep.) Helene Hilo (HVC 1999-2003; GYCH 2003 -)
 Rep. JOHN WALINO (GYCH 2003 -)
 Rep. Rida Cabanilla (GYCH 2003 -)
 LAUTE LUSH (HVC 1999 - GYCH 2003 -)
 U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (PAAC 1983-70; GYCH 2003 -)
 Bob Dodi (Hawaii House Assistant GYCH 2003 -)
 Jessica Lee (House Assistant GYCH 2003 -)
 U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (PAAC 1983-70; GYCH 2003 -)
 Sen. J. Inami Bughin (Chair, Senate Committee)

PACIFIC AND ASIAN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (PAAC)

Stephanie McCandless Reford (PAAC 1983-70; in records: The Head of HUI 1978 - GYCH forever -)
 Roland Lagareta (PAAC 1983 - GYCH 2003 -)
 Manji Reddick (PAAC 1983-70; GYCH 2003 -)
 Teresia Imrieles (PAAC 2007-2007; GYCH Coordinator 2007 -)
 Jill Takasaki-Cantle M (PAAC 2008 - GYCH 2007 -)

INT'L PUGWASH CONFERENCES

Jeffrey Buhle III (Exec. Dir., Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs; GYCH 2006 -)
 Juan Pablo Pardo-Olivera (Chair, Int'l. Studies Young Pugwash (SYPA); HVC 2004; GYCH 2003 -)
 Stephen Leites (Pres., Pugwash Peace Exchange PPEX; GYCH 2007 -)
 Adele Ehrlichy (Pugwash Council, Canada; Pugwash Young GYCH 2003 -)
 Stephanie McCandless Reford (Pugwash 2002 - GYCH forever -)
 Gregory Herby (Exec. Dir., Canadian Studies Young Pugwash (CSPY) 2006 - GYCH 2008 -)
 Courtney Whitely (Scribe; PVEC, Nova Scotia; GYCH 2003 -)

WORLD YOUTH CONGRESS (WYC)

Maeona Mendelison (Int'l. Outreach; HVC; ASEP; Member, Advisory Committee, United Congress of Youth 1991 - GYCH 2003 -)
 David Vahlstrom M (Pres., Peace Coalition; Co-Director; WYC 1999; HVC; Brochure 2003 and Scotland 2003; GYCH 2006 -)
 Veronica Linton (WYC Youth Coordination 1998-2003; GYCH Youth Coordinator 2007 -)
 Susan Berg (Co-Asst. Exec. Dir. HVC 2003; GYCH 2006 -)
 Bill Abbott (Founder, Emerging Humans; HVC Scotland 2003; GYCH 2007 -)

INTERNATIONAL

H.E. Laya Adebo-Henshe (Ambassador, Ambassador to Greenland; Res; GYCH -)
 Newton Bowie (Pugwash UN, UN Policy Advisor Program Manager, UNICEF; GYCH 2003 -)
 Joseph Theunis (sen) (Former Focal Point Youth, Dept. Econ. & Social Affairs, CEPAL/United Nations; GYCH 2003 -)
 Patricia Stephani (Coord. Regional Youth DESA, United Nations; GYCH 2007 -)
 Hyley Beinhart (UNEP 2003; GYCH 2007 -)
 Murray Gallaway (GYCH -)
 Dame Julia Morton-Marr (Int'l. Helsinki Tourism Education Centre GYCH 2007 -)
 Numerous advisors from PAAC and ITW/Alumni

EAST-WEST CENTER (EWC)

Roland Lagareta (Chair; HVC/PAAC 1983 - Provisional Pres. GYCH) (Pres.; HVC; GYCH 2003 -)
 Terence Boulton (Dir. and Dean, Education Program EWC; GYCH 2003 -)
 Philip Estermann (Guest, Center, HVC; GYCH 2003 -)
 Nam S. Steinhilber (Dir., Asia-Pacific Program EWC; GYCH 2003 -)
 Po-Lita MacDonald (Membership Coordinator; Youth, Asia-Pacific Program EWC; GYCH 2007 -)
 Maria Waleffi (GYCH HVC/PAAC Ambassador 2007 -)
 Chin Aoyang (PAAC; HVC GYCH/PAAC Ambassador Ambassador 2007 -)
 Hannah Ross (GYCH HVC/PAAC Ambassador Ambassador 2007 -)

HAWAII SCOTIA COORDINATING TEAM

Stephanie McCandless Reford
 Debra Zwickler
 Margaret Stewart
 Malina Digley
 JoAnne Harms
 Numerous advisors from PAAC and ITW/Alumni

HAWAII OTHERS IN GYCH

James Scott (Pres., Puffinbarger Group; GYCH 2003 -)
 Hyley Steinhilber (Dir., HVC; Center/Puffinbarger; GYCH 2003 -)
 Wendy Lee (Asst. to Dir., HVC; Center/Puffinbarger; GYCH 2003 -)
 Gene Grounds (GYCH 2003 -)
 Joanne Tachibana (PAAC 1983; USA Hawaii; GYCH 2003 -)
 M. Ann Rumi (Con. Dir. Gen. of Education; WYGHawaii and Subcom; GYCH 2003 -)
 Ron Redick (Pres. Council; US Health Services; GYCH 2003 -)
 Sr. Joan Chattle M (PAAC 1984; GYCH 2007 -)
 John Southworth (PAAC 1984; Peace Corps; LH Lab School of CPRE; GYCH 2007 -)
 John Thatcher (Principal, Hilo Connections Charter School; GYCH 2007 -)
 Jeanette Lunn (Ambassador for Peace; GYCH 2007 -)

HISTORY: OUR LEGACY; the late:

Robert W. Reford
 Co-founder Reford-McCandless Bui L., Canada
Chief Simon O. Adebo
 Under Secretary-General, United Nations, Nigeria
Max. Loy Mc Candless Mankin
 Hawaii

Testimony
by
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To the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

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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 SB # 2233 for the establishment of a Global Youth Center in Hawaii.

I am Teri Bernales, Coordinator for the Global Youth Center Hawaii. I have been involved in this project since 2003. Personally I have been involved in international affairs activities for at least 35 years.

Hawaii is definitely the right place for the establishment of the Hawaii Global Youth Center 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.

There are numerous strategies and types of programs that could be developed under the auspices of the Global Youth Center such as:

- The Global Youth Center in Hawai'i will focus on serving and enriching the culturally diverse community of Hawai'i youth. Working with existing youth-oriented programs in Hawaii with particularly those serving Hawaii public and private school students, a Global Youth Center will develop significant new opportunities for Hawai'i's youth to globally connect with their peers in helping Hawai'i become, "American's vanguard in the Asia-Pacific region."
- This type of strategic partnership for the GYC would fit well with the vision of Hawai'i in the 21st century: sustainability and the digital revolution.
- The GYC will collaborate with those international youth groups (one or two per continent) that will be formal partners of the GYCH and prepare major youth conferences.
- A GYC website will be developed that helps connect these organizations and provide a comprehensive listing of the internship, travel, conference, and networking opportunities for Hawai'i youth with their peers around the world. Visit our newly established site: www.globalyouthcenterhawaii.org We will keep updating/refining this until we have a very comprehensive interactive portal.
- The GYC will also serve as a resource for connecting Hawai'i youth groups with the wide range of policy specialists, government officials, scientists, and other international figures who visit Hawai'i each year for conferences, meetings, research, and other purposes. With only modest planning in advance, these senior figures could be asked to meet with Hawai'i students and young professionals during their stay in Hawai'i, thus providing a wonderful resource for Hawai'i youth to experience international perspectives first hand.
- A second level of activity will be developing strategic partnerships with international youth organizations that help bring Hawai'i to the world, and the world to Hawai'i. One example is the International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP) network, an organization of members in more than 30 countries around the world that for over 20 years has been fostering collaborative projects on issues of global concern. The ISYP organization, an affiliate of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (recipient of the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize), would also provide the GYC with the opportunity for establishing mentoring relationships between Hawai'i youth and eminent policy makers and scientists in a wide range of public policy fields.
- Because of its Hawai'i location and Asia-Pacific focus, the GYC will investigate partnerships with youth organizations that have a more European/African orientation. One possible example here is the *Institute for Global Leadership* at Tufts University, in Medford, Massachusetts, which manages a wide variety of programs designed to promote international citizenship and policy awareness in tomorrow's leaders. A GYC based at the University of Hawai'i could partner with some of the IGL programs at Tufts University in serving the Asia-Pacific region, so that the Tufts program is able to take advantage of the GYC's grounding in Asia-Pacific issues, and similarly the GYC can

benefit from the Tufts experience in Europe, Africa, the Middle East America, and other regions beyond the Asia-Pacific.

- Especially exciting are opportunities for the GYCH to investigate innovative partnerships between academia, governments, the private sector, and NGOs. Just as an example, the GYC could explore the possibility of partnering with the Media Lab at the Mass. Institute of Technology on its *"One Laptop Per Child"* project. Under the direction of Nicholas Negroponte, the goal is to develop low-cost (\$100-\$150) portable laptop computers that operate on human-generated energy, to be purchased by governments (Thailand, Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria and Libya are among the countries interested) and distributed in the hundreds of thousands (if not millions). It is possible that the Global Youth Center Hawaii could help develop the information, education, and training materials to be disseminated via email and the internet to those youth empowered with having the laptops. In much the way that Andrew Carnegie leveraged his philanthropy to create the American system of public libraries, so the *"One Laptop per Child"* project could open exciting new opportunities for global youth to become directly engaged in global issues, with the Global Youth Center playing a key role in developing the content and digital networks among global youth necessary for its success.
- 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.
- **GYCH has launched a Logo contest and for a prize, the winner will receive a laptop of the "One Laptop Per child" project.**

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to give my testimony. I urge you to pass Senate Bill #2233

Respectfully submitted by:

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

**Written Testimony
Of
Roland Lagareta
To the**

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

DATE: February 27, 2008

TIME: 10:30AM

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

In Consideration of SB #2233

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 SB # 2233, relating to establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawaii.

I write to you to express my enthusiastic support of SB 2233.

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 SB 2233 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 SB 2233.

testimony

From: R. Don Peel [harmonyolympics@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 10:50 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Teresita G. Bernales; Stephanie Reford
Subject: Testimony In support of SB2233 - Ways and Means Committee
Attachments: SB2233WaysMeansDon.doc

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

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

DATE: February 27, 2008
TIME: 10:30AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

In Consideration of SB #2233
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 SB # 2233 for the establishment of a Global Youth Center in Hawaii.

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), M^ānoa, 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 willing to tailor my doctoral studies towards the initiation of the GYC, so I can follow and assist 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)

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:

"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.

(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.

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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 "C 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.

--

R. Don Peel, P.Geol. Urban and Regional Planning PhD program, University of Hawai'i
Sustainable Development Practitioner/Researcher
Phone (808) 944-7339

Hale Manoa Representative,
East-West Center Participants Association
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Testimony

Sue Berg

Ke Ea Hou

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: February 27, 2008

TIME: 10:30AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

SB #2233

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB2233 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 as part of a global community and to shape global events.

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

testimony

From: Jeannie Lum [jlum@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2008 8:11 PM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 2233

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

In Consideration of SB #2233

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008 STATE OF HAWAII

Jeannie Lum, Associate Professor
University of Hawaii
citizen
808- 227-6752

Feb 27, 2008, 10:30AM
Conference Room 211

I support SB2233 establishing a Global Youth Center under the University of Hawaii

My name is Jeannie Lum. I am an Associate Professor at the University of Hawaii., College of Education. This proposal to establish a Global Youth Center is particularly important in addressing the current and future problems that our youth are facing. Global education through student exchanges is one of the most affective educational means of developing compassion, acceptance, understanding, and cooperative forms of communication and working towards common goals among people from diverse cultures around the world. In cooperation with East West Center, the University of Hawaii offers an appropriate location with its strengths in international programs of research and scholarly/student exchange networks.

This program also addresses the current promotion of articulation of curricular programs between high schools and higher education. One important programs, the UH Ambassadors program which looks at ways of introducing the University of

Hawaii to high schools students as a first choice for their college education is the only attempt among faculty to address this need. The Global Youth Center would be an ideal place to house the interests in articulation aligned with the University of Hawaii flagship mission to meet the needs of the local community and develop partnerships between the K-12 system and higher education.

I support Bill SB2233 and hope you will find merit in its intent. Please support this bill!

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: February 27, 2008

TIME: 10:30AM

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

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008 STATE OF HAWAII

In Consideration of SB #2233

Toward establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawai'i

Testimony submitted by Maeona Mendelson in support of SB #2233

I am submitting testimony in support of the Global Youth Center because my recent experience in Turkiye with seven outstanding young people from a youth led non-profit called E-Genclik Association confirmed the important role Hawaii and a sustained global youth organization based in our State could mean for our future.

Two of the members of this non-profit, Nihal Karagoz and Kemal Ulsal, attended the Millennium Young People's Congress (MYPC) in Hawaii in 1999 when they were 15 and 17 years of age, respectively. Both came home vowing to host a congress in Turkiye. Because their experience in Hawaii was positive and energizing – convincing them that they could make a difference - their lives have been devoted to creating a more environmentally sustainable world.

Now as young adults, they are able to make their personal commitments a reality. Nihal is studying Environmental Engineering at one of the top universities in Turkiye, Middle East Technical University. Kemal graduated from high school, served in the military and came home to create E-Genclik to connect Turkiye's youth to young people around the world. He is now studying Business Administration at Anadolu University.

Over five days, they and their colleagues proved to us, the World Youth Congress Advisory Committee, that they could create and implement a \$5 million youth congress in 2010. How they did it is a model for all young people and the adults who mentor and teach them. They set up meetings with the Assistant Governor of Istanbul, the Minister of Education, who controls the largest budget in the national government (13.4 billion dollars in a country of 72 million people including funding free, universal university education). Turkiye has an 85% literacy rate). We met with university administrators and the Director of the Association of American Businesses who pledged his support because a member of his staff attended the MYPC in Hawaii when she was in high school. When I left these youth (ages 20 to 28), they had been given full support, in writing, from the Minister of Education, who also provided a Deputy Minister for key Congress program implementation..

Hawaii, through organizations such as PAAC, the service learning programs, the YMCA, Wo Center , UNA etc. have similar stories of young people inspired to make a positive difference in the lives of others. What it means for Hawaii to create a Global Youth Center is to be known internationally as a place that has a significant role in positive social, environmental and economic change by helping young people realize the possibilities and acquire the skills to sit down as peers, as they did in Turkiye, to create the future that will be theirs. This gift is one our youth in Hawaii deserve as well.

Submitted by Mae Mendelson, PhD
President, Travel&Learn, LLC
Professor of Intergenerational Studies, in Residence
Chaminade University

Testimony
by
Davin Aoyagi
to the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair

DATE: February 27,2008

TIME: 10:30AM

PLACE: Conference Room 211

State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**In Consideration of
SB2233
toward establishing a Global Youth Center in Hawai`i (HED/INT)
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2008, STATE OF HAWAII**

Senator Rosalyn Baker, Chair, Senator Shan Tsutsui, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, I am thankful and grateful for this opportunity to submit my testimony supporting SB 2233, in relation to the establishment of a Global Youth Center of Hawaii.

Wikipedia defines “Youth empowerment” as a... process whereby young people gain the ability, authority, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and the lives of other people, including youth and adults. I feel strongly that youth empowerment manifests itself not so much in programs which youth are a minor contributing factor, but rather where youth are the leaders and the coordinators of projects that shape the future. My name is Davin Aoyagi, a Junior at Mid Pacific Institute. Over the past few years I have taken an interest in various conferences and projects related to international and global affairs, and have participated in many programs sponsored by the Pacific Asian Affairs Council and the East West Center. Most prominently, I participated in the Program for Youth or P4Y program to Cambodia, which was paid for in a scholarship fund by the Global Youth Center as one of its first actions.

President Senator Collen Hanabusa, in her opening remarks to the Senate, remarked that the major goal of Hawaii’s senate was to “promote sustainability for the future of the state”. She went further to state that “for the leaders of tomorrow, we must be leaders of today”. I come before the Committee as a student leader, a class officer of two years and a student that takes an interest in the affairs of Hawaii’s unique

relationship and role in the world. Yet beyond that, I come before the Committee as a youth ambassador for the Global Youth Center. Their funding of my scholarship to Cambodia allowed invaluable hands-on experience with the unique culture of Asia. Specifically, the program's coverage of the Khmer Rouge Tribunals, which were featured on the front page of the Honolulu Advertiser, allowed me to obtain an experience that is truly one of a kind.

It is my belief that the Global Youth Center is a concrete and necessary foundation for the leaders of tomorrow. Hawaii's unique cultural link between both East and West allows a breeding ground for future leaders who have the ability to synthesize the unique cultures found in the islands. Hawaii is, and always will be, the ideal place to train youth for a global role. By working with other organizations such as the East West Center, the Pacific Asian Affairs Council, and Pugwash, I sincerely feel that the Global Youth Center will truly achieve in its grand endeavor to "link youth from around the world to address the major issues of the world". Yet, beyond that, the Global Youth Center accomplishes something greater. The Global Youth Center is an organization which truly allows for "youth empowerment", and it will best serve the interests of Hawaii's future. I feel that the Global Youth Center is necessary because it allows the future leaders of tomorrow to gain the experience needed today. If the sustainability of Hawaii for the future is a concern to this Committee, then their first obligation should be assuring that the youth are ready for the role as leaders which they will assume. I feel strongly that the Global Youth Center will be an important and necessary part in paving the way for the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB2233

testimony

From: Helene Hale [helenehale@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2008 10:04 AM
To: testimony
Cc: Teresita Bernales
Subject: Senate Bill#2233

Dear Chair Rosalyn Baker and Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui

SB2233 is very important to help realize a dream of many of the previous leaders in this body. In particular, it was former Representative Dennis Arakaki and still Senator Chun-Oakland that chaired and promoted Hawaii as the first World Youth Congress that was held in 1999 that brought many hundreds of youth from all over the world to Hawaii to ponder and propose solutions and instill a desire to "Be The Change", This conference started a movement that was the catalyst for two other such conferences. I did not participate in that first World Youth Congress, but I did read about it and was fortunately able to attend the second such event in the Kingdom of Morocco and also the Third World Youth Congress in Scotland, along with Representative Arakaki in 2005.

Our only hope for saving civilization from destroying itself is in educating our young people to find peaceful solutions for our world's problems. The proposal in HCR 151 HD1 that was passed through this committee was for Hawaii to establish a Global Youth Center in Hawaii but it did not appropriate any money to carry it out. With SB#2233 the idea can become a reality. The enthusiasm and work of Mrs. Stephanie Ackerman Redford, a former Hawaii citizen, has been given a start by enlisting the help of the Chair of the East-West Center to set up an office for this work. It is appropriate that the money be given to the University of Hawaii, which is directed to work with other organizations.

Please vote in favor of approving SB#2233..

Aloha,

Helene H. Hale
262 Anela St
Hilo, Hi. 96720.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

WRITTEN TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 27, 2008

by

Jenny S. Samaan

Executive Director, Office of International Education
University of Hawai'i System

SB 2233 - Relating to Establishing a Global Youth Center

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

One of the University of Hawai'i's strategic goals is to "Become a Model Local, Regional, and Global University". In order to achieve this goal, it is critical that we provide opportunities for our students to engage in educational exchange by bringing to our campuses international students and scholars, infusing global perspectives into curriculum, and providing inter-cultural co-curricular activities. Additionally, UH establishes international university partnerships and education abroad programs for UH students so that they are able to experience other cultures, languages, and peoples firsthand. We firmly believe that developing global awareness and competencies to function effectively in a global environment must be a critical component of today's educational landscape.

The University therefore strongly supports the Hawai'i Global Youth Center's *broad* goal of generating an effective international framework in which youth from Hawai'i and from around the world can become actively engaged in discussing and influencing many of the global, trans-boundary challenges facing the world. It is critical to expand world views and grow global citizens who value diversity and are trained to effectively communicate across boundaries.

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

If this bill passes in its present form, it is essential that it not replace or adversely impact UH's priorities as indicated in our BOR approved Supplementary Budget.

Mahalo.