



**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS**

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January 30, 2008

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Senator Kalani English, Chair

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 – 2:45 PM

Conference Room 224, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF SB 2267

RELATING to the OFFICE of INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Aloha Honorable Chair English and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of District Governor Rodney Jung and the members of the Hawaii Lions Clubs in the state, we enthusiastically support SB 2267 which establishes a Peace Mission Committee within the State Dept. of Business Economic Development and Tourism, International Affairs Office.

The purposes of developing peace missions to other nations, cultural exchange and good will programs, and supporting Peace Day Hawaii are very much in sync with our 1.3 million men and women in 202 countries who are constantly working to meet the needs of our local communities and the world. We are Lions who conduct vision and health screenings, build parks, support eye hospitals, award scholarships, assist youth, provide help in time of disaster and much more.

In addition, as members of the Peace Day Hawaii 2007 Committee, we experienced the fervor of our youth and community organizations that are acutely aware of the need to promote peace in our violent and turbulent society and the world, which inspires us to develop a widespread event for Peace Day 2008 throughout all four Counties on September 21, 2008.

We stand strong in willing to actively serve in all peace activities to strengthen the involvement of our youth and community organizations. The Hawaii Lions Clubs all recite the *Lions Pledge* at the beginning of every meeting: *I pledge allegiance to my country and to the cause of peace throughout the world. I believe in the principles of Lionism as contained in the Lions Code of Ethics. I am proud to be a Lion dedicated to the service of others.*

Thank you for this opportunity to share our support for placing peace as a priority for our State of Hawaii. I have always admired our Sister City of Hiroshima that has established their own Department of Peace, Their Governor, Mayor and all State and local officials conduct many activities to promote peace, and now Hawaii could establish more meaningful exchanges throughout the year. It's going to be exciting and create a very powerful message of walking the walk. Mahalo nui loa.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

*Rene Mansho*

Rene Mansho

Trustee, Hawaii Lions Foundation