

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

Feb. 5, 2008

To: Members of the Seenate Committee on Education
From: Professor John Barkai, William S. Richardson School of Law
Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. No. 2902
For: Hearing on Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008, 1:00 p.m. (Conference Room 309)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2902, 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.

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 this bill. 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

To: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

LATE

From: Bruce E. Barnes, Associate Professor, Matsunaga Institute for Peace

Re: Testimony in Support of S.B. 2902

For: Hearing on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at 1:15 p.m. (Conference Room 225)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2902, which would enable the Matsunaga Institute for Peace and the Program on Conflict Resolution (the "Institute") to strengthen its programs. I am testifying today in my personal capacity.

I am Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution with the Matsunaga Institute, and have worked with the Program on Conflict Resolution for 18 years. I have been a key advisor, teacher and founder in developing our Graduate Certificate in Conflict Resolution, which graduated its first students in 2003. I also serve informally as International Training Coordinator for the Program on Conflict Resolution, which is located within the Matsunaga Institute. Our training group has done dozens of conflict resolution trainings and workshops, throughout the Asia Pacific region and internationally. I am an active trainer in the mediation, facilitation, and training projects that the Program on Conflict Resolution provides to all 10 University campuses, as well as to other State Agencies, nonprofits and organizations outside the University in Hawai'i. These projects provide real benefits to our community. Students also participate in some of these projects, giving them an opportunity to develop their own conflict resolution skills.

However, the Institute is presently operating with a very small staff who are increasingly feeling overloaded. Our small faculty, staff and experienced trainers and practitioners are not able to respond to the many requests for peacebuilding, negotiation, mediation, and facilitation courses and trainings from around the Pacific due to our limited staff and resources. David Brubaker, an internationally known expert from the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University visited us recently, and he has heard of our reputation already. His comment was "As the only University-based peace and conflict program in Hawai'i (that he knew of) we are uniquely positioned to do significant work throughout Polynesia and East Asia." This emphasizes the importance of our work, and our need for more staff and teaching personnel, to meet all the demands on our Institute.

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.

Aloha pumehana,

Bruce Barnes, JD, LL.M – Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution

Susan M. Chandler
1617 Quincy Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

LATE

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Senator Norman Sakamoto, Chair, Committee on Education
Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair
and
Senator David Ige, Chair, Committee on Health
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Re: Support for Senate Bill 2902

February 6, 2008
1:15
Conference Room 225

Senators: Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Matsunaga Institute for Peace (MIP) at the university of Hawaii. I could not agree more with Senator Spark Matsunaga's stated hope that every student enrolled in the university of Hawaii should be exposed to peace studies. In these complex and seemingly increasingly violent times, it is imperative that students learn about practical peacemaking strategies such as mediation, facilitation and conflict resolution techniques.

Our community has been shocked by the recent cases of domestic violence and the murder of a young child. One can only hope that if these alleged perpetrators had learned about non-violence, and other ways to handle anger, lives may have been saved.

The Matsunaga Institute for Peace is an interdisciplinary program that provides excellent undergraduate and graduate classes. Students may earn a certificate that provides them with community-based experiences in "real live" settings to hone their skills. MIP students, and students in the Program on Conflict Resolution have completed internships in domestic violence settings; child abuse programs, community based programs across the state and in non-governmental agencies in Africa, Japan and many other nations.

Others will testify about the strength of the research being conducted and the array of community service, training and facilitations being conducted throughout the state and the Asia and Pacific area, that MIP has become so well respected for.

I have been with the University of Hawaii, and in other state agencies for over 30 years in many different capacities. I have been to workshops on mediation, conflict resolution and community dialogs. I have benefited from trainings and facilitations conducted by the Program on Conflict Resolution. Now that MIP is affiliated with the Social Sciences Public Policy Center, I am honored to be a part of this strong and important Institute on campus.

If it is to continue its work and make progress toward Spark Matsunaga's goals, it must be supported.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please note also, that I am testifying as a private citizen and do not want this appropriation to supplant any other essential funds in the University of Hawaii budget.