



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
THEODORE E. LIU
DIRECTOR
MARK K. ANDERSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
THEODORE E. LIU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 6, 2008
3:35 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of
SB 520, SD1 (SSCR2012)
RELATING TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

Chair English, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on
Transportation and International Affairs.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the concept of SB 520 SD1, which establishes a peace mission committee within the Office of International Affairs (OIA) of DBEDT and appropriates funds for the committee's activities and programs. There have been many good ideas introduced this legislative session that support the State's economic development goals. We note, however, that this appropriation was not included in the Executive's Supplemental Budget, and request that this appropriation not displace the priorities contained in that budget.

DBEDT, through the OIA, has placed a high priority on implementing the Hawaii Global Links program, the objective of which is to prepare Hawaii's residents for the global economy.

The OIA emphasizes international trade, cultural and educational exchange activities, all which lead to the better understanding of other people and cultures. Through the interchange of people, products and ideas, international peace based activities would be a natural outgrowth. The proposed peace mission committee and funding of \$500,000 as specified in the bill would be instrumental in helping the OIA to expand its existing business, cultural and educational priorities to include peace initiatives and activities. Without this funding, DBEDT is unable to expand beyond what it is currently doing with regards to the OIA.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Lion Rene Mansho, Wahiawa Lions Club

94-428 Kahulialii St., Mililani, Hawaii 9678

Ph: (808) 306-1876 E-mail: RMansho@schn.com www.hawaiilions.org

February 3, 2008

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT OF SB 520 SD 1

RELATING to the OFFICE of INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Aloha Honorable Chair Kalani 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 520 SD1 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

Mahalo nui loa,

Rene

Rene M. Mansho

Community Relations Director
Schnitzer Steel Hawaii Corporation
Campbell Industrial Park
91-056 Hanua Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

Mobile: 808-306-1876

Ph: 808-682-5810 Fax: 808-682-0604

www.hawaiimetal.com www.schnitzersteel.com

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