

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Manahan,
dear Committee Members,

As a member of the UH faculty with ongoing research on Indonesian arts and culture, I strongly support HCR305/HR277 to create a Muslims in Asia Research Institute at the University of Hawaii. The need for research, education and improved public understanding of the Muslim world is a vital social issue in the 21st century.

While most university programs are focused on the Middle East, Asia has the largest and fastest growing Muslim populations. The University of Hawaii is well positioned to fill an important gap in public education – focusing on the increasingly important and influential societies of Muslim Asia. The University has a wide range of resources related to Muslim communities in Asia, which includes the arts, technology, anthropology, business, language, religion, history, and area studies. The new Center would provide a focus for these resources. In addition, such a Center in the public sector would complement resources in the private sector including the Doris Duke Museum of Islamic Art (Shangri La) and Milun (Promoting South Asian Culture). Islam in South, East and Southeast Asia could be one component of the University's mission for strengths in the study of the Asia Pacific region.

We urge you to adopt this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

sincerely,

Kirstin Pauka

Kirstin Pauka
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000010

Amy Luke

From: ACT! Honolulu [actforhawaii@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 9:37 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: HCR 305 testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chairman Manahan, V.C. Tokioka, and members of the committee:

My name is E. Lyons and I am the co-founder of the Honolulu Chapter of ACT! for America, a national organization of over 50,000 people who are dedicated to unite Americans against the threat of radical Islam. There are 200 national members in Hawaii.

I am submitting these comments on HCR 305.

Daily we read about acts of terrorism taking place across the Muslim world and beyond. Terrorist acts that are committed by Muslims who are simply following their faith on their way to martyrdom.

Surely there is a need to research, study and understand this religion.

We are all too willing, however, to embrace this religion that is portrayed as a peaceful religion while ignoring their Quranic teachings which teaches hate and violence. Critics who speak the truth about Islam are labeled as hate mongers and Islamophobes. When it comes to Islam, tolerance is a one-way street. Our political correctness is blinding us from the real threat of radical Islamists who's stated goal is to dominate the world for Islam as they wage jihad against us infidels of the West.

I ask, as you consider HCR 305, that you reject the potential sources of funding from radical Islamist elements like the Muslim Brotherhood and the government of Saudi Arabia who will be all too willing, as they have before, to inject their petro-dollars and their Wahhabist influence into another American university.*

I support adding an amendment that rejects Saudi Arabian funding for this Muslim Asia Research Institute.

Thank you.

E. Lyons
Actforhawaii@gmail.com

* Brigitte Gabriel "Because They Hate: A Survivor of Islamic Terror Warns America" 2006. Chapter 10: "The Ivy Covered Fifth Column: Islamic Influences alive and well on American Campuses."

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Amy Luke

From: Abdul Karim Khan [khana@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 9:43 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: HCR305/HR277

To: TCItestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

LATE TESTIMONY

Subject: HCR305/HR277 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
Date: 04/05/2009

Committee: Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs
Date: April 6, 2009
Time: 9 am

Dear Chair Manahan and Committee Members:

As a former Vice President of the Muslim Association of Hawaii, and a former Principal of the Sunday Islamic School, Islamic Center of Hawaii, I fully support the adoption of HCR305/HR277 the Aloha State can build bridges of peace and understanding between the United States and the Muslim World and, especially, Asia which is home to the largest number of Muslims in the world.

Aloha

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Amy Luke

From: David Vann deCordova, Jr. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 9:55 PM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: HCR 305

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chairman Manahan:

I support and join in the below testimony sent to you by Mr. Lyons. I suggest also that that the legislators first educate themselves regarding what they appear to be blindly supporting. How many have even read the Koran or a book on Sharia law? For an excellent daily news digest of the terrors wrought by pure Islam, straight from the Koran, I would encourage all Hawaii legislators to sign for: <http://www.jihadwatch.org/>. This law, as written, has no boundaries ... and could most certainly be used to promulgate and encourage a political-religious (Islam is not just a "religion") ideology that is anathema to just about everything this great Country and the civilized world stand for. I also question the use of State funds to promote the study of such a religious-political ideology. Why is the proposed bill limited to one "religion?" Why isn't the legislature putting forth a Christian, Hindu or Judaism Study Center?

This legislation is a bad idea ... period. Please do not sell us out in the name of attacking dollars.

David Vann de Cordova, Jr., Esq.

Aloha Chairman Manahan, V.C. Tokioka, and members of the committee:

My name is E. Lyons and I am the co-founder of the Honolulu Chapter of ACT! for America, a national organization of over 50,000 people who are dedicated to unite Americans against the threat of radical Islam. There are 200 national members in Hawaii.

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I ask, as you consider HCR 305, that you reject the potential sources of funding from radical Islamist elements like the Muslim Brotherhood and the government of Saudi Arabia who will be all too willing, as they have before, to inject their petro-dollars and their Wahhabist influence into another American university.*

I support adding an amendment that rejects Saudi Arabian funding for this Muslim Asia Research Institute:

Thank you.

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E. Lyons
Actforhawaii@gmail.com

Amy Luke

From: Tamara D V Albertini [tamaraa@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2009 10:18 PM
To: TCItestimony
Cc: Rep. Gene Ward; Rep. Jerry Chang; Rep. Mark Nakashima
Subject: HCR305/HR277 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Date: April 5, 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee: Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs
Date: April 6, 2009
Time: 9 am

Aloha Chair Manahan and Committee Members:

I strongly support the adoption of HCR305/HR277 because of the growing importance of relations with the Muslim countries of Asia. As you know, the islands of Hawai'i are geographically best positioned to play a pivotal role in mediating between different cultures, traditions, and religions. The great number of highly specialized faculty at the University of Hawai'i with expertise in Islam in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam are in need of a research center to strengthen and unify their efforts. Such a center could become a platform for research and training to benefit our own and international students and develop into a truly unique institution.

I much regret not being able to come to your hearing in person. Coincidentally, a meeting at the Vice-Chancellor's Office for Research to discuss a similar initiative was scheduled at the same time as your hearing.

Mahalo for your support of this measure.

Dr. Tamara Albertini
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Undergraduate Academic Advisor
Islamic and Renaissance Philosophy
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Amy Luke

From: Sam King [mailto:~~king@hawaii.edu~~]
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 12:02 AM
To: TCItestimony
Subject: Apologies, slightly corrected for typos: HCR305/HR277 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
Date: April 4, 2009 Committee: Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs Date: April 6, 2009 Time: 9 am

Subject: HCR305/HR277 - TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
Date: April 5, 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

Committee: Tourism, Culture, and International Affairs
Date: April 6, 2009
Time: 9 am

Aloha Chair Manahan and Committee Members

I urge the adoption of Resolution HCR305/HR277.

I graduated from Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service with a BSFS in Middle Eastern Regional Studies in 2006. I have a certificate in Muslim Christian Understanding from Georgetown's Prince Alwaleed bin Talal's Center for Muslim Christian Understanding. I spent my junior year at the American University in Cairo and have traveled extensively in the Middle East and South East Asia. I just spent 9 months in Baghdad working to help restore vital services in Iraq in order to facilitate the creation of a functioning democracy in the heart of the Middle East.

There has been much discussion on whether Islam is compatible with democracy in the Middle East, with millions of dollars in grants and scholarships being poured into research on Islam and terrorism. However, South East Asia is an example of an area where Islam already co-exists with democracy and our lack of extensive research on this topic is a gap in the United States' understanding of Islam and Muslims. The Muslims of Southeast Asia are less prone to the Wahabist/Salafi/Deobandi radicalism we all hear about from the news. Study of this area would provide a refreshing look at peaceful Islamic communities.

Hawaii is ideally suited to be the center of such studies. The creation of an institute focusing specifically on South East Asian Islam would allow Hawaii to fill a niche educational market which would encourage some of our brightest students to stay here in Hawaii, while attracting scholars from all over the world. This institute would offer our students an excellent in-road into the national debate on US foreign policy. To the extent that there is radical Islamic terrorism in South East Asia, the large military presence in Hawaii would give students and scholars at the institute unique access to learn from those Americans on the front lines of Counter-Terrorism.

With Hawaii's broader influence in Washington, Hawaii's excellent location near and access to Asia, this center will be able to attract funding and attention to the University of Hawaii. I can not imagine a better place to calmly and rationally discuss the issues of terrorism, Islam and US-Muslim relations than the Aloha State. What better way to spread the Aloha spirit?

I urge you to adopt this resolution and, most importantly, pursue funding from all sources to make this a reality.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this most important topic.

Samuel Wilder King II

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