

**Chair Joey Manahan
Vice-Chair James Kunane Tokioka
Tourism, Culture & International Affairs Committee
Monday, March 30th, 2007
9:40 am, Room 312**

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[REDACTED]

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I am testifying in favor of the HCR 57: URGING THE ADOPTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Today the United Nations Millennium Development Goals are guiding principles for which countries around the world are united in improving their national and local conditions. World leaders came together in New York on 25 September 2008 convened by the UN Secretary-General and the President of the UN General Assembly to renew commitments to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and to set out concrete plans and practical steps for action. The Millennium Development Goals set timebound targets, by which progress in reducing income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter and exclusion — while promoting gender equality, health, education and environmental sustainability — can be measured. They also embody basic human rights — the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter and security.

The state of Hawaii should see itself as an active partner on the global stage in achieving these common universal goals. These noble goals are just as critical for Hawaii to meet at the state level in taking care of its citizenry. Hawaii needs to recognize its cosmopolitan potential as a global player instead of continue to operate from the perception that it is an isolated underdeveloped island for tourists only.

I impel the wisdom of the Committee to support and act on HCR 57 by becoming a model member of the global community representative of the most multicultural state within the United States and to take an active initiative by integrating these humane values in its policy making decisions for the welfare of its people.

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