



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committees on Higher Education and Tourism, Culture and International Affairs
March 30, 2009 at 9:30 am

by

Karen C. Lee

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, University of Hawai'i

HCR 217/HR 187 Requesting the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents to Develop Plans for a Scholarship Program for Hawai'i Residents to Study Abroad

Chair Chang, Chair Manahan and Members of the Committees:

The University understands and values the importance of our students, in particular those who are Hawai'i residents, studying abroad as both ambassadors of the United States and the State of Hawai'i as well as recipients of a broader worldview in an increasingly globalized society. While the University supports the idea of encouraging resident students to study abroad, we instead would like to suggest that the resolution request the UH campuses with study abroad programs to study the feasibility of creating such a scholarship, augmenting an existing scholarship for study abroad students, or exploring alternative avenues for funding.

The reasons for the request are:

1. Students who study abroad have access to some funds. They can retain their financial aid if they have financial need or augment their aid due to increased study abroad costs. They also have access to apply for several sources of funding, such as the national Gilman funds or national Freeman funds to study in Asia, Freeman or Honda funds (if UH community college students), and federal Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLASS) funds. UH Manoa students currently have access to some study abroad scholarships at UHM as well.
2. The resolution as written only reflects UH Manoa students, and those Manoa students who study through the UH Manoa Study Abroad Center. In fact, UH Manoa students can also study abroad through various other mechanisms, such as through international exchanges, where students pay the UH tuition and then attend tuition-free at the international partner university. UH Manoa actually has 61 such options for students and is very cost-effective. Furthermore, the UH system offers study abroad options through Kapiolani Community College and Leeward Community College, both of which have very active study abroad communities.
3. The UH Board of Regents has a comprehensive financial assistance program, created in 2006, which provides for an increase of financial aid and scholarships for students. The program in particular increases aid for Hawai'i resident students, in keeping with the University's mission and strategic goals. It also allows for campuses to develop their own scholarships based on financial need or merit/service, and certainly could allow for the creation or increase of study abroad scholarships, should it be a strategic priority for the campus.
4. Since the creation of a study abroad scholarship is not currently one of the UH Board of Regents approved priorities, we remain concerned about the cost implications generated by this proposal, in light of budget challenges and varying priorities.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i.

Lori Hasegawa

From: Vanessa M Chong [vchong@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2009 4:49 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HCR 217
Attachments: HCR217_comments.pdf

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Jerry Chang, Chair, Higher Education

and

Joey Manahan, Chair, Tourism, Culture and International Affairs

Attached please find HCR 217with amendments.

I support HCR 217, HR 187, Requesting the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to Develop Plans for a Scholarship Program for Hawaii Residents to Study Abroad, with the amendments noted in the attached document.

University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) Study Abroad Center study abroad programs offer students opportunities to study overseas and receive UHM credits that fulfill UHM degree requirements. Students are able to immerse themselves in and gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of other countries and cultures and improve their ability to understand and speak a foreign language with increased confidence.

The average cost of attendance for a Hawaii resident to attend a regular UHM semester is \$7434.00. In comparison, the average cost of attendance for a UHM study abroad semester-long program is \$13,000.00. A scholarship program for Hawaii residents to study abroad will help students pay for study abroad programs.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Chong

Study Abroad Advisor

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Study Abroad Center

1890 East West Road, Moore 115

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Telephone (808) 956-6958

Fax (808) 956-9319

www.studyabroad.org

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

Study Abroad Center

To: Lori
Rep. Nakashima's office

Fax: 586-6684

From: Vanessa Chong

Date: March 27, 2009

RE: HCR 217

Attached please find:

- HCR 217 (pp.1-3) – with marks to delete/add, etc
- Amendments/revisions (p.4)

If you have any questions, please contact me at 956-6958 or vchong@hawaii.edu.

Thank you for your help.

1890 East-West Road, Moore Hall, Room 115, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone: (808) 956-5143, Facsimile: (808) 956-9319, Email: uhmsac@hawaii.edu, Web site: www.studyabroad.org
An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE, 2009
STATE OF HAWAII

H.C.R. NO. 217

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII BOARD OF REGENTS TO DEVELOP
PLANS FOR A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR HAWAII RESIDENTS TO
STUDY ABROAD.

1 WHEREAS, a National Geographic global literacy survey found
2 that 87 percent of students in the United States between the
3 ages of 18 and 24 cannot locate Iraq on a world map, 83 percent
4 cannot find Afghanistan, 58 percent cannot find Japan, and 11
5 percent cannot even find the United States; and
6

7 WHEREAS, according to the Coalition for International
8 Education, institutions of higher education in the United States
9 are struggling to graduate enough students with the language
10 skills and cultural competence necessary to meet the current
11 demands of business, government, and educational institutions;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, through the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
15 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), the United States Congress recognized that
16 the security, stability, and economic vitality of the nation in
17 an increasingly complex global age depends largely upon having a
18 globally competent citizenry and the availability of experts who
19 specialize in world regions and foreign languages; and
20

21 WHEREAS, with today's increasingly complex trade relations,
22 concern for the preservation of our global environment, and the
23 constant goal of world peace, international education becomes
24 increasingly important to our national security, foreign policy,
25 economic competitiveness, and capacity for tolerance; and
26

27 WHEREAS, educating students through study abroad programs
28 is an important way to share the values of Hawaii and the United
29 States, to create goodwill for Hawaii and the United States
30 around the world, and to work toward a peaceful global society;
31 and

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1 WHEREAS, study abroad programs help students from Hawaii to
2 be more informed about the world and to develop the cultural
3 awareness necessary to avoid offending individuals from other
4 countries; and

5
6 WHEREAS, study abroad programs not only open doors to
7 foreign language learning, but also empower students to better
8 understand themselves and others through a comparison of
9 cultural values and ways of life; and

10
11 ~~WHEREAS, because tourism and foreign trade are key sectors~~
12 ~~of Hawaii's economic future, it is vital that this state promote~~
13 ~~mutual understanding between the people of Hawaii and citizens~~
14 ~~of other countries through international education programs; and~~

15
16 WHEREAS, Hawaii's educational institutions must continue to
17 increase opportunities for local students to acquire the
18 linguistic and intercultural skills needed to interact
19 effectively within the changing multicultural context of the
20 state; and

21
22 WHEREAS, ensuring that the citizens of Hawaii are globally
23 literate is the responsibility of Hawaii's educational system;
24 and

25
26 ~~WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii-Manoa (UH-Manoa) provides~~
27 ~~16 study abroad programs in 14 different countries; and~~

28
29 WHEREAS, UH-Manoa provides scholarships for students who
30 are United States citizens or ~~resident aliens~~ who achieve at
31 least a 3.0 grade point average, but does not set aside
32 scholarship moneys specifically for Hawaii residents to travel
33 abroad; and

34
35 ~~WHEREAS, for a Hawaii resident, the cost of tuition for a~~
36 ~~semester-long study abroad program is estimated to be between~~
37 ~~\$4,000 and \$10,000 more expensive, depending on the program,~~
38 ~~than the cost of full-time resident tuition at UH-Manoa; and~~

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H.C.R. NO. 217

1 ~~WHEREAS, for a nonresident, the cost of tuition for a~~
 2 ~~semester long study abroad program is estimated to be between~~
 3 ~~\$500 less expensive to \$5,000 more expensive, depending on the~~
 4 ~~program, than the cost of full-time nonresident tuition at UH-~~
 5 ~~Manoa, and~~

Delete

6
 7 ~~WHEREAS, only 464 students were able to travel abroad~~
 8 ~~during the 2007 calendar year through the Study Abroad Center at~~
 9 ~~UH-Manoa; now, therefore,~~

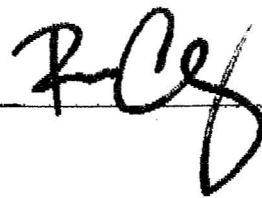
4

10
 11 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 12 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 13 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the University of Hawaii
 14 Board of Regents is requested to develop plans for a scholarship
 15 program for Hawaii residents to study abroad; and

16
 17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 18 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
 19 University of Hawaii Board of Regents, the President of the
 20 University of Hawaii, and the Director of the Study Abroad
 21 Center at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

22
23
24

OFFERED BY:



MAR 18 2009

HCR HMS 2009-3027



Lori Hasegawa

From: Sarita R Rai [sarita@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2009 6:40 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Support of HCR217
Attachments: HCR217_comments.pdf

11-1-11
LATE TESTIMONY

To: Jerry Chang, Chair, Higher Education

Joey Manahan, Chair, Tourism, Culture and International Affairs

Attached please find HCR 217 with amendments.

I am writing to strongly support HCR 217, HR 187, Requesting the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to Develop Plans for a Scholarship Program for Hawaii Residents to Study Abroad, with the amendments noted in the attached document.

I am a University of Hawaii graduate (for both my BA, MA and Ph.D), a faculty member and Director of the Study Abroad Center Advisor. In my 19 years of service I have written numerous letters for former study abroad students who wish to pursue graduate education or who wish to apply for work in various areas such as business, social work, teaching, law, engineering, psychology, forensic science etc. I am proud to say that today many of them are all gainfully employed here in the State of Hawaii and are contributing to this great State.

All of the study abroad alumni have some very important traits in common. They all have completed their academic work and lived in different cultures with excellence. They have graduated on time. They have been able to build ties, develop friendships, and acquire a sense of cultural sensitivity and awareness. They have been able to develop the ability to see through the eyes of the peoples of other cultures and understand "their reality". In my opinion these are the very same qualities that one would need to become successful in the 21st century in order to successfully build alliances and facilitate vibrant working environments.

It is true that UH Manoa offers an education with a global perspective. However, as many of our study abroad students can attest - course work and cross-cultural contact reinforce one another and that each has a way of highlighting the virtues of the other. Study Abroad offers them this opportunity. All of the graduates become valuable assets and will make many meaningful contributions to Hawaii's.

However, studying abroad does cost more than studying solely at UH Manoa. Currently students fund their programs through securing loans/grants through UHM financial aid, and very little designated scholarship support. At the present time 464 students study abroad. Therefore, if we had a scholarship fund designated for our students to study abroad think how many more students would be able to study abroad and how much more the State of Hawaii would benefit as well. I am thus asking you humbly to act on HCR 217/HR 187.

If I can be of further help please contact me at 956-4738.

Respectfully yours,

Sarita Rai

Sarita Rai, Ph.D.

Director

University of Hawaii, Manoa Study Abroad Center

Moore Hall 115

1890 East-West Road

Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Telephone: 808-956-4738

Fax: 808-956-9319

e-mail: sarita@hawaii.edu

www.studyabroad.hawaii.edu or www.studyabroad.org
uhmsac@hawaii.edu

Lori Hasegawa

From: Allison Yap [yap@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2009 5:44 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Support of HCR217
Attachments: HCR217_comments.pdf

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Jerry Chang, Chair, Higher Education

Joey Manahan, Chair, Tourism, Culture and International Affairs

Attached please find HCR 217 with amendments.

I am writing to strongly support HCR 217, HR 187, Requesting the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to Develop Plans for a Scholarship Program for Hawaii Residents to Study Abroad, with the amendments noted in the attached document.

I am a University of Hawaii graduate (for both my BA and MA), former Study Abroad Center alumni, and currently a Study Abroad Center Advisor. I know the benefits firsthand of studying abroad and how important it is for Hawaii residents to get a more global experience. As an undergraduate at UHM, I was a local girl who had never really travelled much, and I dreamed of studying abroad. The primary obstacle for me was a lack of money. I, however, was fortunate enough to receive a UHM Scholarship specifically for study abroad, and that made all the difference. I was able to spend a semester in London, which was hands-down the best experience of my collegiate years. I studied Shakespeare in his birthplace and took an art course that utilized the many and varied museums of London. In addition to taking courses, I was able to experience a different culture and see things from a another perspective. The education I got on that UHM Study Abroad Center program went far beyond the classroom and really educated me for life.

I now have the privilege of advising UHM students who want to study abroad. For the vast majority of students that I advise, the primary factor standing in the way of them studying abroad is money. The UHM resident tuition is fairly low in comparison to the cost of attending school overseas on study abroad programs. We would like to be able to offer UHM residents scholarship monies to support their participation in UHM Study Abroad Center programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Mahalo!
Allison Yap

* * * * *

Allison Yap
Study Abroad Advisor
University of Hawaii Study Abroad Center
Moore Hall 115
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

tel: (808) 956-6958
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Lori Hasegawa

From: Denise Antolini [antolini@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2009 8:30 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Support for HCR217 with amendments

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Chang, Chair Manahan, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on my own behalf **in support** of HCR217 with the amendments suggested by Ms. Alison Yap, who is an advisor with the UHM Study Abroad Center.

I am an associate professor at UHM and have had the privilege of serving as a resident faculty advisor for the the Florence, Italy program of UHM's Study Abroad in Spring 2007, where I taught two classes and kept a close eye on our group of ten bright-eyed Hawaii students. This semester was a wonderful, life-changing experience for them, and for me as well.

Study abroad is clearly a golden ticket to the world for Hawaii students. There is no doubt they come back wiser and with a strong feeling of their responsibilities as global citizens.

Our UHM Study Abroad program is truly exceptional, thanks to Director Sarita Rai and her wonderful staff. It was evident from my experience in Florence that few, if any, other universities pay such close attention to keeping their students "on track" personally and academically while they are abroad.

By sending a full-time faculty member with the students to our study abroad partners from Florence to Russia, our UHM study abroad program makes a big investment that sets a bar of excellence and is reassuring for students, parents, and the university.

Because of my respect for the program, when I returned, I joined the UHM Study Abroad Council (a group of faculty who advise Director Rai), and it's been a pleasure to assist in maintaining and strengthening this wonderful program that positively affects so many of our students and faculty.

I can also speak from my own experience having gone on study abroad when I was in college, many years ago. I spent a semester in Southern France, which made a permanent positive impression on my life, my professional aspirations, and especially my language skills. However, looking back, I can say without doubt that the program I was on had none of the quality control that we have at UHM. When my own children do study abroad in their future, I'll be using UHM's program as the benchmark for quality.

As UHM continues to strive for excellence in a globalized society, study abroad will a key to success for our students.

Thank you for supporting study abroad. Please pass this resolution with the clarifying amendments.

Sincerely,

Denise Antolini
59-463 Alapio Road
Pupukea, HI 96712
(808) 638-5594

Lori Hasegawa

From: Tao-Chung Yao [tyao@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2009 10:24 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: HCR 217

LATE TESTIMONY

As Resident Director of the Study Abroad Program in Hainan, China, I am writing to express my strong support for HCR 217. To master a foreign language, it would be necessary to spend some time in that country. Many of our students would like to go, but not all of them can afford to go. The scholarship program will make it possible for students to achieve their goals.

Tao-chung Yao
Professor of Chinese
University of Hawaii

Lori Hasegawa

From: Judith Kellogg [jkellogg@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2009 3:29 PM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Support for HCR217
Attachments: HCR217_comments-1.pdf; ATT00001.htm

LATE TESTIMONY

To: Jerry Chang, Chair, Higher Education

Joey Manahan, Chair, Tourism, Culture and International Affairs

Attached please find HCR 217 with amendments.

As a UH Professor of English for 30 years, and a former Resident Director for the London Study Abroad Program, I can attest first hand to the extraordinary impact of this program. Students have good reason to describe this as the most formative experience of their college years, and it should be made available to as wide a variety of students as possible. They return to Hawai'i with an understanding of the complex intersections between different parts of the world. Although they learn about areas of the world separate from Hawaii, their newfound appreciation for the way cultural values and attitudes are formed and perpetuated allows them to see layers of US and Hawaiian society that they had not understood. Providing scholarships that allow Hawai'i's young people to become enlightened global citizens is the best investment that the state can make, and I strongly urge passage of this bill.

Sincerely yours,
Dr. Judith L. Kellogg
Professor and Associate Chair
Department of English
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
956-3087

Lori Hasegawa

From: Hongwei Li [hli@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 29, 2009 10:05 AM
To: HEDtestimony
Subject: Support HCR217

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear Sir,

I totally support HCR 217.

Hongwei Li, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Microbiology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2538 McCarthy Mall, Snyder 207
Honolulu, HI 96822
Phone: (808) 956-5518
Fax: (808) 956-5339