
From: History Education Hawaii, Inc. [historyeducationhawaii@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 7:57 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support: HB300 HD2 SD1 Judiciary History Center Funding

L A T E

Dear Senator Ige:

I am an adjunct lecturer at Hawaii Tokai International College, and founder/president of History Education Hawaii, an allied organization of the National Council for History Education. Today I am writing in support of HB300 HD2 SD1, which includes funding for the Judiciary History Center.

One of the most important aspects of civic education is that Americans since the nation's founding have professed it to be essential. Educating all American young people for their future roles as engaged, responsible citizens has not wavered over time and circumstance. The King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center serves the public as a vital educational resource. Through its hands-on programs, for example, young people from around the world attain a deeper understanding of the fundamental principles of the major tenets of freedom, democracy and constitutional principles at work.

Each academic term I bring my students to the Judiciary History Center to perform one of the mock trials in the restored 1913 Courtroom, tour the exhibits and view the chambers of the Hawaii Supreme Court. Some of my students over the years are Americans, though the majority originates from Japan, China, Mongolia and other nations in East Asia.

Most have never been in a setting such as this in their home countries. They come away with a greater recognition all have a shared interest in the role of government in their lives as well as an understanding of procedural fairness through constitutionalism. Their experience has a meaningful impact on their education. Without the programs and staff of the Judiciary History Center none of this would be possible.

Thank you very much for considering my testimony in support of HB300 HD2 SD1.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Bingham Mead
Founder/President, History Education Hawaii
Adjunct Lecturer, Hawaii Tokai International College