



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

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GOVERNOR

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Statement of
Richard C. Lim
Interim Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 2, 2010
10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HCR 37 / HR 30
**RECOGNIZING THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, ACADEMIC, POLITICAL, AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII AND THE
REPUBLIC OF TURKEY**

Chair Awana, Vice Chair Hashem and Committee members:

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports HCR 37 and HR 30, which seeks to recognize the cultural, educational, academic, political, and economic relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Republic of Turkey.

An active relationship between the State of Hawaii and the Republic of Turkey could result in increased educational and cultural exchange, and has the potential to create trade opportunities for Hawaii-based companies and organizations and reinforce the State of Hawaii's role as a major force for global commerce and diplomatic relations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

TESTIFIER: Tezcan Inanlar

POSITION: CEO, Pacifica Institute

COMMITTEE: House International Affairs Committee

HEARING DATE: Wednesday, March 02, 2011

HEARING TIME: 10:30 a.m.

MEASURE NUMBER: HR30/HCR 37

REQUESTED COPIES: 4

I strongly support the House recognizing the Educational, Cultural, Economic, and Political Relations between the State of Hawaii and Republic of Turkey. State of Hawaii and Turkey have many values in common. Like State of Hawaii, Turkey is a culturally rich, ethnically diverse country in which Turks, Kurds, Bosnians, Circassians, Armenians, Arabs, Alevis, and Sunnis live together in peace for centuries. As a predominantly Muslim country, Turkey is also a good example of interreligious dialog as having Christian and Jewish minorities living in secure and peace. With these in mind, I believe Turkey and State of Hawaii have a lot to share and learn from each other. Turkey was the second most growing economy in the world after China in 2009 and number one in Europe. I believe there are lots of business opportunities for both Turkey and State of Hawaii in this relationship. Also politically this relationship is very important. As being a bridge between the East and West, Turkey is playing a more important role in the Middle East. Especially, after the recent developments in the Arab world, we see that there is a need to see a predominantly Muslim country that has a secular state and is governed by democracy. And this is without question the Republic of Turkey. I believe political exchanges between State of Hawaii and Turkey will be very important/valuable for Turkey in coming years.

So, again I strongly encourage the House recognizing the Educational, Cultural, Economic, and Political Relations between the State of Hawaii and Republic of Turkey.

Testimony of George Casen
March 2, 2011

Hawaii State Legislature
House Committee – International Affairs
Karen L. Awana, Chair
Mark J. Hashem, Vice-Chair

This pertains to the wording of resolution HR 30 and HCR 37.

Improving relations between the State of Hawaii and nations such as the Republic of Turkey is a worthwhile goal. The wording of HR 30 and HCR 37, however, does not accurately depict the current state of affairs in Turkey relating to freedom, democracy and human rights, nor tolerance regarding secular and religious issues.

I suggest that the first two statements in these two resolutions be stricken or amended.

Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code restricts freedom of speech. Turkey's most internationally read novelist, Orhan Pamuk, and many others have been arrested under this code.

The Kurdish minority in Turkey has been seriously discriminated against. Open discussion of the fate of the once numerous Anatolian Greeks and Armenians is severely restricted.

Turkey has a long history of discriminating against minorities. Turkey imposed a high restrictive tax in the 1940s specifically against its minorities, Jews and Christians. The Alevi Moslem sect has also been discriminated against. There have been recent murders of Catholic priests, Turkish Christians and journalists in Turkey. These cases languish in the Turkish courts without being resolved.

My family history focuses my concern upon this issue. My great-grandfather was a member of the Ottoman Parliament and his son, my grandfather, was a city councilman. It is recorded that they had excellent relations with the Sublime Porte. They were executed in 1915 for no other reason than their religious and ethnic identity.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 11:00 AM
To: INTtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HR30 on 3/2/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for INT 3/2/2011 10:30:00 AM HR30

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Peter Musurlian
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:

I am working on a news piece (a short documentary really, on the more than 120 Turkish-run Charter Schools across America. I have conducted on-camera interviews in California, Utah, Ohio and Indiana.

I would refer you to the USA Today front-page story, on the schools, as you consider HR30.

Peter Musurlian
Globalist Films
Los Angeles

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 7:01 AM
To: INTtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HR30 on 3/2/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for INT 3/2/2011 10:30:00 AM HR30

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Vanessa Kachadurian
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:

I oppose this propangandist media from Turkey and their Gulen Movement who has unsuccessfully tried to put a charter school at the Mokapu military base.
Don't let Turkey a predominate Moslem Country who has over 12,000 Human Rights Violations in the European Court get away with trying to manipulate Hawaiian politics as they have in Texas.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:59 AM
To: INTtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HR30 on 3/2/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for INT 3/2/2011 10:30:00 AM HR30

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: bill thacker
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments:

I oppose this because I do not feel the Gulen Movement should have any bearing on our education w/h charter schools. There is no evidence that they can do a better job. So far there charter schools are seriously finicially mismanaged.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 1:27 PM
To: INTtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HR30 on 3/2/2011 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for INT 3/2/2011 10:30:00 AM HR30

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sonia Vigilante
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/1/2011

Comments: