
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR OKINAWAN STUDIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the University of
2 Hawaii at Manoa Center for Okinawan Studies, as part of the
3 University's School of Pacific and Asian Studies program, was
4 created in 2008. The collection of Okinawa-related literature
5 and resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa is the
6 largest and most comprehensive outside of Japan. Additionally,
7 the University of Hawaii at Manoa is considered one of the top
8 institutions in the world for Okinawan studies, partly because
9 of its extensive collection of Okinawa-related materials in the
10 University of Hawaii Manoa library.

11 The legislature further finds that a dedicated Okinawan
12 studies librarian at the University of Hawaii at Manoa library
13 would: aid the collection, development, and management of the
14 current and future holdings in the Okinawa-related collection;
15 and serve as a liaison for the Center for Okinawan Studies to
16 initiate national and international resource sharing
17 collaborations. Additionally, the dedicated Okinawan librarian
18 would be responsible for website development, fundraising,



1 outreach to the local Okinawan and general community, and
 2 preservation and restoration of rare Okinawan-related historic
 3 materials. The legislature finds that a dedicated Okinawan
 4 studies librarian is necessary for the continued maintenance and
 5 development of the collection of Okinawa-related materials in
 6 the University of Hawaii at Manoa library and the growth of
 7 Okinawan studies.

8 The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for a full-
 9 time Okinawan studies librarian position at the University of
 10 Hawaii at Manoa.

11 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013-2014 and the
 14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 15 2014-2015 to fund one full-time equivalent Okinawan studies
 16 librarian position at the University of Hawaii at Manoa library.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
 18 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.

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INTRODUCED BY

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JAN 22 2013



H.B. NO. 1025

Report Title:

University of Hawaii Center for Okinawan Studies; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the hiring of one full-time equivalent librarian position for the Okinawan collection at the University of Hawaii at Manoa library.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and
House Committee on Economic Development and Business
Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 2:00pm

by
Lynette Teruya
Program Coordinator, Center for Okinawan Studies, University of Hawai'i

HB 1025 – RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR OKINAWAN STUDIES

Chairs Choy and Tsuji, Vice Chairs Ichiyama and Ward, and members of the Committees:

I strongly support this measure and ask for your approval of HB 1025 to appropriate funds for one permanent full-time librarian for the Okinawan collection at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

The Center for Okinawan Studies was established in 2008 with support from the Legislature. Its main mission is to promote Okinawan studies and we have been working on many fronts in trying to do that. However, one integral component of Okinawan studies that is still not in place at UH is a librarian position dedicated to the Ryukyuan / Okinawan collections. The librarian is a vital element in the research support that is crucial to the development of Okinawan studies at the University.

Because of the wealth of resources related to Okinawan studies that UH has, many researchers/scholars and institutions have sought to collaborate with UH in many disciplines. The Library has successfully collaborated on numerous occasions with different international institutions regarding its Okinawan studies materials. Therefore, many international scholars visit UH to access its collections and that makes the UH Library an invaluable resource for many. These present a unique advantage for the State and its people to be at the forefront of global exchange. These types of exchanges could be beneficial to the community, especially when they result in important discoveries or technologies.

The librarian would be the steward of valuable knowledge and resources and will be in charge of further developing the collections and managing the existing ones. This research support will allow researchers to be more efficient and productive at doing their respective research by acquiring the tools necessary. We need people to be more productive in research, application, and teaching at UH. There is potential for interdisciplinary studies and to use the Okinawa/Hawaii collaboration to achieve far-reaching results that could benefit not just our two island societies, but others in Asia and the Pacific as well. This would fit in perfectly with the University's mission, as it often prides itself as having strength in Asia-Pacific matters. But again, it involves insuring that we have the right resources and tools by which we are able to produce such results. The Okinawan studies librarian is that valuable resource that could help make that difference.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and
House Committee on Economic Development and Business
Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 2:00pm
by
Dr. Joyce N. Chinen
Director, Center for Okinawan Studies, University of Hawai'i

HB 1025 – RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR OKINAWAN STUDIES

Chairs Choy and Tsuji, Vice Chairs Ichiyama and Ward, and members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1025 today. I am Dr. Joyce Chinen, Director of the Center for Okinawan Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and I'm grateful for the opportunity to speak today in support of establishing and appropriating sufficient funds for an Okinawan studies Librarian position.

The Center for Okinawan Studies, or COS, at UHM opened its doors in 2008, and it is one of eight centers located in the School of Pacific and Asian Studies. COS' mission is to promote the academic study of Ryukyu, Okinawa and the Okinawan Diaspora and it is currently the only academic center of its kind outside of Japan. COS is uniquely positioned, therefore, to lead in this field, not only in Hawai'i but also nationally and globally.

One of the comparative advantages Okinawan studies at UHM enjoys is its unique library collections and a local Okinawan community which is, as many of you know, committed to preserving and perpetuating its culture. The Sakamaki-Hawley collection, in particular, and the Okinawan collection in general in the UHM Hamilton Library is world-renown, and many scholars come specifically to use the materials in this collection which date back to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. What is more, we have many materials which even Okinawa Prefecture no longer possesses because of the destruction caused by the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. That so many Okinawans migrated to Hawaii and elsewhere means that many of the cultural artifacts, and records which were destroyed in Okinawa survived here in Hawai'i and elsewhere around the world. Our library collection, therefore, contains some of the cultural DNA of the Okinawans, and material that cannot be accessed except by coming here. We are also embarking on an ambitious collaborative digitization project which would eventually permit scholars to virtually access a catalog and selective materials from anywhere in the world.

Another advantage has been a supportive community. The Okinawan diaspora is dispersed throughout the world, but the second largest of which can be found in Hawai'i. Some of you know that Okinawa was the first destination of Okinawan immigrants in the 20th century, and this community played a critical role in the second world war/Pacific war in offering up its sons for military service and in rebuilding Okinawa after the war. But while the local Okinawan community has been supportive, and has done much to carry on the rich performing arts traditions, it relies on scholars to do research and share the insights and information about Okinawa and the Ryukyus' ancient and contemporary concerns.

As the existence of the COS and the Okinawan collections in the Library have become more widely known, scholars from around the globe are coming to visit UHM's library to conduct their research using these materials. As our collection has grown, and as the demands on the Okinawan collection has

increased, it has put tremendous pressure on the Japanese studies librarian. She has had to shoulder this load in addition to her regular duties as Japanese area librarian.

While each of the other eight centers within the SPAS have dedicated Librarians to service their needs, COS has had to rely on the Japanese area studies librarian, Tokiko Bazzell, to collect and manage the Okinawan collection. While she has done a magnificent job, it is both unfair to her, to CJS, and to COS. In essence, we have been stymied in the service of our respective missions because this critical position does not exist. Alternatively, this "world class" collection, if and when staffed by a dedicated librarian, would probably move UHM's library to such a premier status. We therefore ask for your assistance in authorizing and funding an Okinawan studies Librarian position. Thank you for permitting us to share our thoughts and present our case for this Librarian position.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and
House Committee on Economic Development and Business
Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 2 p.m.

by
Mary McDonald
Director, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB1025 Relating to the Center for Okinawan Studies, UH Mānoa.

Chairs Choy and Tsuji, Vice Chairs Ichiyama and Ward, and members of the Committees:

I strongly urge your approval of HB1025 to appropriate funds for one permanent full time librarian for the Okinawan collection at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

The people of our state have shown great commitment to the study of Okinawa and Japan at UH Mānoa. Some of our world-renown resources for scholarship about Okinawa are the Center for Okinawan Studies, established 2008, and the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection of the Library. The large and rare collection about Okinawa in our library warrants a full time librarian to preserve and disseminate historical and contemporary materials. Each year, scores of students and scholars from Hawai'i and the world wish to use our strong Okinawan collection. To date, other librarians have stretched to preserve and catalog the collection, and to make accessible the rare scrolls and other treasures. In the past year, symposia and exhibits have brought visitors to the collection, and items in the collection have gone to Okinawa and Japan for exhibit, study, and restoration. New courses about Okinawa at UH Mānoa are being added yearly from the research base the library provides. All this activity requires a specialized librarian dedicated to the Okinawan Collection.

As Director of the Center for Japanese Studies, I see the many students, scholars, and community members who recognize the value of these rare materials and use them in publications disseminating Okinawan languages, literature, history, and social studies. A librarian is a necessary building block for such scholarship about Okinawa and our institutional strength at UH Mānoa. The Center for Japanese Studies supports this bill, provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request. I respectfully urge your approval of this bill and appropriation.

Mary McDonald, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Geography
Director, Center for Japanese Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate/House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 05, 2013 at 2:00 PM
by
Kelly Zakimi
Student, University of Hawai'i

HB 1025 – RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR OKINAWAN STUDIES.

Chair Issac W. Choy, Vice Chair Linda Ichiyama and members of the committee:

Good afternoon, Higher Education Committee Members. My name is Kelly Zakimi and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing today in strong support of House Bill 1025: Relating to the Center for Okinawan Studies.

In elementary school, I always bragged—perhaps a bit too much in hindsight—about being full Okinawan; I believed I was rare because most of my peers were not even aware there was such a place as Okinawa. As I grew older, however, I began to realize that being Okinawan was not very rare at all. On the contrary, Hawai'i has a large Okinawan population. But although my knowledge of Hawai'i's Okinawan populace has altered over the years, my desire to learn more about the culture of my ancestors has not. Ever since I was a young girl, I had a deep fascination for the history and culture of Okinawa. I even went through a phase in which I would constantly scrounge the internet for pictures and information about the ancient Okinawan castles.

Thankfully, I now go to a university where my desire to discover more about Okinawa can be fully quenched. As you all know, the University of Hawai'i is one of the top institutions in the world for Okinawan studies—the resources and literature found in our library are invaluable. I know I can speak for many students when I say that I want this excellence in Okinawan studies to not only continue, but grow. The best way to ensure this is to secure a dedicated librarian who specializes in Okinawan studies. An Okinawan studies librarian will not only maintain the University's current historical materials, but he/she will expand the collection. In addition, a librarian who focuses solely on Okinawan studies will guide and assist students, allowing students to easily attain accurate information and research about Okinawa. A dedicated Okinawan studies librarian will only serve to enrich the knowledge of both faculty and students alike.

I urge the committee to pass this bill to provide funding for a full-time Okinawan studies librarian position at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Zakimi



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 2:00 PM

by

Gregg Geary, PhD

Interim University Librarian and Director of the Student Success Center
and

Edward Shultz, PhD

Dean, School of Asian and Pacific Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1025 RELATING TO THE CENTER FOR OKINAWAN STUDIES

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of HB 1025 which appropriates funds for the hiring of one full-time equivalent librarian position for the Okinawan collection at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa library provided it does not adversely affect our UH priorities as set in our budget request.

We offer this committee with the following background information on the position being requested:

1. Description of Duties: The librarian in this position would lead in collection development and management of all materials in all formats related to Okinawan studies; provide research assistance, and library instruction for the library. In addition, the librarian in this position would liaison with the Center for Okinawan Studies (COS) to initiate national and international resource sharing collaborations, international symposiums, rare materials preservation, restoration and digitization, web site development, and fund raising and outreach to the Okinawan community.
2. How does this position support the Strategic Goals and Objectives?
 - a) This position will further strengthen UH's top 15 status among all Japanese studies libraries in North America. UH is well known for its "distinctive and unique collections with Hawaiian, Pacific and Asian orientations that benefit the University, the people of Hawai'i, the region and the world." (UH Strategic Goals)
 - b) It will contribute to the UH's strategic goals of being "essential to the University, its diverse communities, and its inspiring accomplishments."
 - c) It will promote significantly the University and Library as a "premier research institution" which builds on its strengths with a "tradition of outstanding Asia-Pacific scholarship."

- d) It will strengthen the University's international profile as "a distinguished resource in Hawaiian and Asian-Pacific affairs, positioning it as one of the world's foremost multicultural centers for global and indigenous studies."
 - e) It will further enhance the UH Japan studies contribution to the economic well-being of Hawai'i. As an example, an Okinawan Symposium & Exhibit of rare materials from the Library will be held on Feb. 11 & Feb. 7-22, and attract members of academic community from all over the world.
3. Provide the source of funding: The funding for a Librarian at rank III would come from General Funds secured from the State Legislature.
 4. Impact if request is not approved: The COS was established in 2008 with the help of the State Legislature and is one of only three or four such centers world-wide. The UH Library has collaborated with the COS and the collection of Okinawan materials has grown become the largest and best outside of Japan. Without the position of a Librarian for Okinawan Studies to manage this valuable resource the success of the COS would be in jeopardy.

Thank you for opportunity to provide written testimony on this measure.