

Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
Monday, February 1, 2010; 8:45 a.m., Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL 2315 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF TRAVEL  
INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Raymond K. Tong and I am employed with Accor Hospitality as Vice President Development Greater China Region, based in Shanghai, China. Accor Hospitality operates more than 4,000 hotels / 500,000 rooms globally with more than a dozen hotel brand names on all five continents employing over 150,000 employees. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establish a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university.

I am writing in support of the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the school of travel industry management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at:



**Raymond K. Tong**  
**Vice President Development**  
**Greater China**

Mobile: [REDACTED]  
Office: +86 21 6119 9881  
Fax: +86 21 6237 0063

Accor Hospitality  
21/F, Metro Plaza  
555 Lou Shan Guan Road  
Shanghai 200051  
China

**Sofitel So by Sofitel Sofitel Legend Pullman Novotel MGallery Grand Mercure  
Mercure Ibis All Seasons Etap Motel 6 Formule 1**

**4,000 hotels 500,000 rooms 5 continents 90 countries**

Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
Monday, February 1, 2010; 8:45 a.m., Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL 2315 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF TRAVEL  
INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Long Ngan and I am employed with Accor Hospitality as Senior Development Manager Greater China Region, based in Shanghai, China. Accor Hospitality operates more than 4,000 hotels / 500,000 rooms globally with more than a dozen hotel brand names on all five continents employing over 150,000 employees. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establish a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university.

I am writing in support of the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the school of travel industry management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at:



Best regards,  
Long Ngan  
Senior Development Manager  
Accor - Greater China

Address:  
21/F, Metro Plaza,  
No. 555, Lou Shan Guan Rd.,  
Shanghai 200051  
People's Republic of China

Tel : (86)(21) 6119 9888  
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[www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com)

Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
Monday, February 1 2010; 8:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL 2315 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF TRAVEL  
INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Cathy Wang and my company is ASI Computer Technologies, Inc. with 1000 employees worldwide. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establish a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university.

I am writing in support of the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the school of travel industry management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at:

Cathy Wang

VP of Product Management

ASI Corp.

48289 Fremont BLVD.

Fremont, CA 94538

Tel: 510-354-0615

Email: [cathy.wang@asipartner.com](mailto:cathy.wang@asipartner.com)

KEVIN IWAMOTO

SUNNYVALE, CA 94089

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JANUARY 31, 2010

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Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
Monday, February 1 2010; 8:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL 2315 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF TRAVEL  
INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kevin Iwamoto, UH TIM School alumni, class of 1977. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establish a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university.

I am writing in support of the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the school of travel industry management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at [REDACTED]

Best regards,

Kevin Iwamoto  
Vice President, Enterprise Strategy

StarCite, Inc.  
2740 Zanker Road, suite 200  
San Jose, CA 95134  
(408) 562-7629

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014



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 11:19 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2315 on 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Peter W. Cannon  
Organization: Hawaiian Resources Co. Ltd.  
Address: [REDACTED] Waipahu, Hawaii 96797  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

**Comments:**

My name is Peter W. Cannon. I am the president of Hawaiian Resources Co. Ltd. I have been involved with the publishing and distribution of visitor related products sold through retail stores in the State of Hawaii since 1972. I am a lifetime resident of Hawaii.

The University of Hawaii School of Travel Industry Management has the reputation of being one of the top two Travel Industry programs in our country. A UH Degree from this school earns respect and stature in the Travel Industry. Why change this success?

The merger of the UH TIM School would DESTROY the school. It would be a giant step backwards for the best known Travel Industry school in the Asia/Pacific area and one of the top schools in our nation. The school is a major economic engine for our state as it brings clean exported dollars from overseas back into our country and state.

The autonomy and independence of the UH School of Travel Industry Management is paramount to its success.

Mahalo

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 8:10 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2315 on 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Holden Lim  
Organization: Individual  
Address: [REDACTED] San Mateo, CA  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

**Comments:**

My name is Holden Lim and my company is Hospitality Link. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establishes a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university.

I am writing in support of the School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Best regards,

Holden Lim  
President  
Hospitality Link  
[REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 4:34 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2315 on 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Clyde Min  
Organization: Individual  
Address: [REDACTED] Singapore  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

**Comments:**

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Clyde Min and my company is Pacifica-Partners Private Limited. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establishes a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university.

I am writing in support of the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the school of travel industry management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me [REDACTED]

Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Monday, February 1 2010; 8:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL 2315 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF TRAVEL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Keith Vieira and my company is Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Hawai'i and French Polynesia. I serve on the advisory boards for both the University of Hawai'i School of Business and TIM School.

I would like to stress my and my company's strong opposition to this bill for two reasons.

First, the University of Hawai'i needs to be autonomous in its decisions in the best interests of its students, its faculty and the state. This should be their decision.

Second, and more importantly, is that we need to do what is best for our students, especially those from Hawai'i. This is not to say the TIM school is not doing its job, but rather, to question whether it is doing the best job in the evolving environment of the tourism industry. We must recognize the need for our students to be more competitive. It is my firm belief that a student with a major in tourism coupled with a strong business background is better equipped to succeed in their career.

Here in Hawai'i, our company hires 25 to 35 college graduates with applicable degrees each year, and it has been harder for our TIM school students to compete for these jobs because of competition from students from North America and other areas of the world.

The most attractive and qualified job candidates for the visitor industry are those graduates who possess strong business skills and social awareness, particularly financial acumen and leadership skills. The UH School of Business is better equipped to prepare our students due to its size, outside funding and leadership resources, both internal and external. By housing the TIM school within the School of Business, I believe we can not only preserve the positive branding that the TIM School has built, but we can better use the combined efforts of both entities to provide the best travel industry educational opportunities for our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you my testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at [REDACTED]

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 31, 2010 1:35 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2315 on 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Catherine Anderson  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

**Comments:**

As a recent TIM school graduates I feel like so much would be lost, not gained with a merger. The states largest economy is tourism, the state should support the TIM School and its students for they are the future of the industry.

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Chris Cone  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail:  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

Comments:

As a TIM School Alumnus, I support the independence of the TIM school from merging with other colleges in the UH system. A strong/independent school to teach Hawai'i's future leaders is necessary due to the unique position in the Asia pacific rim, and dominant tourism industry that currently exists. In order for graduates to be attractive to top companies that enter our market, a dedicated school that teaches the principles of hospitality/tourism/transportation needs to in place to fill those entry level management openings.

It is also helpful in the recruitment of international students who will take the lessons learned from classes/work experiences back to their home countries. This international acclaim is just part of what makes UHM's TIM school stand out among pier colleges throughout the country. I

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 9:55 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2315 on 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Uta Guenther & Konrad Talon  
Organization: Individual  
Address: [REDACTED] Honolulu, HI 96822  
Phone:  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

we are students currently enrolled in the undergrad program at the UH TIM School. We strongly support HB2315 which will, if passed, guarantee an independent TIM School. We feel that the school should remain autonomous for the following reasons:

- it is one of the most cost-efficient schools at UH Manoa
- the success rates of graduates finding employment within a few months post-graduation are extremely high
- the school offers a diverse, hands-on oriented curriculum
- the TIM School undergrad program is one of only a few tourism curricula certified by the United Nations World Tourism Organization's TedQual (Tourism education qualification) program
- TIM is an increasingly popular major, attracting not only students from Hawai'i but also from other states and nations
- last but not least, the travel industry is a major driver of Hawai'i's economy and others worldwide. TIM graduates will be vital assets to the industry and ultimately become its future leaders

As students, we were very concerned about the future of the TIM School and our degrees when a merger between the TIM School and the Shidler College of Business was proposed. We started a petition and successfully collected over 200 signatures from current students and recent graduates, as well as signatures from our alumni and many travel industry people, among them many executives and managers.

Keeping the TIM School autonomous will be most beneficial to the program, its current and future students, the UH system, the travel industry and the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Uta Guenther & Konrad Talon  
undergraduates, School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa

021

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ryan Kobashigawa  
Organization: Individual  
Address: Honolulu, Hawaii  
Phone:  
E-mail:  
Submitted on: 1/31/2010

Comments:

The TIM School should remain autonomous because although it is a young school, it has gained a solid reputation worldwide for its curriculum. NATO's World Tourism Authority recognizes the TIM School as having one of the top eight tourism curriculums in the world, and is one of two schools in the U.S. besides George Washington University to receive recognition. Merging with Shidler would hinder the growth of the TIM School by limiting the curriculum and slowing necessary adjustments to courses since all of Shidler's faculty would have to vote to approve of changes that would only affect the TIM School. A merge would just cause history to repeat itself and all changes for the TIM curriculum would be voted down. Travel Industry Management is a very specialized field and I feel that merging with Shidler would cause it to become generalized and insignificant. The School provided me with not only the educational tools, but practical work experience through internships and great networking opportunities. That is how I received my mentor who is firmly established in Hawaii's tourism industry. As the primary source that feeds the state's number one industry, it only makes sense to keep the School autonomous. The community both in Hawaii and around the world supports the TIM School and a merger would cause the loss of numerous donors. Please do not create another great loss in Hawaii's educational system and keep the TIM School's autonomy permanent.



**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** Jasmine Nip [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 9:59 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Subject:** testing

Please help save the TIM school. I am a proud Spring 2007 graduate that agrees that the School of Travel Industry Management should keep an identity separate from the school of Business. When I was deciding on which major I would finally pursue I choose TIM rather than Business because they treat you like a person not just another number. They give you the one on one that you need to succeed. It is because of the TIM school that I was able to obtain two internships at Young Brothers, Ltd. and Remedy Intelligent Staffing. I have even gone on to pursue and complete my Master of Human Resource Management and I contribute it to the teachers at the TIM school. I know being separated from the Business school that they will be able to make decision that are well suited for the students of TIM.

Thank you,  
Jasmine Nip, MHRM  
TIM undergrad spring 2007  
Master of Human Resource Management Fall 2009

023

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 10:43 PM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2315 on 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Hitomi Ozaki  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

**Comments:**

I believe that the school of Travel Industry Management at University of Hawaii at Manoa stay a school of its own and not be merged with the Business Administration. This opinion comes to me not only because of what the administrators or the TIM school have told me, but what I have experienced in this school. This school has a very unique and different atmosphere than a lot of the other schools and departments at UH. First of all, despite the number of students in the school, the professors know most of our names and at least faces. They know each student in person, not just as a student with a TIM major. I am always happy to go to George Hall, where the TIM school is located, because I know I will see somebody that I can talk to in person. Even during my first semester at UH, it definitely did not take that much time for me to learn about the family-like bond and become part of it. I will not mention the administrative arguments because I know they have already been mentioned by a bunch of others I really hope that this bill will come through.

**tokioka1-Elijah**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 30, 2010 7:39 AM  
**To:** TCItestimony  
**Cc:** ~~cliffordreynolds@hawaii.com~~  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2315 on 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM

Testimony for TCI 2/1/2010 8:45:00 AM HB2315

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Clifford J. Reynolds  
Organization: Individual  
Address: ~~29201 N. Lower Valley Road~~ Tehachapi, CA  
Phone: ~~801-372-9505~~  
E-mail: ~~cliffordreynolds@hawaii.com~~  
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

**Comments:**

Keep the TIM School Autonomous

Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS Monday, February 1 2010; 8:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL 2315 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF TRAVEL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT.

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Clifford J. Reynolds and my company is Silver Saddle Ranch & Club. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establish a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university.

I am writing in support of the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the school of travel industry management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world.

As a graduate from the TIM School while it was a part of the College of Business, it was still basically autonomous with its own Dean and at that time keeping them together did not make sense so shortly after I graduated they were separated. The TIM School provide me an excellent education and I was employed by the Hilton Hawaiian Village after I graduated. I worked at the Village for 16 years before being promoted with Hilton to General Manager at a property in Texas. Over the years the TIM School has seen successes and some failure, though in the State Tourism has continued to be the largest industry after the military. This is a trend that is not going to change. The TIM School should be growing stronger and larger and needs the States focus so they produce the top students for the industry locally as well as abroad. The TIM School is also an export as it brings the greatest percentage of international students, hence bringing money into the State and the University System. You know the importance and I know I am speaking to the choir, but the State does need to

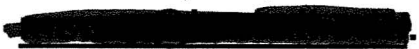
continue focusing on its top industry by raising students to become the future leaders in the industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at cellphone ~~661-972-9363~~, Address: Clifford J. Reynolds, Managing Director, Silver Saddle Ranch & Club, P.O. Box 2518, California City, CA 93504.

Thank you,  
Clifford J. Reynolds  
Managing Director  
Silver Saddle Ranch & Club  
P.O. Box 2518  
California City, CA 93504  
Work 760-373-4020  
Cell ~~661-972-9363~~  
Home ~~661-822-1284~~

□ Testimony to the COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, CULTURE, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS □ Monday, February 1 2010; 8:45 a.m. □ Conference Room 312 □ □ HOUSE BILL 2315 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF TRAVEL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT. □ □ Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee: □ □

My name is Melissa Roy and my company is a TIM Student at the University Of Hawaii and Manoa. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establishes a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university. □ □ I am writing in support of the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the school of travel industry management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world. □ □ Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at



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Monday, February 1 2010; 8:45 a.m.  
Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL 2315 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SCHOOL OF TRAVEL INDUSTRY  
MANAGEMENT.

Chair Manahan, Vice Chair Tokioka and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nino Nicolo Santos. I appreciate the efforts made by the chair and the committee in addressing autonomy of the School of Travel Industry Management. I support HB 2315 to establish a school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa that is separate and independent of any school or college of business administration established by the university.

I am writing in support of the school of travel industry management at the University of Hawaii at Manoa remain autonomous from the Schidler college of business administration. The autonomy of the school of travel industry management enables it to be the most efficient of the schools and colleges that comprise the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Such autonomy also enables the school to remain competitive with its peer institutions in both the nation and around the world.

I have had a couple of highschool and college friends graduate from this college. I believe their success is partially thanks to this school's program. As a separate college it has been working quite well on its own and I believe that it is a waste of effort to try and fix something that is not broken. Please allow this school to remain separate. It will surely be a benefit to the students of University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. If you have any questions, please contact me at [REDACTED]

January 31, 2010

To whom it may concern:

Aloha, my name is Merrian Torres. I am a Spring 2008 graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, but most importantly, I am a former student of the School of Travel Industry Management (TIM). When it came to my attention that there were discussions of merging the TIM School with the Shidler College of Business, I needed to voice my concerns of how this will effect the careers of future students. It is very understandable to suggest the merger would help the University with the current economic hardship we are going through. However, to deprive students of a proper education is more detrimental in the long run. By merging the TIM School with the business school, it will eliminate an important factor that should be considered in any education, the relationships between students, faculty and staff. During my years as a TIM student, I was able to receive one on one interactions between my professors. The professors and staff at the TIM school exemplify exactly what they are teaching its students, hospitality. Students are not just a student identification number or another face among a lecture hall of two hundred, students at the TIM school are known by the faculty and staff by name and are encourage to build connections. In an industry where connections and creating relationships with professionals, the TIM school enables students to build on those skills. By keeping the TIM school as its own, you allow students to be taken care of based on their abilities and interests.

When I was an undergraduate and did not have a clue of what to emphasize in the hospitality industry, I received the guidance of my advisor. My advisor knew exactly what would best fit me as an individual and directed me to the Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort & Spa to be a housekeeping intern. With her guidance, I found a passion in this department and continued to take internships in housekeeping throughout my college career. Six months prior to graduating from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, I was offered a position as a management trainee for the Marriott. I owe it all to the faculty and staff of the TIM school because they prepared me for my career as well as supported me to a career in Housekeeping in a job that I love. The TIM school is not just about getting an exceptional education, its about forging relationships with others in the hospitality industry in order to use their resources available to you.

The countless success of former students that have been products of the School of Travel Industry Management should be enough evidence to show that the school in itself has contributed to developing young adults into the working world. Proud alumni include several general managers of the most recognized companies in the world. By eliminating the TIM school, you eliminate the ability for the faculty and staff to produce such individuals. By merging the TIM school with the Shidler College of Business, students will just be a number in a class room. A student will be a needle in a hay stack, where they are literally insignificant. The merger only encourages those students who already know what they want and committed to their goal of reaching a particular degree. The TIM school enables the ability for those students who would other wise not know what to do with their degree, to pursue a dream they never would have imagined. Students in the TIM school find a different path that they would never have been able to discover if they were just a number or just a face in a lecture hall.

I know this first hand. When I came to UH, I intended to be an accounting

major. However, going to lecture classes where the professor just gave a lecture and there is absolutely no student interaction made me realized that I needed something different, something that got me excited to go to class. Once I learned more about the TIM program and what it had to offer, I realized that this is a profession I was definitely interested in. Starting my sophomore year, I learned practical information from the class room that you could use in the real world. Classes that taught you about human resources, operations, food and beverage, cultures, and much more, made students well rounded and have knowledge of subjects that can be use in any industry not just in hospitality. The TIM students were also fortunate to have the ability to put what they learned in class to the real world by required internships. The internships not only let you gain experience in the work force but it enables students to find what they would like to do after they receive their degree. Internships give students an opportunity to show case their work ethic and to show future employers their capabilities. Through my internships with the assistance of my advisor, I would not be as successful as I am today. I recently completed Marriott's Management Development Program on Kauai and have relocated to the Desert Springs JW Marriott in California. I am currently a successful product of the School of Travel Industry Management and very proud to be. By merging the TIM school, you would be eliminating the success of future students who would be able to stand out if the TIM school was its own, students would not just be a student identification number on a professor's roster.

Sincerely and Mahalo,

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