



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

University Libraries

LATE TESTIMONY

31 March 2011

House Representative Karen Awana
Chair, International Affairs Committee

Fax 586-6688-8469

Dear Representative Awana,

Thank you very much for moving forward with HCR149/HR130 on the proposal for a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and the Maritime Province in the Russian Far East.

After graduating from the University of Hawaii (UH), I began working in Hamilton Library in 1969. The focus of our library collections has always been on the Russian Far East, and Russia in Asian and the Pacific. We have developed special collections over the years in these areas.

Retired UH history professor John J. Stephan has done extensive work in this area. Among his books are the history of Sakhalin, the Kurile Islands, Soviet-American horizons on the Pacific, Russian fascists in China, and the Russian Far East.

The first courses in Russian history and Russian language began in the late 1930s when then UH President Gregg Sinclair established the Oriental Institute. In the late 1980s UH President Albert Simone established a Center for the Soviet Union in the Asia Pacific Region.

We have an annual program for UH students to study intensive Russian language at the Far Eastern Federal University in Vladivostok, Russia.

It is hoped that with the coming APEC meetings this November that there will be new opportunities for economic and social contacts between Hawaii and the Maritime Province. I am very enthusiastic about your proposal and trust that it will be supported by other members of the legislature.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Polansky".

Patricia Polansky
Russian Bibliographer

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Honolulu, HI 96822
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TOTAL P.01

From: Enoka Lucas
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 3:42 PM
To: INTtestimony
Subject: FW: big mahalo

-----Original Message-----

From: Natasha Owen [mailto:]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 3:30 PM
Cc: Patricia Polansky
Subject: Re: big mahalo

Dear Representative Awana,

Thank you very much for moving forward with HCR149/HR130 on the proposal for a sister-state relationship between Hawaii and the Maritime Province in the Russian Far East.

As an Honorary Consul General of the Russian Federation in Hawaii I welcome and fully support this initiative. The close ties between the Hawaiian Islands and Russia has a long and rich history. It would be wonderful to re-establish these ties again.

I am sure that this will promote further fruitful relations in culture, economics and education between our two regions.

the Maritime Province of Russia.

With warm aloha,

Natasha Owen
Russian Honorary Consul General in Hawaii