



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MAY BE SENT TO

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DOBELLE'S ATTORNEY RESPONDS

As lead counsel for Dr. Evan Dobelle, I wish to correct a statement in an article in your September 2004 issue entitled "Local Style for Lōlōs." Unlike the author's comment that Dr. Dobelle resigned amid various allegations, the facts are quite different. After an intense mediation, a joint statement by Dr. Dobelle, the Board of Regents and mediator Warren Price concluded that there would be a rescission of the Board's termination of Dr. Dobelle for cause. Additionally, there was no finding of wrongdoing by Dr. Dobelle or the Board. After this agreement, at Dr. Dobelle's request, he became a non-tenured professor for two years and resigned as President of the University of Hawaii.

*L. Richard Fried, Jr.
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Honolulu, Hawaii
Via facsimile*



This just isn't enough.

President Dobelle probably didn't receive any training because we often tend to think that highly educated persons should be excluded from learning the "local style" patterns of behavior. However, this possibility is not to excuse his egocentric approach to administration.

So let us, citizens of Hawaii, not be lōlōs ourselves. We should take advantage of our good resources and provide assistance to all newcomers, especially those who enter the business and educational community. Your article provides an excellent learning opportunity for all of us.

*Gregory J. Trifonovitch
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Keaau, Hawaii
Via email*

LET US NOT BE LŌLŌ

Your cover story "Local Style for Lōlōs (Should lessons on Hawaii's complicated cultural landscape be an elective course or a core requirement?)," by David K. Choo and Jacy L. Youn is a timely wakeup call for all of us who interact with people from other cultures on a daily basis.

We all become lōlōs when we find ourselves in a new and unfamiliar culture. In the early '60s President Kennedy insisted that all Peace Corps volunteers receive an in-depth (three months) language and cultural introduction to their countries of destination. Hawaii became one of the first and largest centers for Peace Corps training for volunteers bound for Asia and the Pacific islands. The training, through the auspices of the University of Hawaii, was conducted on Molokai and the Big Island.

The East-West Center, established in 1960 with its mission "to establish a better understanding between the peoples of the East and West," was created for the specific purpose of promoting better cross-cultural communication between peoples of different ethnic backgrounds; yet the local business, service, and education community doesn't call on the Center for their help often enough.

Hawaii has the experience, the knowledge, and the expertise to provide cross-cultural training not only for the newcomers to Hawaii but also for those going to other countries as well. Introduction to local style culture should be mandatory for all newcomers to Hawaii, especially for business people and those new to our educational system. Every year the Department of Education hires 80 to 90 teachers and administrators from the Mainland who receive a one-day orientation, mostly on administrative and procedural matters and with only about an hour on cross-cultural adjustment.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of this unsolicited letter, a former researcher with the East-West Center, is the editor's father-in-law.

WOOD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

The Hawaii Lumber Products Association (HLPA) was not formed to wage a media war against the steel guys in Hawaii's media ("Got Wood or Steel?" September 2004). The HLPA was formed to promote the values of wood, which have been proven in use over many generations in Hawaii's climate conditions. The HLPA exists to tell the story of wood and all of its values, such as being environmentally sound, thermally sound and very energy efficient.

Wooden structures have withstood the test of time in Hawaii's climate, and are among the oldest structures standing in Hawaii and around the world. In the past several decades, wooden structures have become even more durable, with improvements of engineered products and improved treatments that extend wood's useful life. Wood framed structures are one of the ONLY building structures that are warranted for 25 years.

Most lumber today is NOT taken from national forests, but from private planted forest lands like other crops intended for human use and wood is the ONLY major building material that is a renewable resource. All other major building materials come from a finite resource supply and may be recyclable but are NOT a renewable resource. Visit www.hawaiilumber.com to learn all about wood and its MANY values.

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