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Landscape architects want to revive degree programs at UH

Pacific Business News (Honolulu) - April 6, 2007 by [Jon Letman](#) PBN Contributor

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When students want to study landscape architecture, they come to Hawaii.

Or, at least one would think so.

Not so.

The **Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects**, the **Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii** and other members of the landscape architecture community want to change that. A committee of architects is updating a 1994 document as a guide toward possible establishment of a landscape architecture program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

The document consists of two proposals that are being presented to UH administrators and state legislators, outlining concrete steps needed to establish a bachelor's and master's program for a future school of landscape architecture.



'A natural fit'

"Hawaii and landscape architecture are a natural fit," said Dawn Easterday, president of ASLA's Hawaii chapter and a registered landscape architect and project manager at **Belt Collins**, a leading design and consulting firm in Hawaii, Asia and the Pacific.

Back in the 1950s and 1960s, when several landscape architecture courses offered at the UH School of Architecture were discontinued for financial reasons, UH officials expressed the desire for the program to be revamped at a future date, Easterday said.

For the ASLA and others, that future is now.

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There is general agreement that Hawaii's landscape architecture industry and the state as a whole would benefit from the establishment of an accredited landscape architecture program, which is arguably a perfect match with Hawaii's climate, environment, culture, geography and economy.

Some landscape architects suggest that, in time, local talent could be exported to high-demand areas like China and Southeast Asia.

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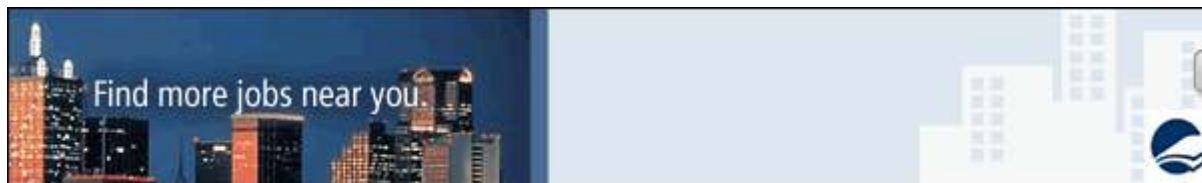
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