

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

香 港 大 學



立法會 CB(2)1168/06-07(10)號文件  
LC Paper No. CB(2)1168/06-07(10)

Clerk to Bills Committee on Race Discrimination Bill,  
LegCo Secretariat,  
3/F, Citibank Tower,  
3 Garden Road,  
Central.

23 February 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Race Discrimination Bill**

1. I write as the Equal Opportunity Officer of the University of Hong Kong to offer some comments on various clauses of the Race Discrimination Bill which might affect the operation of universities. These views are mine and not necessarily represent those of my University.

2. I generally support the Race discrimination Bill which is in line with our University's commitment to eliminate racial discrimination. Besides, I support the introduction of the exception clauses especially the following ones:

**Clause 14 Exception for existing employment on local and overseas terms of employment**

3. This would allow the University to offer the most competitive, although possibly differential, terms and benefits to attract the strongest appointees in the field.

**Clause 26(2)(a) and (b) Exceptions on holidays and medium of instruction, etc.**

4. This would allow the University to continue to use English as the medium of instruction, given that this is our official medium of instruction, and would not require the University to adjust its holidays according to the customs of students and staff of different races.

**Clause 49 Special measures and Clause 50 Charities**

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5. These two clauses would allow the University to administer scholarships and academic awards in accordance with the wishes of our donors and the needs of the students.

6. Clause 49 would be consonant with the University's Vision as a pre-eminent international institution in Asia and our declared strategic goal of internationalizing the student body, by allowing the University to guarantee Hall places to non-local students who have more pressing accommodation needs.

## **Clause 54 Nationality law, etc. not affected**

7. This would allow the University to continue to administer various benefits/assistance that are only available to local students such as the University Financial Assistance, most scholarships, grants and loans, etc.

## **Clause 58 Exception for languages**

8. This would allow the University to continue to require applicants to have attained certain academic level in the English language and another language in the admission requirements for students so as to ensure that students are able to fully benefit from their university experience.

9. For the consideration of the Bill's Committee, please.

Yours faithfully,

(Kenneth Kwok)  
Equal Opportunity Officer  
The University of Hong Kong