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LATE

TO: THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2012
Tuesday, February 7th, 2012
9:30 A.M.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1848: RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

TO THE HONORABLE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1848. My name is Tani Sebro I am the Academic Chair in the Graduate Student Organization, as well as a Teaching Assistant in the Political Science Department at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

I support this bill because as a Teaching Assistant and employee of the State of Hawai'i, I believe I have the right to collectively bargain just as any other State employee does. With the cost of living in Honolulu increasing each year, it is becoming increasingly impossible to live off the meager wages we earn as graduate assistants. I currently make \$1200 per month, while my rent and utilities are \$800 per month. I am unable to afford health insurance and barely have enough for food and other expenses. As student workers and employees of the State, we ought to have the right to unionize to advocate on our own behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1848, I recommend that it be passed, unamended. I will be happy to answer any questions that the Chairperson or members of the Committee may have.

Sincerely,

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HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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House of Representatives
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
February 1, 2012

LATE

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 1848 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. HFFA represents the 2,800 active and retired professional fire fighters throughout the State. HFFA supports H.B. No. 1848, as applicable to active employees.

HFFA believes that this bill encourages more meaningful discussion and possible settlement during the negotiation process relating to employer contributions to the EUTF for active employees. Furthermore, albeit an agreement on the EUTF contribution during the negotiation process, this bill provides the arbitration panel to reach a decision after thorough review of the total cost of both salary and fringe benefits for the entire bargaining unit.

We respectfully request the Committee pass H.B. No. 1848. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.