

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 1:47 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: johnswee@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR85 on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM

HR85

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

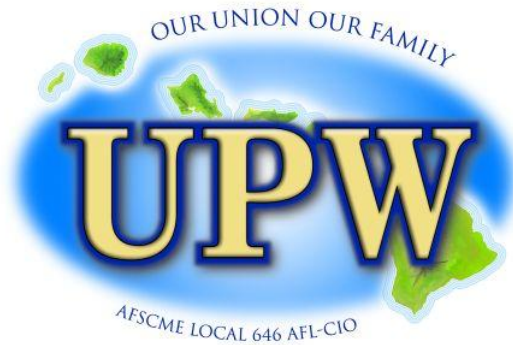
Testimony for LAB/HED on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A Sweeney	Graduate Student Organization	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha House Labor Committee members, I am writing on behalf of the Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in support of HR85 & HCR114 as this resolution will provide much-needed information and data concerning the plight and status of graduate students at UHM. I urge the committee to pass this resolution as it will give grad students the chance to tell their stories and assist in the research conducted by a state auditor. GSO continues to work with Chancellor Apple, Dean Cooper, and other administrators to strengthen the health of graduate education on campus, which directly impacts the vitality of the undergraduate experience. Thank you for your time and consideration. mahalo, John A. Sweeney Advocacy Chair Graduate Student Organization University of Hawaii at Manoa

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THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
The Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Regular Session of 2013

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
The Honorable Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
The Honorable Rep. Isaac W. Choy, Chair
The Honorable Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, March 22, 2013
TIME OF HEARING: 11:30 A.M.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 309

**TESTIMONY ON HCR 114/ HR 85 REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A STUDY
ON THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF ALLOWING GRADUATE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII TO UNIONIZE**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW supports HCR 114/ HR 85, which is requesting the Auditor to conduct a study on the potential effects of allowing graduate students of the University of Hawaii to unionize.

Graduate assistants should have an avenue to obtain assistance with grievances and other employment issues. They should also be able to organize and advocate for their own employment rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Dear House Labor Committee members,

I am a current graduate student at UHM and I am contacting you to show my support of HR85 & HCR114. This resolution will give us the means to make our voices heard and hopefully improve conditions for us. As students, instructors, and researchers, the welfare of graduate students affects all domains within the university.

Mahalo for you time and consideration,

Samantha O'Hanlon
Department of Psychology
UH Mānoa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 11:51 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HR85 on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM*

HR85

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for LAB on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 6:54 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: travisg2@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR114 on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM*

HCR114

Submitted on: 3/20/2013

Testimony for LAB/HED on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Travis Goldstrom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Dear House Labor & Public Employment and Higher Education Committee members,

I am writing in support of HR85 & HCR114 as this resolution will provide much-needed information and data concerning the plight and status of graduate students at UHM. I urge the committee to pass this resolution as it will give grad students the chance to tell their stories and assist in the research conducted by a state auditor. GSO continues to work with Chancellor Apple, Dean Cooper, and other administrators to strengthen the health of graduate education on campus, which directly impacts the vitality of the undergraduate experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Kauahi Perez

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 1:29 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: megsforbes@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR85 on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM

HR85

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for LAB/HED on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Carpenter	GSO	Support	No

Comments: Aloha House Labor Committee members, I am writing in support of HR85 & HCR114 as this resolution will provide much-needed information and data concerning the plight and status of graduate students at UHM. I urge the committee to pass this resolution as it will give grad students the chance to tell their stories and assist in the research conducted by a state auditor. GSO continues to work with Chancellor Apple, Dean Cooper, and other administrators to strengthen the health of graduate education on campus, which directly impacts the vitality of the undergraduate experience. Thank you for your time and consideration. mahalo, Megan

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 10:48 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: shaglund@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR85 on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM

LATE TESTIMONY

HR85

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for LAB/HED on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sue Haglund	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Under current state law in the Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 89-6,(f), 14-15 non-collective bargaining unit employees (for example, graduate assistants, teaching assistants, and research assistants) are excluded from any and/or all collective bargaining negotiation(s) because current state law lists them as “a student of a state institution” and “student help” entities that are prohibited from collective bargaining. Under the current statute, only collective bargaining unit employees (UH faculty-staff for example) have representation to negotiate on their behalf for better working conditions, salary increases, grievance procedures, and healthcare coverage. As graduate assistants, teaching assistants, and research assistants, in a state where we are considered state employees, we do not have any inclusion for negotiations for better working conditions, grievance procedures, salary increases etc. In the past years, University of Hawaii’s graduate student employees have been in vulnerable positions that leave room for cheap labor exploitation The educational setting of University of Hawaii has changed and waned over the years—most recently due to major budget cuts. During uncertain economic times, graduate student employees without collective bargaining rights are left to carry the burden of teaching classes with double the class size of students and working beyond the required maximum hours—thus, leading to unfair labor practices and labor exploitation of graduate student employees. The University of Hawaii at Manoa’s budget cuts during Fall 2009 increased in larger class sizes and increasing faculty workload, which led the faculty union to file a complaint to Hawaii State Labor Board against UH administration for unfair increase of faculty workload. The University of Hawaii’s faculty and staff not satisfied with the double class sizes, through their union, may file a grievance and complain to the state labor board. However, graduate student employees who are teaching assistants teach large class sizes, are also affected by the unfair increase of graduate assistantship workload, but they have no place to go to file a grievance or complaint. Lastly the impact of UH budget cuts and the elimination of the ombuds office took away the only impartial, confidential option to access a grievance process for graduate student employees, thus leaving graduate student employees more vulnerable to labor exploitation.

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LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 11:21 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: crys@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR85 on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM
Attachments: HR85 and HCR114 testimony_Valliant.pdf

HR85

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for LAB/HED on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Valliant	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2013 9:20 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: shahinur@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR85 on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM

LATE TESTIMONY

HR85

Submitted on: 3/21/2013

Testimony for LAB/HED on Mar 22, 2013 11:30AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shahin Rahman	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I am writing in support of HR85 as this resolution will provide the opportunity to fathom the precarious situation we, the graduate students have been going through on UH Manoa campus. I request to pass this resolution so that we get an opportunity to tell our stories and thus provide the state auditor with the information necessary to make informed decision for the better work and academic condition for the graduate students. Thanks for your time.

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