

LATE

SB 1383

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The Senate
Twenty-Seventh Legislature
Committees on Higher Education
And Economic Development, Government
Operations and Housing
February 14, 2013, 2:45 p.m.
Room 414

Statement of the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters on
SB 1383, Relating to the University of Hawaii

The Hawaii Carpenters Union evaluation of SB 1383 is that it is not necessary, and poses risks for the University system and the economy.

Through the years of the recession, University construction helped shore up the economy, getting millions of dollars worth of projects started in a timely manner, taking advantage of a lower priced construction market, and successfully completing them. The construction industry, unlike other sectors of the economy, is lagging in its return to health, and any University activity will contribute to a well rounded recovery.

These UH projects of recent years were, incidentally, built by non-union contractors as well as unionized contractors. They were procured via a low bid system, a brief period of limited exemption, and again by low bid. While the industry is highly competitive, perhaps hotly competitive, our perception is that these UH projects of the past four to five years have been relatively protest and litigation free.

UH construction is first, of course, to serve the University, our community, its students and faculty. In addition to risking a break in a good record of project delivery, why risk an additional layer in determining the priorities for the UH in its construction planning?

While there may be other concerns being raised with the University system, and there may be issues in specific projects, they do not originate in the construction procurement sector. Our organization believes there are changes to be considered in the procurement of public works in general, but separates that from the current operations of UH procurement.

Thank you for considering our evaluation of SB 1383, as introducing undue risks where no clear problem has been shown.

The Pacific Resource
PARTNERSHIP



The Pacific Resource Partnership

Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Government Operations and Housing
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

SB 1383 – Relating to the University of Hawaii
Thursday, February 14, 2013
2:45 pm
Conference Room 414

Aloha Chairs Taniguchi and Dela Cruz, Vice Chairs Kahele and Slom, and Members of the Committees:

The Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a labor-management consortium representing over 240 signatory contractors and the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters.

PRP opposes SB 1383, Relating to the University of Hawaii, which repeals the president of the University of Hawaii's authority to serve as the chief procurement officer for construction contracts for the University of Hawaii and requires the state administrator of the state procurement office of the department of accounting and general services to serve as the chief procurement officer for such contracts.

We oppose removing the power for procuring construction contracts from the University of Hawaii with regard to its own construction projects. PR P feels that multiple channels of procurement are favorable to expediting the overall procurement process. This will help in getting our members back on the job sooner.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this important initiative with you.

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Hawai'i Construction Alliance

P.O. Box 179441
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 348-8885

February 14, 2013

The Senate Committee on Higher Education, and
the Senate Committee on Economic Development,
Government Operations, and Housing
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Testimony on SB 1383, relating to the University of Hawai'i.

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

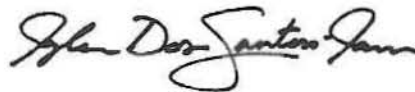
The Hawai'i Construction Alliance, a 15,000 member strong coalition representing the Hawai'i Regional Council of Carpenters; the Hawai'i Masons Union, Local 1 and Local 630; the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368; and the Operating Engineers, Local 3, offers the following comments on SB1383.

The Hawai'i Construction Alliance is concerned about the impact SB 1383 may have on projects already underway, soon to be procured, or in the design stages within the university system. Careful examination should be done to determine whether removing the University's authority to procure its own construction contracts would delay repair and maintenance projects on existing buildings and/or slow the construction of new buildings.

Given that the University of Hawai'i's construction projects have successfully employed many of the members of the Hawai'i Construction Alliance over the past several years, providing them with steady and gainful work during these tough economic times, we respectfully urge the committee to exercise measured caution in pursuing this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Aloha,



Tyler Dos Santos-Tam
Executive Director
Hawai'i Construction Alliance
execdir@hawaiiconstructionalliance.org