



Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor Friday, February 1, 2013 10:30 a.m.

SB 868, Relating to Collective Bargaining.

Dear Chairman Hee and Committee Members:

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly's Board of Directors recognizes that the Hawaii Labor Relations Board has significant challenges in meeting its responsibilities in the enforcement of Chapter 89 Collective Bargaining in Public Employment. Over the course of time, there has been a diminution in resources provided for the effective functioning of this agency making it difficult to meet its' duties to employees, employers and the public. UHPA believes that SB 868 does not resolve the problems confronting the Hawaii Labor Relations Board. This proposed legislation will not meet the expectations of any party as long as the agency remains deficit in knowledgeable staff and administrative resources that enhance decision making.

UHPA encourages legislators to support increased funding for the Hawaii Labor Relations Board that will rebuild this agency so it can effectively address the needs of public employees and employers. It is clear that the lack of hearing officers and research attorneys impede the progress of complex complaints. Further, they simply do not have the technological resources that make access to hearing transcripts and documents easily obtained by the Board members for their decision making.

UHPA encourages the committee to reject SB 868 as providing the pathway to a more responsive Hawaii Labor Relations Board.

Respectively submitted.

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