



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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LATE

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Committee on Lower and Higher Education

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 18, 2019

HCR 179/HR 161 – REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
BOARD OF REGENTS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND FUND
THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CENTER AS A VALUABLE
LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS RESOURCE FOR THE
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports H.C.R. 179 and H.R. 161 which requests the University of Hawaii Board of Regents to continue to support and fund the Industrial Relations Center as a valuable labor-management relations resource for both the public and private sectors.

The Industrial Relations Center has provided critical services to both management and organized labor in the public and private sectors for 70 years. The mission of the Center is to promote the understanding of labor-management issues and policies and to serve both sides of the bargaining table as an impartial research arm. We are very pleased with the work of the Center and its staff, as they have become an unparalleled and trusted resource for all parties and we are confident that Center will continue to serve this critical function in the future. It is for these reasons that we strongly support the passage of H.C.R. 179 and H.R. 161, and request that the University of Hawaii Board of Regents continue to support and fund the Industrial Relations Center.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.C.R. 179 and H.R. 161.

Respectfully submitted,

for Randy Perreira
Executive Director

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Re. House Resolution HR No. 161

House of Representatives
13th Legislature, 2019
State of Hawaii

This brief testimony is in support of the resolution (H.R. No. 161) that the Board of Regents continues to support and fund the IRC. I further support the retention of Joyce Najita, an icon, at the IRC.

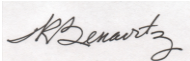
While attending the UH College of Business I often relied upon the Industrial Relation Center where I first met Joyce Najita. The IRC provides, till this day, direly needed professional research support to the labor arena.

Throughout my employment as a Union Representative and later as a Labor Relations Manager I knew that the IRC was there as my final resource for solving labor law and precedent research challenges.

Currently I am a labor arbitrator. Like the IRC, arbitrators serve as neutrals. From personal experience I know that the IRC makes great contributions to the maintenance of good professional relations within the labor arena.

The IRC takes a leadership role in contributing to the maintenance of good relations between management and labor. Over many years the IRC often brought together all parties including neutrals in the examination of current issues and developing law.

Respectfully,



Walter R. Benavitz Jr.
Labor Arbitrator