



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
February 19, 2020

H.B. 1698, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1698, H.D. 1 which amends bargaining unit 14 to be composed of state law enforcement officers (LEOs) and creates a new bargaining unit 15 to be composed of state and county ocean safety and water safety officers (OSOs).

Bargaining unit 14 is currently composed of deputy sheriffs, conservation and resource enforcement officers, harbor enforcement officers, and state and county ocean and water safety officers who previously belonged to bargaining unit 3, white collar employees. At the time of creation, the Legislature recognized and understood that the unique needs of the LEOs and OSOs could not be addressed if they remained in the largest, and one of the most diverse units.

During the 2013 legislative session, we asserted that through a separate bargaining unit the specialized needs of LEOs and OSOs, including mandatory trainings and certifications, uniform and equipment allowances, and terms and conditions of employment, would be more directly and uniformly addressed with the Employer. Although this remains true, after the completion of two rounds of contract negotiations, it is apparent that the two groups of employees are too incongruous to be in the same unit. LEOs are armed personnel who are trained to execute law enforcement services statewide, handle detained persons, serve arrest warrants, and ensure the compliance of state law in a variety of areas, including airports, courts, harbors, and state lands. OSOs are not armed and do not provide law enforcement services, but rather are trained for ocean rescues, emergency medical first response, and injury prevention programs. Combining the specialized needs of law enforcement and ocean safety in one unit has proven to be impractical as they are two distinct occupational classes, similar to the differences between police officers, firefighters, and nurses.

We wholeheartedly believe that creating a new bargaining unit is necessary for us to best address the different needs of our government employees. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 1619, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

650 SOUTH KING STREET 10<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-8500 • FAX: (808) 768-5563 • INTERNET: www.honolulu.gov/hr

KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



CAROLEE C. KUBO  
DIRECTOR  
  
NOEL T. ONO  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives, Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1698, HD 1  
Relating to Collective Bargaining

The City and County of Honolulu supports HB 1698, HD 1 which would create a separate bargaining unit (Bargaining Unit 15) for Water Safety and Ocean Safety Officers in the State of Hawaii. The Water Safety Officers of the City and County of Honolulu provide year round lifeguard services for the island of Oahu. A separate bargaining unit would be appropriate because of their unique job duties that are unlike any of the other 14 bargaining units.

In addition, the City respectfully submits the following comments on SB 2251. The bill in its current form, in Section 89-6 (a), defines BU 15 as "State and county ocean safety and water safety officers". Other public safety units, such as BU 11 and BU 12, are defined in that same section as "Firefighters" and "Police officers", respectively. To be consistent, we suggest that BU 15 simply be defined as "Ocean safety and water safety officers". Secondly, the bill in its current form, in Section 89-11 (d) (1), outlines the voting structure for BU 15 for the purposes of negotiating a collective bargaining agreement, which gives votes to the Chief Justice and the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Board if they have employees in the BU. As all of the current Water Safety and Ocean Safety Officers are employed by the City and neighbor island counties, we feel it would be appropriate to add BU 15 to Section 89-11 (d) (2). This would make the voting structure for BU 15 consistent with BU 11 and BU 12, which are also public safety units mostly or wholly comprised of employees of the City and neighbor island counties.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolee C. Kubo".

Carolee C. Kubo  
Director

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:15:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Makena Hart	ESD Ocean Safety Division	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

BU 14 was created in 2013 which is composed of state law enforcement officers (LEOs) and Ocean Safety Officers/Lifeguards (OSO). The LEOs are armed officers who carry out law enforcement duties, serve warrants, make arrests, escort criminals and provide security for our state capital, airports and courthouses. The Hawaii Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) is tasked with full state police powers to enforce all state laws with their primary jurisdiction involving State lands, State Parks, historical sites, forest reserves, aquatic life and wildlife areas, and coastal zones.

OSOs provide ocean safety lifeguarding services for about 500 miles of coastline across the whole state. OSOs services include ocean rescue prevention, ocean rescue, emergency medical first response, dispatched mobile patrol, education, and injury prevention programs related to ocean safety.

I strongly support HB 1698 which amends bargaining unit 14 to be composed of state law enforcement officers and creates a new bargaining unit 15 to be composed of lifeguards. The creation of BU 15 will allow the highly trained and skilled LEOs and OSOs the ability to focus on the unique nature of their jobs through separate negotiations.

Mahalo,  
Makena Hart

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:57:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kengy Gramberg	Honolulu Ocean Safety & Lifeguard Services	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

BU 14 was created in 2013 which is composed of state law enforcement officers (LEOs) and Ocean Safety Officers/Lifeguards (OSO). The LEOs are armed officers who carry out law enforcement duties, serve warrants, make arrests, escort criminals and provide security for our state capital, airports and courthouses. The Hawaii Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) is tasked with full state police powers to enforce all state laws with their primary jurisdiction involving State lands, State Parks, historical sites, forest reserves, aquatic life and wildlife areas, and coastal zones.

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I strongly support HB 1698 which amends bargaining unit 14 to be composed of state law enforcement officers and creates a new bargaining unit 15 to be composed of Honolulu Ocean Safety & Lifeguard Service Division. The creation of BU 15 will allow the highly trained and skilled LEOs and OSOs the ability to focus on the unique nature of their jobs through separate negotiations.

Mahalo,  
Kengy Gramberg

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:20:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chelsea Bizik	C&C Ocean Safety Officer	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

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Mahalo,  
Chelsea Bizik

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:36:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bryan Phillips	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

February 18, 2020

**In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1**

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Mahalo,

BRYAN PHILLIPS

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 9:05:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tanner Haytin	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

IN SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
Tanner Haytin

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:56:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cullen chesnut	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
Cullen chesnut



**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 8:48:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 7:55:28 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dylan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
DYLAN GLEED

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:48:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Beall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
ROBERT BEALL

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:21:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jaron Chong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in full SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1.

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Mahalo

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:40:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noland Tamashiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
Aka Tamashiro

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:47:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Loganbill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
David Loganbill

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:17:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Harold Teshima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

My name is Harold Teshima and I am in SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,

Harold Teshima

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:51:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Matthew Beall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
Matthew Beall



**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 12:34:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
kale sylvia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

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Mahalo

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:20:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacob Ah Sam	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

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Mahalo,  
BRYAN PHILLIPS

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:23:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Corey Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:40:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
jude parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

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Mahalo,  
Jude K Parker

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:41:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
eugene teixeira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

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Mahalo,  
Eugene Teixeira

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:29:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christian Hemmings	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 1698 which amends bargaining unit 14 to be composed of state law enforcement officers and creates a new bargaining unit 15 to be composed of lifeguards. The creation of BU 15 will allow the highly trained and skilled LEOs and OSOs the ability to focus on the unique nature of their jobs through separate negotiations. I firmly believe this will create a stronger workforce for both departments which will better serve the public. Both departments have highly trained professionals. Separating the departments will allow each department to grow and focus on their own needs and demands.

Mahalo Nui, Christian

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:54:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ikaika won	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

BU 14 was created in 2013 which is composed of state law enforcement officers (LEOs) and Ocean Safety Officers/Lifeguards (OSO). The LEOs are armed officers who carry out law enforcement duties, serve warrants, make arrests, escort criminals and provide security for our state capital, airports and courthouses. The Hawaii Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) is tasked with full state police powers to enforce all state laws with their primary jurisdiction involving State lands, State Parks, historical sites, forest reserves, aquatic life and wildlife areas, and coastal zones.

OSOs provide ocean safety lifeguarding services for about 500 miles of coastline across the whole state. OSOs services include ocean rescue prevention, ocean rescue, emergency medical first response, dispatched mobile patrol, education, and injury prevention programs related to ocean safety.

I strongly support HB 1698 which amends bargaining unit 14 to be composed of state law enforcement officers and creates a new bargaining unit 15 to be composed of lifeguards. The creation of BU 15 will allow the highly trained and skilled LEOs and OSOs the ability to focus on the unique nature of their jobs through separate negotiations.

Mahalo,  
Ikaika Won

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:05:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Loganbill	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a City and County lifeguard for over 30 years, I strongly support this bill. BU 14 has been very helpful to both State Law Enforcement officers and County lifeguards and though we all serve in the interest of public safety, we both have very different duties and responsibilities. This bill would allow negotiators on both sides to more effeciently address the needs and requirements of each group while taking into account those unique duties and responsibilities. Mahalo, James Loganbill



**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 4:48:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
keoni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
KEONI YAN

**LATE**



HAWAIIAN LIFEGUARD ASSOCIATION

February 18, 2020

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair,  
The Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair,  
and Members  
House Committee on Finance  
The Thirtieth Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members:

Re: HB 1698 HD 1, RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Hawaiian Lifeguard Association (HLA) is the non-profit statewide organization that supports the interests of the 400 professional Ocean and Water Safety Officers employed in the State of Hawaii. The goals of the HLA are to maintain the highest standards of training and performance for the lifeguards who ensure the safety of the millions of visitors and residents who visit Hawaii's beaches. The HLA also supports and promotes drowning and injury prevention programs statewide to reduce the number of incidents that occur in the ocean environment every year.

Hawaii's lifeguards are recognized internationally as among the best in the world, having to deal with the biggest and most dangerous surf conditions, pioneering the use of personal watercraft for surf rescue, and for implementing innovative and effective prevention program.

In November of 2013, the Hawaii Labor Relations Board approved the creation of HGEA Bargaining Unit 14. This significant decision was the result of recognizing the public safety functions of the State's lifeguards, sheriffs, harbor patrol, and DLNR enforcement officers.

Unit 14 was the first new bargaining unit formed in the HGEA in over 30 years, and was a welcome improvement in labor representation for the included public safety employees.

However, during biennial contract negotiations, it has become increasingly apparent that there are significant differences in the job functions of the four classes of employees in the unit.

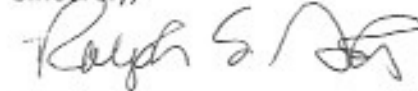
Post Office Box 283324, Honolulu, HI 96828 Telephone: (808) 479-1610  
<[www.hawaiianlifeguardassociation.com](http://www.hawaiianlifeguardassociation.com)>

Sheriffs, DOCARE Enforcement Officers and Harbor Patrol Officers are trained and armed law enforcement personnel, whereas lifeguards have no enforcement authority duties, and focus their attention on prevention, rescue, and emergency medical response. These differences in job duties and expectations result in differing labor negotiation issues for the water and ocean safety officers in the state.

The HLA strongly supports HB 1698 HD1, which would create a separate bargaining unit (15) for state and county ocean and water safety officers. Bargaining Unit 15 will more appropriately represent the unique employment issues related to the State of Hawaii's professional lifeguards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Goto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Ralph S. Goto

For the Board of Directors

**LATE**

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 6:58:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joseph	HESD-OSD	Support	No

Comments:

February 18, 2020  
In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Mahalo,  
Joseph Cruz

**LATE**

**HB-1698-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 8:38:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/19/2020 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kala'i Obayashi	ocean safety	Support	Yes

Comments:

February 18, 2020

In SUPPORT of HB 1698 HD1

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Kala'i Obayashi