

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 22, 2023

To: The Honorable Amy A Perruso, Chair,  
The Honorable Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Higher Education and Technology

Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: HR142; URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTER FOR LABOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WEST OAHU BY ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN VISION FOR THE CENTERS PROGRAMS.**

The DLIR **supports the intent** of this measure and defers to University of Hawaii (UH) on provisions applicable only to UH. HR142 urges the UH to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research at the UH West Oahu by establishing a working group to develop a community driven vision for the Center's programs.

The resolution also urges the membership of the DLIR Director or the DLIR Director's designee to the working group. The DLIR is willing to participate in the working group to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation by the 2024 Legislative Session.

**HR-142**

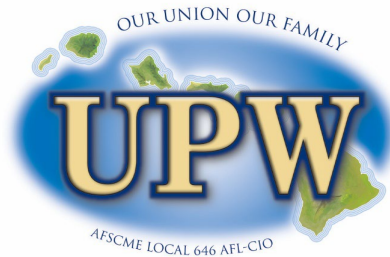
Submitted on: 3/21/2023 11:41:59 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick Max Weisbarth	Sailors Union of the Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Sailors Union of the Pacific supports HR 142 / SR 126. Any action by the House and/or Senate that seeks to educate and strengthen the cause of the Labor movements impact on our state and society is fully supported by the Rank and File members of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, and its leadership. Should you require further input on this pending resolution, feel free to let me know...



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2023**

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY**

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 2:00 PM  
Conference Room 309 & via Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on HR142 and HCR140 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTER FOR LABOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WEST OAHU BY ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN VISION FOR THE CENTERS PROGRAMS.**

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW **strongly supports** HR142 and HCR140, which urge the University of Hawaii to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research (“CLEAR”) at the University of Hawaii-West Oahu by establishing a working group to develop a community-driven vision for the Center’s programs.

For nearly 50 years CLEAR has continued to provide specialized education and training to Hawaii’s workers and union leaders while preserving the State’s rich labor history by meticulously documenting the struggles of the working men and women who preceded us. CLEAR is an invaluable resource, and we believe CLEAR should receive the additional support it needs to fulfill its intended purpose and prescribed goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kalani Werner  
State Director



Randy Perreira, President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO  
Hawaii's Labor Unions

888 Mililani Street Suite 501, Honolulu, Hawaii'i 96813

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i State House of Representatives  
Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Testimony by  
Hawai'i State AFL-CIO  
March 22, 2023

H.R. 142 / H.C.R. 140 – URGING THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN  
THE CENTER FOR LABOR EDUCATION AND  
RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
WEST OAHU BY ESTABLISHING A WORKING  
GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY-  
DRIVEN VISION FOR THE CENTERS  
PROGRAMS.

The Hawai'i State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 74 affiliate local unions and councils with over 68,000 members across both public and private sectors. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in **support** of H.R. 142 / H.C.R. 140.

At 71 percent, the approval of labor unions is at its highest since 1965.<sup>1</sup> It is timely to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) for the benefit of Hawai'i's young workers into the future. CLEAR provides more than labor education for labor representatives and the public. CLEAR houses the story of Hawai'i's labor history from the plantation workers' point of view. Labor history predates labor law, and putting a nostalgic gloss on plantation life diminishes Hawai'i workers' stories of struggle and resilience. Workers' stories must persist because it is foundational for young workers' situational awareness of working conditions today.

We appreciate your consideration of our testimony in **support** of H.R. 142 / H.C.R. 140.

Respectfully,

Randy Perreira  
President

RP/dd

<sup>1</sup> Gallup Inc, U.S. Approval of Labor Unions at Highest Point Since 1965, Gallup.com (2022), <https://news.gallup.com/poll/398303/approval-labor-unions-highest-point-1965.aspx> (last visited Mar 21, 2023).



*Eric W. Gill, Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Gemma G. Weinstein, President*

*Cade Watanabe, Senior Vice-President*

March 21, 2023

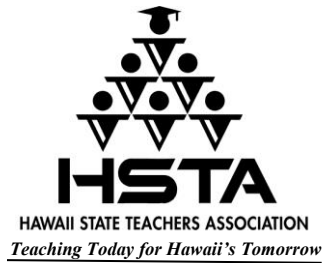
Committee on Higher Education & Technology  
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair  
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

**Testimony in support of HR142 / HCR140**

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents working people throughout Hawaii's hotel, food service and health care industries. **We support HR142 / HCR140.** The UH CLEAR program is a valuable and important resource to the state. Understanding Hawaii's labor history is vitally important to the task of creating and maintaining a flourishing, participatory democracy, healthy communities, and an economy that serves the needs of all residents. CLEAR plays a key role in that effort and has the potential to do even more. We believe that this measure will help unlock some of that potential and develop the CLEAR program. Please support this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration.



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.  
President  
Logan Okita  
Vice President  
Lisa Morrison  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Ann Mahi  
Executive Director

## TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY

RE: HR 142/ HCR140 URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTER FOR LABOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WEST OAHU BY ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN VISION FOR THE CENTERS PROGRAMS.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023

OSA TUI, JR., PRESIDENT  
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **strongly supports HR140/HCR142**, urging the University of Hawai'i to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu by establishing a working group to develop a community-driven vision for the center's programs.

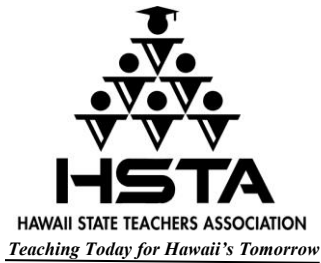
The Center for Labor Education and Research (Center) was first established by Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 1976 (Act 202), to address the need for specialized education and training by workers and trade union leaders to improve their professional competence and ability to effectively administer their affairs; and

Existing law requires the Center to:

(1) Provide credit and noncredit labor studies courses and labor-related research and educational services for workers and their organizations; (2) Provide labor-related education to the public; (3) Advise and assist in the development and implementation of labor-related instructional programs, courses, and activities for use within the Department of Education, including teacher preparation; (4) Develop and implement a labor studies degree program or programs in the University of Hawaii System; and (5) Serve as the clearinghouse for labor education matters in the State.

The Center is now located on the second floor of the James and Abigail Campbell Library at the University of Hawaii West Oahu; and the nationally-recognized faculty at the Center, including its Director, have struggled to meet the goals and purposes of Act 202, due to diminishing resources and support.

Hawai'i has the highest union membership rates of any state in the nation; and the University of Hawaii invests a considerable number of resources in degree-granting programs to provide advanced degrees to employers and human resource managers



1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Osa Tui, Jr.  
President  
Logan Okita  
Vice President  
Lisa Morrison  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Ann Mahi  
Executive Director

and business administrators. Recently, the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents approved a Labor Studies Certificate program at the University of Hawai'i West Oahu for those interested in pursuing an academic labor studies program.

Having knowledge and understanding of the laws governing labor organizations, and the unique labor history of the State, are more important than ever to improve the professional competence of labor union representatives. We need to support our representatives so that they are better able to administer their affairs, and intervene wisely to effectively shape the environments at their jobs, in their unions, and in their communities. **Thus, a working group to develop a community-driven vision for the Center's programs need to be the highest priority to support our workers in Hawai'i.**

**To continue to support labor in our state, the Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to support this resolution.**

**HR-142**

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:39:51 PM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hawaii LECET	Hawaii Laborers & Employers Cooperation and Education Trust	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii LECET is in strong support of HR 142.



**Chair Amy Perruso**  
**Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela**

**House Committee on Higher Education & Technology**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2023**  
**2:00PM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HR142/HCR140 URGING THE  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTER FOR LABOR  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WEST OAHU  
BY ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A  
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN VISION FOR THE CENTERS PROGRAMS**

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, Members of the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology,

My name is Jun Shin. I am a graduate of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, a labor activist, and a current member of the Hawai‘i State Youth Commission, testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HR142/HCR140**, Urging the University of Hawaii to Strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research at the University of Hawaii West Oahu by Establishing a Working Group to Develop a Community-driven Vision for the Centers Programs.

The Center for Labor Education and Research or CLEAR is an amazing resource for the working class of Hawai‘i. CLEAR provides training and resources for union staff, union officers, and rank-and-file union members, empowering working people and their representatives to exercise their rights in the workplace and understand the broader role that workers and unions play and need to play in our community and society. CLEAR also works hard to preserve and teach the struggles, hardships, and the victories won by working people all throughout Hawai‘i’s history, inspiring us all to build on all the progress we have made and to complete the work begun by labor leaders and organizers like Jack Hall, Harry Kamoku, and Ah Quon McElrath.

The Center for Labor Education and Research needs to be protected and expanded so that all Hawai‘i’s people, union workers, non-union workers, and the youth of Hawai‘i alike can benefit from its work. Please **PASS House Resolution 142/House Concurrent Resolution 140** out of your committee and begin the process of making that possible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,  
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12  
Cell: 808-255-6663  
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

**HR-142**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 8:58:40 AM

Testimony for HET on 3/22/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justin Puaoi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Justin Puaoi and I am in full support for this bill. I am currently in roled in the Labor Studies Certificate program. This is helping me because of my profession. The Center for Labor is a key part to our knowledge and also to our history of labor for the working people. I hope you consider to allow funds to CLEAR so they may browden their mission to support, educate, and send a positive outlook for Labor.