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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2703

February 11, 2022
3:15 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

This measure amends Chapter 89, HRS, to create a new Bargaining Unit (BU) 16 for Adult Corrections Officers of the Department of Public Safety's Corrections Division.

B&F is concerned with the cost implications of creating another BU and the long-term impact for the State budget. The Legislature has created two new BUs in recent years and is considering creating others, in addition to this one, this session. In addition to the collective bargaining cost implications, B&F is concerned with the increasing administrative costs and complexities of negotiating, arbitrating, and managing contracts for an ever increasing number of BUs.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 1201
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

For Hearing on Friday, February 11, 2022
3:15 PM, Conference Room 225 Via Video Conference

By

RYKER WADA
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

Senate Bill No. 2703
Relating to Collective Bargaining

CHAIRPERSON TANIGUCHI, VICE-CHAIR IHARA, AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON LABOR, CULTURE AND THE ARTS:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) respectfully **opposes** S.B.2703, which retains institutional, health, and correctional workers except for Adult Corrections Officers of the Department of Public Safety's Corrections Division under bargaining unit (10) and creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for Adult Corrections Officers of the Department of Public Safety's Corrections Division.

The OCB offers the following comments concerning this measure:

- Currently, the OCB negotiates collective bargaining agreements for 15 bargaining units of public employees throughout the state.
- The establishment of another bargaining unit would impact OCB's duties and responsibilities to perform effective collective bargaining pursuant to HRS §89-9.
- In recent years, the Legislature has created two new bargaining units and is considering creating others, in addition to this one, this session. This raises another concern of OCB, which is the possible "whipsaw effect" wherein other employees

within the bargaining units would become motivated to seek the Legislature's support to separate to become their own new bargaining units, further impacting the workload of OCB.

- The increase in costs and complexities related to establishing, negotiating, arbitrating, and managing contracts for the ever-increasing number of bargaining units is a serious concern.

However, should this measure advance, the OCB requests that it be amended to include funding and positions for additional staff support to effectively facilitate collective bargaining for a total of 16 bargaining units. Further, the OCB requests that the measure be delayed until at least such time that these positions are established and filled.

Based on the above, the OCB respectfully requests that this measure be **held**.

Thank you for considering our concerns and for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator Les Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair

Friday, February 11, 2022, 3:15PM
Conference Room 225 and Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of SB2703 - RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, 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 include 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 **supports** SB2703, which creates a separate bargaining unit (16) for Adult Corrections Officers (ACOs) of the Department of Public Safety’s Corrections Division, while retaining institutional, health, and other correctional workers under bargaining unit (10).

Recently, UPW collected input from our ACOs regarding this specific bill. Through this process, we heard from many of our ACO members, the majority of which are supportive of this bill.

Some of the reasons given include: making it easier to understand the current and ongoing job duties for ACOs; helping to simplify and address the concerns and needs of a new bargaining unit; and potentially helping to clarify ongoing and negotiated contract language for these positions in future agreements.

We appreciate the Committee hearing this legislation and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Liz Ho
Administrator

UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO



**THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022**

Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Chair
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Friday, February 11, 2022, 3:15PM
Conference Room 225 and via Videoconference

Re: Testimony in support of SB2703 - RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Aloha Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Ihara, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kalani Werner, and I am the State Director-Elect for United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646. I look forward to working with this committee and the legislature as the new State Director.

But today, I am testifying in my individual capacity as an Adult Corrections Officer (ACO) at Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) with over 20 years of experience in both supervisory and non-supervisory roles. I also draw from my extensive experience as Chief Steward for OCCC – representing and protecting hundreds of ACOs – and as a member of Bargaining Unit 10’s Executive Negotiating Committee for collective bargaining.

I passionately support Senate Bill 2703.

Historically, Bargaining Unit 10 was created for 24-hour shift, essential workers. We all provide vital, around-the-clock services to protect the safety and welfare of our communities. We do not have the ability to strike due to the critical nature of our jobs.

However, beyond that, and with complete respect to our fellow health and institutional workers, our job responsibilities, working conditions, and work settings are completely different.

ACOs are requesting to separate from Bargaining Unit 10 so we can better negotiate contracts that address working conditions and safety concerns directly related to our work in prisons and the demands of being a corrections officer. Creating a new bargaining unit will allow members from Bargaining Units 10 and the new, proposed bargaining unit 16 to negotiate contracts that are more suited to their respective professions.

Thank you for hearing this legislation and for the opportunity to provide testimony. I look forward to continued discussions with you and other stakeholders over this important legislation.

Mahalo,

Kalani Werner
State Director-Elect
United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 7:44:55 PM

Testimony for LCA on 2/11/2022 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I stand in support of this measure. Thank you.