



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

Committee on Labor & Government Operations

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Andrew Takuya Garret, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 309 and via Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of HCR144/HR146 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO EXAMINE ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT IN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, 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 **supports** HCR144/HR146, which urges the Department of Human Resources Development (“DHRD”) to establish a working group to examine issues and opportunities for improvement in recruitment and retention of public employees.

While DHRD is currently seeking ways to improve its policies and processes with respect to the recruitment and retention of public employees, UPW believes that engaging all exclusive representatives is critical to finding a collaborative solution, and we appreciate being included as part of the proposed working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director