



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
'ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony
Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.

By
Debora Halbert, Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1588 HD1 – RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1588 HD1, relating to the Labor Education Advisory Council. Although the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) is operationally housed at the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu, the University of Hawai'i (UH) recognizes that CLEAR was created to provide labor education and support labor organizations across the entire State of Hawai'i, as authorized under Act 202 in 1976. Similarly, UH recognizes that the Labor Education and Advisory Council (LEAC), which interacts closely with CLEAR, was established to represent the trade union movement across the entire state.

For these reasons, UH supports the proposed amendment authorizing LEAC to advise the UH President as well as the UH West O'ahu Chancellor. Indeed, this was one of the recommendations included in the report submitted to the Legislature by the HR 142 (2023) Working Group, in which UH participated.

The second proposed amendment, requiring the UH President and UH West O'ahu Chancellor to provide written responses to LEAC's formal advice resolutions, is a matter that was not addressed in the HR 142 Working Group report. If such an amendment is established as law, UH is prepared to comply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Marc Yamane, LEAC Vice Chair
Intl. Union of Elevator
Constructors Local 126

Michael S. Anderson, Jr.
Inland Boatmen's Union

Colleen Bird
Hawaii State Teachers Assn

Valentino Ceria
Plumbers and Fitters UA
Local Union 675

Gayna Hashimoto
IBEW, Local 1260

Desiree Kalama-Keli'ikuli
Hawai'i Teamsters, Local 996

Brian Lee
Hawai'i LECET.

Catherine Lederer
Hawai'i AFL-CIO, LCSP

Brian Lee
IBEW, Local 1186

Ilima Long
ILWU, Local 142

Morris Luka
UNITE HERE, Local 5

Robert Shinoda
Musicians' Assn. of Hawai'i
Local 677

Janet Suster
Hawai'i Federal & Amalgamated
Machinists, Local Lodge 1998

Lorna Woo
Intl. Union of Painters
& Allied Trades,
District Council 50

The Thirty-Second Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Higher Education & Technology

Testimony by
the Labor Education Advisory Council

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

TESTIMONY ON HB1588 HD1
RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela, and members of the committee,

In 1976 the legislature established the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) to serve the public and labor community across the State by providing labor-related education to the public and advising and assisting in the development and implementation of labor studies degree program in the university of Hawaii system. For the past 47 years CLEAR has played a vital role in serving the public and the labor community across the state fulfilling its statutory mandates with the advise of a Labor Education Advisory Council (LEAC) appointed by the President of the University of Hawai'i.

Meeting quarterly, the Council offers invaluable guidance to ensure that CLEAR continues to meet the evolving needs of the labor community. We are confident that this bill will significantly benefit the UH system, future students, and the labor community by requiring that LEAC resolutions be reported to both the Chancellor of UH West Oahu and the UH system President.

We support the HB1588 amendments to HRS §304A-1603 to ensure that the formal advice and recommendations of this advisory council will be acknowledged and responded to in writing on both the campus and state system levels, by the UH President and Chancellor of the University of Hawaii - West Oahu.

Clyde Hayashi, Chair
Labor Education Advisory Council