



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/27/2023

Time: 01:30 PM

Location: 308 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Finance

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0164, HD1 RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE RENEWALS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires each public employer to pay for the employer's employees' professional license renewal fees. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments regarding HB 0164 HD1. The Department appreciates efforts to support the recruitment and retention of professional employees statewide by lowering barriers of entry into professions that require a professional license.

If the bill passes, the Department would request that appropriate staffing be included in the bill. The Department does not currently have staff dedicated to track, reimburse, or collect prorated professional licensing fees owed when an employee ceases employment.

As an alternative, the Department recommends all fees be waived or collected at the appropriate licensing agency rather than by the employer.

Additionally, the Department would defer to the Office of Collective Bargaining as to whether this measure would affect the collective bargaining process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 0164 HD1 relating to professional license fees.

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



BRENN A H. HASHIMOTO
CHIEF NEGOTIATOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

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

Statement of
BRENN A H. HASHIMOTO
Chief Negotiator

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 27, 2023
1:30 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 164 HD1, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE RENEWALS

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of House Bill 164 HD1, which requires each public employer to pay for an employer's employees' professional license renewal fees. However, we must respectfully oppose this measure.

OCB is concerned that payments for professional license fee renewals is a negotiable cost item subject to the collective bargaining process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



NOLA N. MIYASAKI
DIRECTOR

FLORENCIO C. BAGUIO, JR.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
The House of Representatives, Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 164 HD1
Relating to Professional License Fee Renewals

House Bill No. 164 HD1 requires each public employer to pay for employees' professional license renewal fees for professional licenses necessary for the employees to carry out their duties.

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Human Resources, respectfully notes that the proposed requirement involves a matter subject to collective bargaining and some public sector bargaining units have already negotiated similar provisions into respective collective bargaining agreements.

If this matter were to pass, the City requests the Committee impose a delayed effective date that would enable the City to determine which employees are subject to required professional licenses and budget accordingly in the following year's operating budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Nola N. Miyasaki", is written over a horizontal line. To the left of the signature is a small, stylized mark that looks like the letters "fo".

Nola N. Miyasaki
Director



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808 543.0011 • Fax: 808.528 0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 27, 2023

H.B. 164, H.D. 1 — RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE RENEWAL

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 164, H.D. 1 which requires each public employer to pay for the employer's employees' professional license renewal fee.

As the state's largest public sector union, we represent many of the professionally licensed employees impacted by the passage of this measure. Currently, it is the employer's choice to pay for any necessary professional license renewal fees for an employee. Unfortunately, many employers choose to not pay for their employee's renewal fees, which has caused financial hardships for many public employees. By requiring each public employer to pay for necessary license renewal fees, it will appropriately shift the cost burden from the employee to the employer. It will also enable each public employer to attract and retain qualified employees to provide services that are essential to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of H.B. 164, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director