

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: 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 DLIR **supports the intent** of this measure and defers to University of Hawaii (UH) on provisions applicable only to UH. HCR140 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.



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, March 22, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

By

Maenette K. P. Ah Nee-Benham
Chancellor
University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu

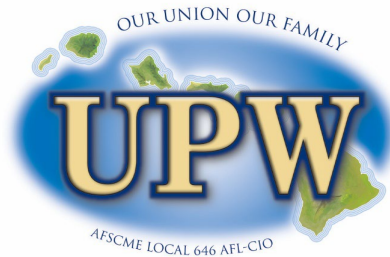
HR 142/HCR 140 – URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTER FOR LABOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII WEST OAHU BY ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN VISION FOR THE CENTER'S PROGRAMS

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Resolution 142 (HR 142)/House Concurrent Resolution 140 (HCR 140). The University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu supports these measures to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) at the University of Hawai'i – West O'ahu, by establishing a working group to develop a community-driven vision for the Center's programs.

CLEAR was established in 1976 and provides labor education, research and labor-related programs to workers, their organizations, university students, and the public through credit and non-credit classes, seminars, workshops, publications, and the public media. By statute, the Center is guided and advised by a Labor Education and Advisory Council, appointed by the President of the University.

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



**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 1965.¹ 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

¹ 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).

IATSE LOCAL 665

FILM, TELEVISION, STAGE, PROJECTION AND TRADESHOWS
Since 1937

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES, MOVING PICTURE TECHNICIANS, ARTISTS AND ALLIED CRAFTS
OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

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

Testimony by IATSE 665
March 22nd, 2023

HCR 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.

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

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, president of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **Local 665 strongly supports HCR 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 center's program.

Hawai'i boasts the highest rate of union membership per capita of any state in the US. The courage of our predecessors and the actions they took in the name of the working families of Hawai'i echo into our world today. The valuable lessons of Hawai'i's labor history, which built the Hawaii Democratic Revolution of 1954 with the momentum of the Big 5 Sugar Strike, are honed, maintained, and brought through the lens of discourse of current events because of C.L.E.A.R. In the dire economic conditions that future generations face, it is imperative that a working group be established to develop a pathway to empower our communities and Hawai'i's working families. If there are resources to support a school of business in the UH system, there should be resources to adequately support a school of labor as well.

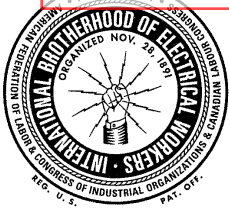
I am currently enrolled in the UHWO Labor Certificate program. There are painfully few of us in the class, but there is no lack of substance to the lessons provided. I cannot adequately express in a matter of a few paragraphs the depth of knowledge that has been shared with me by the incredible faculty nor the value of the insights I've gained as a result of these courses. We can and should make a difference for our communities and our working families. The Center for Labor Education and Research provides vital training that will support the future labor leaders of Hawai'i and strengthen the foundation of working families.

IATSE 665 strongly supports this resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tuia'ana Scanlan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tuia" and the last name "Scanlan" clearly distinguishable.

Tuia'ana Scanlan
President, IATSE 665
he/him/his



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

LOCAL UNION NO. 1186 • Affiliated with AFL-CIO

1935 HAU STREET, ROOM 401 • HONOLULU, HI 96819-5003
TELEPHONE (808) 847-5341 • FAX (808) 847-2224

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY
Hearing on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 2:00p.m., Conference Room 309

RE: TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HR 142 / HCR 140

Honorable Chair Amy P. Perruso, Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education & Technology:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 1186 (IBEW 1186), is comprised of over 3,600 men and women working in construction, telecommunications, Spectrum, civil service employees, and educator and faculty associations.

IBEW 1186 **SUPPORTS** these resolutions that are intended to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) at the University of Hawaii (UH).

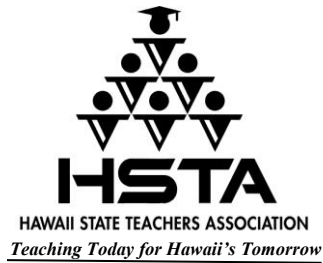
CLEAR has played an important role in Hawaii's Labor Movement by offering programs and presentations on Labor Law, Collective Bargaining, and Labor History. Many of IBEW 1186 members have had the opportunity to learn the struggles and successes of Organized Labor in Hawaii from construction to travel and tourism industry. CLEAR also equips and trains its students/attendees with knowledge and skills about the entire structure of labor relations, labor disputes, State and Federal agencies, laws, and rules pertaining workers' rights and what it means to Union.

IBEW 1186 asks this committee to move on these resolutions to create this working group that will further the purposes of CLEAR.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Damien T.K. Kim
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary



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.

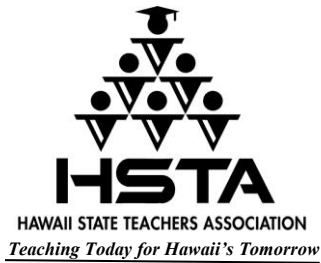
The Center for Labor Education and Research (Center) was first established by Act 202, Session Laws of Hawaii 1976 (Act 202), to address the need for specialized education and training by workers and trade union leaders to improve their professional competence and ability to effectively administer their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



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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.



HAWAII WORKERS CENTER

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Defending and Respecting the workers of
Hawaii'i

(508) WORKERS
(503) 967- 5377
hawaiiworkerscenter@gmail.com
hawaiiworkerscenter.org

March 21, 2023

Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Higher Education and Technology
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Chair
Rep. Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

Executive
Committee of the
Board

Rev. Sam Domingo
Board Chair

Mary Ochs
Vice President

Dr. Arcelita Imasa
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Nanea Lo

Innocenta
Sound-Kikku

Ray Catania

Justin Jansen

Marites Uy

Leyton Torda

Robyn Conboy

Co-Executive
Directors

Tony Doroño

Sergio Alcubilla III,
Esq.

RE: Strong Support for HCR 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.

Dear Chair Rep. Perruso, Vice-Chair Rep. Kapela, and Members of the Committee on Higher Education and Technology:

The Hawaii Workers Center envisions a Hawaii in which all workers are empowered to exercise their right to organize for their social, economic and political well-being. It is a resource of information, education, training and organizing for many of Hawaii's low-wage and immigrant workers.


The Hawaii Workers Center stands in strong support for HCR 140 in establishing a working group to develop a community-driven vision for the programs of the Center for Labor Education and Research at the University of Hawaii West Oahu.

While Hawaii has the highest union membership rate of any state in the nation, the Center is lacking the necessary resources and support to fulfill the goals and original intent of Act 202 which sought 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.

Hawaii's rich history in the labor movement is to be studied and celebrated. Workers in the sugar cane and pineapple fields came together to demand better working conditions and to be treated with the dignity and respect we all deserve. Many of the descendants of these workers are now the pillars of our community. However, the struggles of our working class families and residents continue on in 2023. The need for all workers to have access to paid sick leave, paid family leave, and the full benefit of our state's minimum wage laws are just some of the issues that still need to be addressed. The work is not yet done.

May HCR 140 be the starting point for a rejuvenated labor movement, with the Center for Labor Education and Research being provided the necessary resources and support to play a critical role in ensuring justice and fairness for all workers here in Hawaii.

Sincerely,



Sergio J. Alcubilla
Executive Director

HCR-140

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:38:43 PM

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

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

Comments:

Hawaii LECET is in strong support of HCR 140.

As a former social studies teacher and retired director of the Center for Economic Education at UH-Manoa and chair of the secondary teacher education at the College of Education, I am in full support of the Center for Labor Education.

The growth of the middle class in our country and state was due largely through the efforts of unions. Too often, unions have been made scapegoats preventing the growth of the business. In Hawai`i the unions played a major role in supporting the growth of the middle class, racial integration and practice of democracy.

The role unions played in the growth of Hawai`i from a territory to a state is essential. It would provide a better understanding of the past economic and workforce issues that faced our state and provide a context for the future. Too often the topic is not addressed in the classrooms throughout the state. The impact of the research and resources of the Center for Labor Education will benefit the K-12 students as well as the general public to understand the past and provide guidance for the future. Without question, I strongly support the Center for Labor Education for a more knowledgeable Hawai`i about the importance and impact unionism has on the lives of our citizens and the future for our state.

Gail Tamaribuchi
AAUW – Windward Branch
President

HCR-140

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 1:08:20 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HCR 140. Please support HCR 140.

HCR-140

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 12:34:03 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen-Rae Cachola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee,

My name is Ellen-Rae Cachola and I am a descendant of Ilocano immigrants who worked in Maui's plantation industries during the Territorial and Statehood eras. Please support HCR 140 for the University of Hawai'i to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) at UH West Oahu. CLEAR has important instructional, archival, and library information related to Hawai'i's labor history, which is often very underrepresented in our State's collective memory. CLEAR's archive covers labor history materials during the Hawaiian Kingdom, Territorial, and Statehood government eras. Please do all you can to support and uplift Hawai'i's working-class heritage.

Sincerely,

Ellen-Rae Cachola

HCR-140

Submitted on: 3/21/2023 3:02:52 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benton Rodden	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Benton Rodden, I am writing in capacity as a member of the University of Hawaii Labor Education Advisory Council in support of House Resolution 142 which if passed will encourage the University of Hawaii to convene a working group to explore ways to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) the University of Hawaii at West Oahu.

University labor centers provide critical education and research for the working class and their unions. This includes academic offerings, publication on emerging issues, education services for unions and serving as a resource for state governments. I have worked with CLEAR and several other labor centers in my professional capacity. They provide a valuable service to the community. I support the proposed working group to explore ways to strengthen CLEAR.

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



JOSH FROST

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Wednesday, March 22, 2023

HCR 140 / HR 142
Testifying In Support

Aloha Chair Perruso, Vice Chair Kapela and members of the Higher Education & Technology Committee,

Hawaii has the highest rate of union membership of any state in the country, something for which we should all be proud.

Add to this the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR), is an important and special space housed within the University of Hawaii at West Oahu. I've had the privilege of once visiting their office. Among other things, it is a fantastic repository of Hawaii's labor history.

In fact, their Labor History Archive won the 2016 Reference and User Services Association's John Sessions Memorial Award.

As I understand it, since CLEAR was established nearly 50 years ago it has since struggled to receive necessary resources. This is very unfortunate. Especially now as corporations work to privatize every aspect of our lives and seek to undermine or find ways around our labor protections (think Uber and Lyft).

We need to do more to support our workers and one of the best places to start is education. As the resolution puts so succinctly; “

“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, so that these representatives can better administer their affairs, and intervene wisely to effectively shape the environments at their jobs, in their unions, and in the community”

I urge you move this resolution along and I hope to be able to read the required report later this year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.