

# SB 638

## LATE

### Testimony

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|-------------------|--|
| Measure Title:    | RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.   |
| Report Title:     | Collective Bargaining Units; UH graduate students  |
| Description:      | Allows UH graduate students to be included in an appropriate collective bargaining unit. |
| Companion:        |  |
| Package:          | None   |
| Current Referral: | HEA/JDL, WAM   |
| Introducer(s):    | TANIGUCHI  |





**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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**The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii**  
**The Senate**  
**Committee on Higher Education and the Arts**  
**Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

**Testimony by**  
**Hawaii Government Employees Association**  
**February 5, 2015**

**S.B. 638 – RELATING TO**  
**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the concept of allowing graduate students employed by the University of Hawaii to be included in an appropriate collective bargaining unit, as proposed in S.B. 638.

Graduate students employed by the University have encountered numerous work related issues in the past; including budget set backs and increases in class size and workload, in addition to the high cost of living in Hawaii. Despite these issues, graduate student employees have not received a salary increase since 2004. Amending Ch. 89-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes by removing the exclusion of this group from collectively bargaining is the first necessary step in allowing them to unionize and will ensure their rights as state workers.

Respectfully submitted,

**Randy Perreira**  
**Executive Director**