
HOUSE RESOLUTION

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.

1 WHEREAS, the Center for Labor Education and Research
2 (Center) was first established by Act 202, Session Laws of
3 Hawaii 1976 (Act 202), to address the need for specialized
4 education and training by workers and trade union leaders to
5 improve their professional competence and ability to effectively
6 administer their affairs; and
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8 WHEREAS, Act 75, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, subsequently
9 revamped the higher education statutes and the Center was
10 recodified under chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, with
11 similar goals and responsibilities to the original intent of Act
12 202; and
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14 WHEREAS, existing law requires the Center to:

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- 16 (1) Provide credit and noncredit labor studies courses and
17 labor-related research and educational services for
18 workers and their organizations;
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 - 20 (2) Provide labor-related education to the public;
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 - 22 (3) Advise and assist in the development and
23 implementation of labor-related instructional
24 programs, courses, and activities for use within the
25 Department of Education, including teacher
26 preparation;
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 - 28 (4) Develop and implement a labor studies degree program
29 or programs in the University of Hawaii System; and
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1 (5) Serve as the clearinghouse for labor education matters
2 in the State; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Center is now located on the second floor of
5 the James and Abigail Campbell Library at the University of
6 Hawaii West Oahu; and
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8 WHEREAS, the nationally-recognized faculty at the Center,
9 including its Director, have struggled to meet the goals and
10 purposes of Act 202, due to diminishing resources and support;
11 and
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13 WHEREAS, the State has the highest union membership rates
14 of any state in the nation; and
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16 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii invests a considerable
17 number of resources in degree-granting programs to provide
18 advanced degrees to employers and human resource managers and
19 business administrators; and
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21 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Board of Regents has only
22 recently approved a Labor Studies Certificate program at the
23 University of Hawaii West Oahu for those interested in pursuing
24 an academic labor studies program; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Center's Labor History Archive won the 2016
27 Reference and User Services Association's John Sessions Memorial
28 Award, which recognizes a library or library system that has
29 made a significant effort to work with the labor community and
30 by doing so has brought recognition to the history and
31 contribution of the labor movement to the development of the
32 United States; and
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34 WHEREAS, the Labor Education Advisory Council advises the
35 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii West Oahu on all
36 activities and programs of the Center and has repeatedly advised
37 the Chancellor of the importance of the Center's purposes,
38 functions, and needs of the labor unions the Advisory Council
39 represents; and
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41 WHEREAS, knowledge and understanding of the laws governing
42 labor organizations and the unique labor history of the State



1 are more important than ever to improve the professional
2 competence of labor union representatives, so that these
3 representatives can better administer their affairs, and
4 intervene wisely to effectively shape the environments at their
5 jobs, in their unions, and in the community; now, therefore,
6

7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
9 Session of 2023, that the University of Hawaii is urged to
10 strengthen the Center for Labor Education and Research at the
11 University of Hawaii West Oahu by establishing a working group
12 to develop a community-driven vision for the Center's programs;
13 and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be comprised
16 of the following members:
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- 18 (1) The President of the University of Hawaii System, or
19 the President's designee;
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- 21 (2) One member of the Labor Education Advisory Council, to
22 be appointed by the Chancellor of the University of
23 Hawaii West Oahu;
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- 25 (3) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, or the
26 Director's designee;
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- 28 (4) One member of the House of Representatives, to be
29 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
30 Representative;
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- 32 (5) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
33 President of the Senate; and
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- 35 (6) Two members of the labor community, to be appointed by
36 the President of the University of Hawaii; and
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38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
39 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
40 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
41 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
42 of 2024; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, President of the University of Hawaii System, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii West Oahu, Director of the Center for Labor Education and Research, and members of the Labor Education Advisory Council.

OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2023

