
HOUSE CONCURRENT 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
7

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
13

14 WHEREAS, existing law requires the Center to:

- 15
- 16 (1) Provide credit and noncredit labor studies courses and
17 labor-related research and educational services for
18 workers and their organizations;
19
- 20 (2) Provide labor-related education to the public;
21
- 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;
27
- 28 (4) Develop and implement a labor studies degree program
29 or programs in the University of Hawaii System; and



1
2 (5) Serve as the clearinghouse for labor education matters
3 in the State; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the Center is now located on the second floor of
6 the James and Abigail Campbell Library at the University of
7 Hawaii West Oahu; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the nationally-recognized faculty at the Center,
10 including its Director, have struggled to meet the goals and
11 purposes of Act 202, due to diminishing resources and support;
12 and
13

14 WHEREAS, the State has the highest union membership rates
15 of any state in the nation; and
16

17 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii invests a considerable
18 number of resources in degree-granting programs to provide
19 advanced degrees to employers and human resource managers and
20 business administrators; and
21

22 WHEREAS, the University of Hawaii Board of Regents has only
23 recently approved a Labor Studies Certificate program at the
24 University of Hawaii West Oahu for those interested in pursuing
25 an academic labor studies program; and
26

27 WHEREAS, the Center's Labor History Archive won the 2016
28 Reference and User Services Association's John Sessions Memorial
29 Award, which recognizes a library or library system that has
30 made a significant effort to work with the labor community and
31 by doing so has brought recognition to the history and
32 contribution of the labor movement to the development of the
33 United States; and
34

35 WHEREAS, the Labor Education Advisory Council advises the
36 Chancellor of the University of Hawaii West Oahu on all
37 activities and programs of the Center and has repeatedly advised
38 the Chancellor of the importance of the Center's purposes,
39 functions, and needs of the labor unions the Advisory Council
40 represents; and
41



1 WHEREAS, knowledge and understanding of the laws governing
2 labor organizations and the unique labor history of the State
3 are more important than ever to improve the professional
4 competence of labor union representatives, so that these
5 representatives can better administer their affairs, and
6 intervene wisely to effectively shape the environments at their
7 jobs, in their unions, and in the community; now, therefore,
8

9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
11 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the University of
12 Hawaii is urged to strengthen the Center for Labor Education and
13 Research at the University of Hawaii West Oahu by establishing a
14 working group to develop a community-driven vision for the
15 Center's programs; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be comprised
18 of the following members:
19

- 20 (1) The President of the University of Hawaii System, or
21 the President's designee;
22
- 23 (2) One member of the Labor Education Advisory Council, to
24 be appointed by the Chancellor of the University of
25 Hawaii West Oahu;
26
- 27 (3) The Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, or the
28 Director's designee;
29
- 30 (4) One member of the House of Representatives, to be
31 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
32 Representative;
33
- 34 (5) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the
35 President of the Senate; and
36
- 37 (6) Two members of the labor community, to be appointed by
38 the President of the University of Hawaii; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
41 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
42 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later



H.C.R. NO. 140

1 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
2 of 2024; and

3

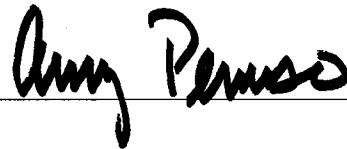
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
6 of Labor and Industrial Relations, President of the University
7 of Hawaii System, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii West
8 Oahu, Director of the Center for Labor Education and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

10

11

12

OFFERED BY:



MAR 10 2023

