



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1588, RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DATE: Thursday, February 8, 2024 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309 and Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

This bill amends section 304A-1603, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require: (1) the Labor Education Advisory Council (Council) to be advisory to the President of the University of Hawaii (President), in addition to the current requirement that the Council be advisory to the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii, West Oahu campus (Chancellor); and (2) the President and Chancellor to provide written responses acknowledging and addressing the Council's formal advice and adoption of any resolutions.

Article X, section 6, of the Hawai'i Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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 LIMAHAHA

February 8, 2023

To: The Honorable Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair,
The Honorable Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Government Operations

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 309, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: H.B. 1588 RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The **DLIR supports the intent** of HB1588 and defers to the University of Hawaii. HB1588 expands the advisory capacity of the Labor Education Advisory Council to ensure that its advice and recommendations on all activities and programs of the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) are received by the President of the University of Hawaii.

The DLIR Director participated in the Working Group established pursuant to HR142 (SLH, 2023) to develop a community-driven vision for the Center's programs. The Working Group recommended changing the statute to have the Council direct recommendations and advice adopted reported to the President of the University of Hawaii in addition to the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii-West Oahu.



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Osa Tui, Jr.
President

Logan Okita
Vice President

Lisa Thompson
Secretary-Treasurer

Ann Mahi
Executive Director

TESTIMONY TO THE HAWAII HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Item: **HB1588 - Relating to the Labor Education Advisory Council**

Position: **Support**

Hearing: **February 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m., Conference Room 309**

Submitter: **Osa Tui, Jr. – President, Hawai'i State Teachers Association**

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the committee,

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association **supports** HB1588 which specifies that the Labor Education Advisory Council shall be advisory to the President of the University of Hawai'i on all activities and programs of the Center for Labor Education and Research and requires written responses addressing the Council's advice and adoption of resolutions by the President and Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i, West Oahu campus.

HSTA is one of a number of unions who serve on the Labor Education Advisory Council (LEAC) where discussions take place about current events in the labor movement as well as progress on labor education being offered through the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR), among other items.

Hawai'i has a long history of union formation and activity which resulted from the large influx of immigrant laborers who were brought to the islands over many decades.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics notes for 2023 that Hawai'i had both the highest union membership and the highest union representation in the country. Given these facts, the items taken up by the LEAC should be of enough importance to warrant the aims of this bill.

The Hawai'i State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** this bill.



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 Labor & Government Operations
Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

By

Debora Halbert, Vice President for Academic Strategy
University of Hawai'i System

HB 1588 – RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1588, relating to the Labor Education Advisory Council. Although the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) is operationally housed at the University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu, the University of Hawai'i (UH) recognizes that CLEAR was created to provide labor education and support labor organizations across the entire State of Hawai'i, as authorized under Act 202 in 1976. Similarly, UH recognizes that the Labor Education and Advisory Council (LEAC), which interacts closely with CLEAR, was established to represent the trade union movement across the entire state.

For these reasons, UH supports the proposed amendment authorizing LEAC to advise the UH President as well as the UH West O'ahu Chancellor. Indeed, this was one of the recommendations included in the report submitted to the Legislature by the HR 142 (2023) Working Group, in which UH participated.

The second proposed amendment, requiring the UH President and UH West O'ahu Chancellor to provide written responses to LEAC's formal advice resolutions, is a matter that was not addressed in the HR 142 Working Group report. If such an amendment is established as law, UH is prepared to comply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Second Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Labor & Government Operations

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

February 8, 2024

TESTIMONY ON HB1588 - RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a federation of 74 affiliate labor organizations who represent over 68,000 union members within the State of Hawaii. The Hawaii State AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for workers and their families before the state legislature and other branches of state and county government.

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO **supports** HB1588 to expand the Labor Education Advisory Council's advisory capacity to ensure that its advice and recommendations on all activities and programs of the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) are received by the President of the University of Hawaii (UH). Additionally, the bill will require the UH President and Chancellor of the University of Hawaii, West Oahu campus, to provide written responses acknowledging and addressing the council's formal advice and adoption of any resolutions.

CLEAR plays a vital role in serving the public and the labor community across the state by providing labor-related education. Additionally, LEAC offers invaluable guidance to ensure that CLEAR continues to meet the evolving needs of the labor community. We are confident that this bill will significantly benefit the UH, future students, and the labor community.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
President



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Rep. Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 8, 2024, 10:00 AM
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB1588 – RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, 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.

UPW supports HB1588, which specifies that the Labor Education Advisory Council (“LEAC”) shall be advisory to the President of the University of Hawaii on all activities and programs of the Center for Labor Education and Research (“CLEAR”). This bill also requires written responses addressing the Council's advice and adoption of resolutions by the President and Chancellor of the University of Hawaii, West Oahu campus.

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. As such, we agree the LEAC should be consulted with in a significant way, as it is prescribed in this bill, to ensure that CLEAR is able to meet the evolving needs of the labor community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kalani Werner", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kalani Werner
State Director

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The House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
February 8, 2024
10:00 AM
Room 309

RE: **HB 1588, Relating to the Labor Education Advisory Council**

Attention: Chair Scot Matayoshi, Vice Chair Andrew Garrett and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA) **supports HB1588**, relating to the labor education advisory council.

HB 1588 expands the advisory capacity of the labor education advisory council to ensure that its advice and recommendations on all activities and programs of the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) are received by the president of the University of Hawaii. The bill further requires the President of the University of Hawaii and Chancellor of the West Oahu Campus to provide a written response addressing the council's formal advice and adoption of any resolutions.

CLEAR is an essential resource, providing labor education and research for the state. Through the guidance of the Labor Education and Advisory Council, CLEAR has been able to meet the needs and promote the values of labor for the University, its students, and the labor community. UHPA believes HB1588 will enable further advancement of labor education.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. L. Fern'.

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 7, 2024

House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
Representative Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Garrett, Vice-Chair

Testimony in Support of HB1588, Relating to the Labor Education Advisory Council

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. Our union has a long history of fighting for good wages, benefits and working conditions for Hawaii's working families. We believe in the fight for all workers to be treated with respect and dignity in their workplace.

In our work to spread awareness of labor rights and knowledge about the rich history of working class struggle, we have often worked with or relied on the expertise of Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR). CLEAR is a source of valuable research and knowledge. The University of Hawaii President will be well-served by hearing CLEAR's perspective on labor-oriented issues.

We urge lawmakers to pass HB1588.

Thank you for your consideration.

LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Marc Yamane, LEAC Vice Chair
Intl. Union of Elevator
Constructors Local 126

Michael S. Anderson, Jr.
Inland Boatmen's Union

Colleen Bird
Hawaii State Teachers Assn

Valentino Ceria
Plumbers and Fitters UA
Local Union 675

Gayna Hashimoto
IBEW, Local 1260

Desiree Kalama-Keli'ikuli
Hawai'i Teamsters, Local 996

Brian Lee
Hawai'i LECET.

Catherine Lederer
Hawai'i AFL-CIO, LCSP

Brian Lee
IBEW, Local 1186

Ilima Long
ILWU, Local 142

Morris Luka
UNITE HERE, Local 5

Robert Shinoda
Musicians' Assn. of Hawai'i
Local 677

Janet Suster
Hawai'i Federal & Amalgamated
Machinists, Local Lodge 1998

Lorna Woo
Intl. Union of Painters
& Allied Trades,
District Council 50

The Thirty-Second Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Labor & Government Operations

Testimony by
the Labor Education Advisory Council

Thursday, February 8, 2024
10:00 a.m.

TESTIMONY ON HB1588
RELATING TO THE LABOR EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the committee,

In 1976 the legislature established the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) to serve the public and labor community across the State by providing labor-related education to the public and advising and assisting in the development and implementation of labor studies degree program in the university of Hawaii system. For the past 47 years CLEAR has played a vital role in serving the public and the labor community across the state fulfilling its statutory mandates with the advise of a Labor Education Advisory Council (LEAC) appointed by the President of the University of Hawai'i.

Meeting quarterly, the Council offers invaluable guidance to ensure that CLEAR continues to meet the evolving needs of the labor community. We are confident that this bill will significantly benefit the UH system, future students, and the labor community by requiring that LEAC resolutions be reported to both the Chancellor of UH West Oahu and the UH system President.

We support the HB1588 amendments to HRS §304A-1603 to ensure that the formal advice and recommendations of this advisory council will be acknowledged and responded to in writing on both the campus and state system levels, by the UH President and Chancellor of the University of Hawaii - West Oahu.

Clyde Hayashi, Chair
Labor Education Advisory Council

LATE

HB-1588

Submitted on: 2/6/2024 10:14:47 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/8/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Woo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HB-1588

Submitted on: 2/7/2024 3:58:20 AM

Testimony for LGO on 2/8/2024 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Deonte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1588 to expand the Labor Education Advisory Council's advisory capacity to ensure that its advice and recommendations on all activities and programs of the Center for Labor Education and Research (CLEAR) are received by the President of the University of Hawaii (UH).