



The Senate Committee on Judiciary
March 5, 2026
Room 016
10:01 AM

RE: SB 3055 SD1, Relating to False Impersonation of Union Representatives

Attention: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **supports SB 3055 SD1.**

As the exclusive bargaining representative for faculty members, UHPA relies on clear, trusted communication channels to inform our members about their rights and benefits. Individuals who fraudulently hold themselves out as union representatives can cause significant harm by spreading misinformation, creating confusion regarding representation rights, and potentially disrupting labor relations. Establishing a clear statutory prohibition against such deceitful conduct is a necessary step to protect the integrity of the collective bargaining process and ensure that public employees are not misled by unauthorized actors.

Support for the "Intent to Deceive" Language. UHPA strongly supports the language in the current SD1 draft, which updated the definition of "falsely impersonate" to clarify that a material omission must be made "with the specific intent to deceive." We appreciate this prior amendment to the measure, as it successfully ensures that this law will strictly target bad actors and fraudsters, rather than inadvertently penalizing faculty members who may simply forget to issue a disclaimer during passionate workplace discussions. The current SD1 draft strikes the right balance by protecting our members' speech while addressing this critical issue.

UHPA supports the passage of SB 3055 SD1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Fern", is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

**University of Hawaii
Professional Assembly**



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA

THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2026

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 5, 2026, 10:01 AM
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on SB3055, SD1 – FALSE IMPERSONATION OF UNION REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 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 **strongly supports** SB3055, SD1, which prohibits a person from falsely impersonating an employee organization representative and establishes a cause of action and penalties.

This bill is intended to address ongoing campaigns by anti-union organizations, encouraging employees to opt out of their unions through deceptive tactics. In the past year, these third-party entities have utilized mailing campaigns to mislead public employees and exploit the trust that they place in their union representatives.

Like the other public sector unions, UPW provides our Bargaining Unit 1 and 10 members with contract enforcement, workplace advocacy, training, and legal support. Misleading workers to opt out of their unions, because of these deceptive campaigns, can strip them of protections and benefits they would not be eligible for if they opt out.

If these organizations want to advocate against unions, they should do so without deceiving workers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

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The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 5, 2026

S.B. 3055, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO FALSE IMPERSONATION OF UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports S.B. 3055, S.D. 1, which prohibits a person from falsely impersonating an employee organization representative.

Since the Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court ruling in 2018, the Freedom Foundation and other anti-worker groups have sent deceptive mailers to our members with the intent to get them to walk away from the union by dropping their union dues and membership. Their goal is to weaken worker protections, and ultimately end collective bargaining at the benefit of big corporations and the ultra-wealthy. These mailers are misleading and may imply to the recipient that it's from us. We appreciate the intent of this measure as it looks to begin the conversation about this issue, especially at a time when worker rights are under unprecedented attack from bad actors within our federal government, and big corporations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 3055, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director