



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
March 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Richard H. Thomason
Director of Collective Bargaining and Labor Relations
University of Hawai'i

SB 410 SD1 – RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i opposes Senate Bill 410 SD1 Relating to Collective Bargaining. This measure seeks to clarify the allowable scope of collective bargaining negotiations regarding the rights and obligations of a public employer.

Rather than creating clarity, this measure proposes to amend HRS, Section 89-9(d) by directly impinging upon fundamental management rights recognized and protected by the Hawai'i Supreme Court in United Public Workers v. Hanneman, 106 Hawai'i 359, 365, 105 P. 3d 236, 242 (2005). As a representative employer group, the University opposes any degradation of employer rights and obligations to ensure optimal and efficient working conditions.

In sum, this bill does not “*clarify the allowable scope of collective bargaining*,” on the contrary; it seeks to dismantle management rights presently protected by HRS, §89-9(d), and it seeks to expand mandatory bargaining obligations beyond the four corners of public sector collective bargaining agreements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure and respectfully requests this measure be held.