



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony for the
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Friday, February 7, 2014
9:00 a.m.

By
Dr. Joanne Itano
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2218 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of House Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

I am respectfully submitting written comments on behalf of the University of Hawai'i regarding House Bill 2218 – Relating to Public Employment which proposes to amend various sections of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to conform with the restrictions placed on the creation of civil service exempt positions and require annual review of exempt positions to determine whether exempt positions should remain exempt or be converted to civil service positions pursuant to Act 253, SLH 2000.

The University of Hawai'i has concerns with respect to the proposed amendment to Section 6 of the bill which adds additional language to §76-16(b)(17) of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) that would require any exemption created after July 1, 2014 to expire three (3) years after its enactment unless extended by an act of the legislature.

As provided for in §304A-3001, HRS, the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) is attached to the University of Hawai'i for administrative purposes pursuant to §26-35, HRS. To carry out and conduct the research and training projects under the RCUH, the Legislature granted RCUH the flexibility in hiring its temporary personnel by excepting it to Chapter 76 and §78-1, HRS, as provided in §304A-3005, HRS. The UH has concerns that the proposed amendment may adversely impact the RCUH's research and training projects since these projects normally last more than three years. The blanket expiration date of three years for all future exemptions, inclusive of exception under §304A-3005, HRS, may cause disruption in their ability to hire employees, and increase our administrative responsibility of requesting Legislative exceptions through law for any appointment beyond three (3) years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill and for considering our concerns.