



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment
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By
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HB 2008 – RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the House Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

I am respectfully submitting written testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i regarding House Bill 2008 – Relating to Public Employment – which proposes to amend HRS, Chapter 78, Public Service, by adding a new section that will prohibit the State, including the University of Hawai'i, from hiring individuals for more than one eighty-nine (89) day term for a fully or partially general-funded position per the lifetime of the person, with limited exemptions to: 1) contracts executed under HRS, Chapters 103, 103D, 103F, 104, and any other contracts for services wherein the contracting process is established by law; 2) the respective counties; and 3) the legislative branch.

The University of Hawai'i has significant concerns regarding the passage of HB 2008 as we believe it will hinder and jeopardize our ability to provide on-going services and support to the University constituents and the greater community at large.

While the University acknowledges the legislature's intent to curtail the abuse of short-term temporary appointments, HB 2008 will take away the flexibility and tools necessary for management to address the intermittent and immediate short-term services that allow the University to fulfill its mission, purpose, and goals. The use of temporary appointments of 89-days or less allows the University campuses and colleges to provide and fulfill Board of Regent's mandates and services by the creation of short-term employment positions in areas such as academics, student services, institutional support, administration, and operations.

In the alternative, rather than immediately imposing the restrictive language that HB 2008 suggests on the University and other State departments, we suggest a more collaborative approach by creating a task force to study the concerns raised with various stakeholders. The task force would then develop a plan and approach in addressing all issues in a balanced and fair manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.