



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Thursday, February 7, 2013  
2:45 p.m.

By  
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### SB 625 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PERSONNEL

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i on Senate Bill 625 that proposes to amend Chapter 304A-1001, HRS, on exempt personnel. The bill proposes to delete the reference to being consistent with the practice of similar institutions in the United States and notwithstanding the laws of the State relating to leaves of absence of officers and employees of the State.

The University of Hawai'i respectfully opposes the passage of the proposed legislation.

The university's personnel are our primary assets and the principal source and means by which the University carries out its mission. The University strongly supports the practice of considering the policies and best practices of other institutions when examining matters pertaining to academic, research, student and administrative affairs. This ensures that the University can remain competitive with other higher education institutions with which we compete for the best and brightest students, the most talented and engaging faculty and staff, and government or private funding opportunities. We are committed to providing Hawai'i's students with a quality education. Therefore, it is not only necessary, but appropriate, to strive to be consistent with similar institutions with regards to terms of employment, such as salaries, benefits, and leaves, as the University is committed to recruiting and retaining the highest caliber of employees and providing salaries and working conditions that are competitive and equitable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.