UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
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by
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SB 2835 SD1– MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COST ITEMS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. The University of Hawaiʻi (UH) supports SB2835 SD1, Making Appropriations for Collective Bargaining Cost Items. This measure appropriates funds for collective bargaining cost items for Unit (8) and their excluded counterparts, including the cost of salary adjustments negotiated between the State and the bargaining unit representative for fiscal biennium 2015-2017.

Please note that Governor's Message (GM) No. 11 requests funding for a one-time subsidy in FY17 related to the collective bargaining agreement with Unit 8. GM 11 requests that this funding be provided in the budget appropriation bill (HB1700). If this is the desired approach, it is important to remember that both items will be required to pass the Legislature in order to fund the agreement. More explicitly, it should not be construed that one of these items should pass in lieu of the other. Other alternatives to consider would be to aggregate the amounts specified in the GM with those currently in SB2835 SD1.

Finally, please be advised that given the timing of payments contemplated in the agreement and the legislative timeline for this bill, there will be mechanical challenges to satisfying retroactive payments going back to July 1, 2015 during the current fiscal year. With the agreement of HGEA, the University requests consideration to accommodate all funding currently reflected in the bill across the current biennium by appropriating the total amount into FY17.

Thank you for your time and consideration.