

Hawai`i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua`i, Maui, Hawai`i and City & County of Honolulu

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February 3, 2017

TO: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

FROM: Stacy Crivello
HSAC President

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 310, RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Hawaii State Association of Counties in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize a nonvoting county council representative to participate in collective bargaining negotiations for county employees.

This measure is in the 2017 Hawaii State Association of Counties Legislative Package. Therefore, I submit this testimony on HSAC's behalf.

HSAC **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. County councils have expressed frustration with the current process of approving collective bargaining agreements and related cost items because the councils have no part in negotiating and determining whether they are sustainable for the counties' taxpayer base.
2. This measure would allow a county council representative to attend as a non-voting participant if the respective county has employees in the particular bargaining unit.
3. In addition, state government should have equal votes as the county mayors for negotiations involving police officers and firefighters, which are funded and operated under the jurisdiction of the counties.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HSAC:FY2017:17Testimony:HB310a_mkz