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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GRADUATE ASSISTANTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HAWAII LABOR RELATIONS BOARD, TO CONDUCT A CONFIDENTIAL VOTE ON WHETHER THEY ARE IN FAVOR OF BECOMING PUBLIC-SECTOR UNIONIZED EMPLOYEES.

1           WHEREAS, Hawai'i is not a "Right to Work" state, and once a  
2 group has unionized, members cannot opt out; and

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4           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Labor Relations Board would normally  
5 conduct a vote should private sector employees wish to unionize;  
6 and

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8           WHEREAS, there is interest by some graduate assistants at  
9 the University of Hawai'i to obtain collective-bargaining rights  
10 carved out in Chapter 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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12           WHEREAS, while the Legislature recognizes that graduate  
13 assistants want to be heard, there is a question of whether this  
14 is a desire of the majority of the affected graduate assistants  
15 in the University of Hawai'i system; and

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17           WHEREAS, graduate assistants in the University of Hawai'i  
18 system have taken initiative to bring forward measures for  
19 consideration relating to unionization of graduate assistants at  
20 the University of Hawai'i and the Legislature finds them, under  
21 the advisement of the Hawaii Labor Relations Board, to be most  
22 capable of polling all potentially affected graduate assistants  
23 as to whether granting public sector collective-bargaining  
24 rights for graduate assistants reflects the will of the majority  
25 of graduate assistants at University of Hawai'i; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
2 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
3 of 2017, the Senate concurring, that graduate assistants in the  
4 University of Hawai'i system are requested to conduct a  
5 confidential vote of the graduate assistants within the  
6 University of Hawai'i system with the advisement and assistance  
7 of the Hawaii Labor Relations Board on the following questions:  
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- 9 (1) Do graduate assistants want to collectively bargain  
10 their pay, benefits, and other conditions of  
11 employment?;
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- 13 (2) Are graduate assistants willing to pay mandatory union  
14 dues?;
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- 16 (3) How will graduate assistants ensure the unit  
17 negotiators know and understand the graduate  
18 assistants' issues?; and
- 19
- 20 (4) What is the objective graduate assistants are trying  
21 to achieve?; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Labor Relations  
24 Board is requested to advise and assist the graduate assistants  
25 of the University of Hawai'i system to conduct a confidential  
26 vote of the graduate assistants of the University of Hawai'i  
27 system on the question of whether to form a union for the  
28 purpose of collective bargaining as public employees and to  
29 report on the results of the vote; and  
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the graduate assistants, with  
32 assistance of the Hawaii Labor Relations Board, are requested to  
33 report the graduate assistants' findings and recommendations to  
34 the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening  
35 of the Regular Session of 2018; and  
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
39 Graduate Student Organization at the University of Hawai'i at  
40 Mānoa, President of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Student  
41 Association, President of the University of Hawai'i system,



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1 Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Chancellor of  
2 the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, President of the University of  
3 Hawai'i Professional Assembly, and Chairperson of the Hawaii  
4 Labor Relations Board.

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FEB 07 2017

