

The Mānoa Graduate

February 2015 - Newsletter



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Photo: Our employment & compensation chair, Bret Polopolus-Meredith supporting Kaiser worker's strike.

Source: [Facebook/Aikea](https://www.facebook.com/Aikea)

Did you know...?

Graduate assistants at the University of Hawaii, although state employees, are also students and therefore banned by state statute from joining a collective bargaining unit.

Your GSO is working the legislature to fight for collective bargaining rights (bills SB 638 and HB553), more student representation on the UH Board of Regents (bills SB636 & HB552), and the reinstatement of the UHM Ombuds office (HB96).



Legislative GSO work: House Bills (HB) and Senate Bills (SB)

SB 638 and HB553 (Unionization bills)

Statute Section 89-6 bars 'student help' from joining a bargaining unit and receiving collective bargaining rights. These are companion bills on UH graduate student unionization that add the language "Except a graduate student employed by the University of Hawaii". As many of the problems we face as graduate students pertain to compensation, grievances, and job security, we strongly support these bills.

SB636 & HB552

These companion bills add 3 voting members to the Board of Regents to represent undergraduates, research faculty, and other faculty. These additions better allow for shared governance. Currently, there is only one student representing both undergraduates and graduate students. We support this because it would substantially increase the student voice in system-level governance at UH.

HB96 (Ombudsmen)

This bill appropriates funds to establish and operate the office of the ombudsman at UHM. Ombudsmen are officials appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against maladministration, especially that of public authorities. We do not have a safe and acceptable method for filing and handling grievances. Many students have significant difficulty filing complaints and often choose not to do so. We therefore strongly support this bill.



Photo: Athletics Director Ben Jay talking to the House Higher Education committee about UH athletics.

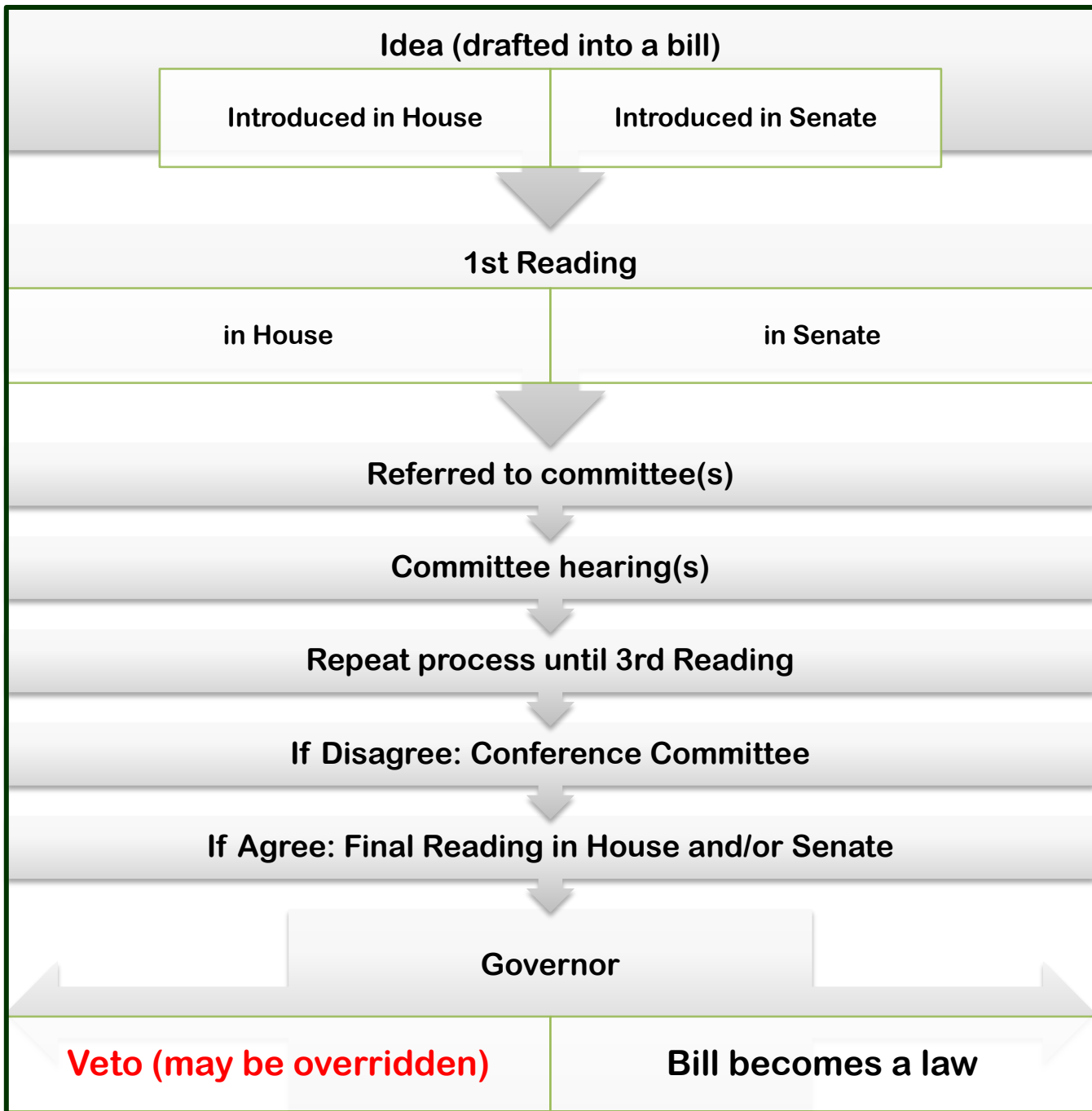
Source: Michelle Tigchelaar, President of GSO.

Why should we care...?

There are an estimated 1,300 graduate assistants at UH Manoa, who haven't received a pay raise since 2004 despite increased workloads (Source: Honolulu Civil Beat).



Creating awareness: How a bill becomes a law in Hawai'i



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Why should we care about "How a bill becomes a law in Hawai'i "...?

For Graduate students to be able to unionize WE NEED TO CHANGE THE LAW!

Some of the ADVANTAGES of unionization are:

- Reliable avenue to pursue workplace grievances.
- Fair representation.

Photo: Representative Matt LoPresti, a PhD graduate from UHM, has been working diligently to support graduate students and higher education in Hawai'i.

Source: [Twitter: Matt LoPresti](#)



We need your help to build Graduate Students power: Be part of the Advocacy Committee

To get involve contact the GSO Advocacy Chairs:

Nick Chagnon (nsurfecoast@gmail.com)

Jonathan Dial (dialjonathan@gmail.com)

For more information on Legislative matters join:

[Facebook: UHM Legislative fellows](#)



G&A awardees

Name	Major
Urashima, Jaymian	Communicology
Lee, Ji Eun	Second Language Studies
Salazar, Joseph Anthony	Anthropology
Campos, Rueben	Anthropology
Kaushal, Akta	Political Science
Bogner, Kari	Botany
Ogawa-Wong, Ashley Naoko	Cell and Molecular Biology
Rivera, Julio	Biology
Alamanza, Vanessa	Atmospheric Science
Shi, Liang	Civil and Environmental Engineering
Shih, Joy	Oceanography
Greene, Joseph	Learning Design and Technology

Are you looking for funding to your next trip? Is your PI running low on research funds? Apply to [GSO funding](#) and share your story with us!

Events: Coffee Hour

**Spring Graduate Student
Coffee Hour**

Last Monday of the Month:
January 26th, February 23rd,
March 30th and April 27th

10:30 - 11:30 am
Sinclair Library Lanai

Enjoy Free Coffee and Refreshments!

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
GSO
Graduate Student Organization



Events: Coffee hour



Enjoy some pictures of our past Coffee Hour!



Events: Brown Bag Session: Legislative process 101

Date : Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Place : QLC 412

Time : 12-1pm

RSVP : <http://goo.gl/forms/3C7zvyWxho>

BRING YOUR LUNCH & GET A QUICK LEG. 101 TUTORIAL!

The Hawai'i State Legislature is **NOW IN SESSION!** Come learn all about the legislative process and ways in which **YOU** can get engaged this semester:

****Drafting and submitting testimony**

****Oral testimony**

****AND MUCH MORE!**



Comics

Stone Soup by Jan Eliot

