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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

March 25, 2015

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

For Hearing on Friday, March 27, 2015  
10:10 a.m., Conference Room 309

BY

JAMES K. NISHIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

**House Concurrent Resolution No. 215  
And  
House Resolution No. 150**

**Requesting the Director of Human Resources Development to Equalize Transit  
Benefits and Subsidies for All State Employees Regardless of Mode of  
Transportation**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

TO CHAIRPERSON MARK NAKASHIMA AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of HCR 215 and HR 150 is to request the Director of Human Resources Development, in consultation with the Department of Accounting and General Services as necessary, to develop and implement a comprehensive pre-tax public transportation benefit program for various modes of transportation that equalizes the transportation benefits, including subsidies, available to all state employees, regardless of mode of transportation and to submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days before the convening of the Regular Session of 2016 on the progress made toward implementing the program.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) **HAS CONCERNS** with the proposed resolutions.

DHRD appreciates the intent to encourage commuter benefits programs and recognizes the burden transportation costs have on our employees; however, the State is concerned the potential impact H.R. 150 and H.C.R. 215 will have on state finances. The State does not have funding to support such an initiative. As such, we feel that it would not be prudent to pursue enactment at this time and recommend that these resolutions be held.

It is proposed that in lieu of requiring the development and implementation of a program for which the program design and implementation details are not known, that H.R. 150 and H.C.R. 215 request a study be conducted to determine the impact of the proposed statewide program for consideration in determining the appropriateness of developing the proposed program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
March 27, 2015

**H.C.R. 215/H.R. 150 – REQUESTING THE  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES  
DEVELOPMENT TO EQUALIZE TRANSIT  
BENEFITS AND SUBSIDIES FOR ALL STATE  
EMPLOYEES REGARDLESS OF MODE OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of H.C.R. 215 and H.R. 150. These resolutions request the Director of the Department of Human Resources Development to develop and implement a comprehensive pre-tax public transportation benefit program that equalizes the transportation benefits, including subsidies, available to all state employees regardless of which mode of transportation they rely upon to get to work.

Currently, state employees who use public transportation do not receive a subsidy to purchase a bus pass. Considering the serious traffic congestion problems, especially in Honolulu, we should be encouraging state employees to take public transportation to work and reduce the cost of a monthly bus pass, which is \$60.

A subsidy for bus transportation must be extended to the rail system once it is completed and there is a fully integrated mass transit network in place. As public transportation systems are further developed on the neighbor islands, such subsidies would be applicable there as well.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak in support of H.C.R. 215 and H.R. 150.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2015 7:27 AM  
To: LABtestimony  
Cc: mgolojuch@hotmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HR150 on Mar 27, 2015 10:10AM

**HR150**

Submitted on: 3/27/2015

Testimony for LAB on Mar 27, 2015 10:10AM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I totally support this resolution because we as a society need to encourage use of mass transit. Ensuring that ALL State employees have access to the Pre-Tax Transportation Benefit Program is an excellent way to encourage more people to use mass transit in ALL of the counties! Traffic and the pollution it causes is not a Oahu only problem.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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