



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Government Operations
Committee on Education

Testimony by
The Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 24, 2021

SCR 154/SR 119 — Encouraging the Governor to Maintain Teachers as
Essential Workers During a Pandemic
When Contemplating Emergency Furloughs and Layoffs

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO wishes to provide comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution 154, which urges the Governor to maintain teachers as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic or any future pandemic, when contemplating emergency furloughs and layoffs.

We are concerned that this resolution singles out one profession above all others. Teachers are just one of many categories of workers deemed essential including, but not limited to, our first responders, and those in healthcare, law enforcement, public safety, food and agriculture, energy, water and wastewater, transportation, housing, public works, and information technology.

Since the 4th quarter of last school year, not all employees deemed essential reported to school campuses, but our dedicated members did. School food service staff prepared grab and go meals, security and custodial staff kept facilities safe and healthy, and educational assistants supported vulnerable students in learning hubs. School administrators showed their resilience and got creative with graduations and new learning models. All to maintain some level of normalcy for students missing school because of the pandemic. This Legislature needs to consider them, too.

We hope there will never be another pandemic like COVID-19, but if there is, this resolution should be amended to include ALL of Hawaii's critical infrastructure employees and urge the Governor to maintain ALL of them as essential employees when contemplating emergency furloughs and layoffs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SCR 154.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SCR-154

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 6:51:04 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/24/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Goljuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SCR154.

SCR-154

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 2:21:13 PM

Testimony for GVO on 3/24/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

Please write this so that ANY Governor, not just the current one, should understand this premise.

Teachers are essential and have been an important part of so many areas during this pandemic. Maybe buildings have been closed, but learning has happened due to the flexibility and strong professional kuleana of educators. The Governor and legislators for too long have used educators without supporting them. Let's move forward positively.

SCR-154

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 11:09:48 AM

Testimony for GVO on 3/24/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Teachers are essential workers and should be educating our kids