TESTIMONY SB 691



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Labor

Testimony by Hawaii Government Employees Association February 5, 2009

> S.B. 691 – RELATING TO LIQUOR COMMISSION EMPLOYEES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 691, which repeals restrictions upon county liquor commission employees to participate in political activities. We believe these restrictions are unnecessary, outdated and of questionable legality.

Like other state and county workers, liquor commission employees should be permitted to, on their own off-duty time, participate in various lawful political activities such as advocating or assisting in the election or defeat of a candidate for public office without written notification to the respective liquor commission. Restrictions on political activities for public employees during working hours are completely warranted and contained in Chapter 84, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura

Deputy Executive Director