

### HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
January 29, 2010

H.B. 1903 – MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR STATE EMPLOYEES

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1903, which appropriates general fund revenues to pay for unemployment benefits, accumulated vacation leave and health benefits for people who retired or lost their jobs in the recent state layoffs.

The reduction-in-force adversely affected hundreds of state employees. The appropriations through H.B. 1903 will mitigate some of the hardships workers typically face through a layoff. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1903.

Respectfully submitted.

Nora A. Nomura

**Deputy Executive Director** 

LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



MARIE C. LADERTA

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## STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

235 S. BERETANIA STREET HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

January 29, 2010

# TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT For Hearing on Friday, January 29, 2010 9:30 a.m., Conference Room 309

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MARIE C. LADERTA, DIRECTOR

## House Bill No. 1903 Making Appropriations for State Employees

## WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

#### TO CHAIRPERSON KARL RHOADS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of H. B. No. 1903 is to appropriate funds for deposit into the unemployment compensation fund to pay unemployment benefits to persons who were laid off from state employment because of a reduction-in-force (RIF); appropriate funds for accumulated vacation leave for persons who retired from state employment or were laid off because of a RIF; and appropriate funds for the additional health benefits plan costs for persons who retired from state employment and their dependent-beneficiaries.

The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) has the following comments on Section 1 of this bill that appropriates funds for unemployment benefits:

DHRD, as the designated state employer, is responsible for paying the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) the estimated unemployment insurance benefits attributable to state employees for all state agencies except the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii. Payments made to DLIR are deposited into the unemployment compensation fund. We are requesting an additional \$6.0 million in the Executive Supplemental Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 for increased unemployment insurance payments resulting from the RIF. Because DHRD's supplemental budget request is similar to Section 1 of this bill, we respectfully ask for the Committee's support of our request as set forth in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Respectfully submitted.

MARIE C. LADERTA

Director