

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 Finance

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 22, 2010

H.B. 2084 (HSCR 27-10) - RELATING TO FEDERAL DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL FUNDS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO, supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2084 (HSCR27-10). It is critical that the Medicaid coverage is made available to Hawaii's most vulnerable population. Hawaii's Congressional delegation has secured a federal disproportionate share hospital appropriation of \$15,000,000 for Hawaii. These funds may only be expended when the state provides a matching appropriation.

The 2009 Legislature overrode the Governor's veto of a bill that would provide for the state's matching funds. This bill became Act 23, Special Session Laws of Hawaii, 2009.

Providing health care for Hawaii's most vulnerable population is contingent upon the legislature appropriating state funds to match the federal Medicaid funds secured for Hawaii.

We respectfully encourage the passage of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of H.B. 2084.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura

Deputy Executive Director