TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG INTERIM DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE STATE OF HAWAII TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1034

February 15, 2011

MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COST ITEMS

House Bill No. 1034 provides fund authorizations and appropriations for fiscal year 2010-2011 collective bargaining costs associated with the December 23, 2010 agreement negotiated between the State and counties and the exclusive bargaining representative of collective bargaining units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13 and their excluded counterparts to increase employer contributions for Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund premiums beginning March 2011.

Appropriations of \$18,095,166 are provided.

We support this Administration measure.

State employees have absorbed the costs of all premium increases since July 2009. This increase in employer contributions coincides with the next Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund premium increase to begin in March 2011. Passage of this bill prior to March 1, 2011 will minimize the necessity of making retroactive adjustments.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 15, 2011

H.B. 1034 – MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COST ITEMS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports H.B. 1034, which makes an emergency appropriation for the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund. Employees receive the same health benefit plan options, but are currently contributing different amounts, based on their jurisdiction. Providing funding for this legislation is fair and is part of an agreement reached by the Employer and the Exclusive Representatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 1034.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira Executive Director



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

RE: HB 1034 -- MAKING EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COST ITEMS.

FEBRUARY 15, 2011

WIL OKABE, PRESIDENT HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association strongly supports HB1034. State employees have paid the cost of premium increases. This bill will help employees in the upcoming EUTF premium increase in March 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.