



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879
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COMMENTS OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

ON SB 1090 SD 1, RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

March 18, 2011

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) provides the following comments on this measure that would cease the existence of the DHHL exempt positions that are currently authorized pursuant to HRS 76-16(b) (17) effective July 1, 2014.

Section 202(b) of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act (HHCA) provides for the hire of employees for exempt or contract positions that are only of a temporary nature with a term limit not to exceed a six years. Extensions may be allowed with Governor's approval. This bill has a diminishing impact to the HHCA.

Elimination of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) exempt positions will adversely impact DHHL's ability meet its fiduciary responsibilities in a timely manner, cause delays to beneficiary opportunities to obtain homestead leases and further displace its employees and the core functions they provide.

Funding to convert DHHL's exempt positions to permanent positions will require financing either through general funding or the Hawaiian

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Funding to convert DHHL's exempt positions to permanent positions will require financing either through general funding or the Hawaiian Home Administration Account, a DHHL special fund. Considering the current economy, the conversion of the exempt positions to permanent positions is not an economical measure.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

LATE

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 18, 2011

S.B. 1090, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO
PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

The Hawaii Government Employees Association strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 1090, S.D. 1, which converts exempt positions to civil service positions, as the issue of converting exempt employees has been pending since the passage of Act 253, SLH 2000. Exempt employees who are within collective bargaining units do not have the same rights and benefits as their civil service counterparts. These employees are not protected by several articles in our collective bargaining agreements, including discipline, overtime and reduction-in-force.

However, after introduction of this legislation, the Employer and the Union have mutually agreed to put forth a good faith effort to increase the number of exempt positions identified for conversion to civil service in all departments of the Executive Branch. Further, the Employer and the Union will meet on a regular basis to discuss their progress.

We are hopeful to remedy the exempt conversion concerns together with the Employer and **we respectfully request that the Committee defer S.B. 1090, S.D. 1.**

Respectfully submitted,


Randy Perreira
Executive Director