



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

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H.B. 2445, H.D. 1, S. D. 1 – RELATING TO PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2445, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. Under this bill, employees whose positions are privatized by an action of state or county government will continue to be eligible for state retirement pension and health benefits. Additionally, we respectfully request the Committee consider scheduling and hearing H.B. 2446, which creates a separation incentive payment or a special retirement benefit for the same group of employees.

This measure is based upon legislation that was vetted and enacted by the Minnesota State Legislature. The Minnesota State Legislature clearly understood the importance and necessity of providing state retirement benefits to their employees. Without such a creative policy, these employees would be ineligible to receive state retirement benefits.

Now that the Maui Region of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation will transition to be operated by the Kaiser system on July 1, 2016, it is the responsibility of the State of Hawaii to help the employees whose positions will be privatized. Unless we take preventive steps now, employees will be confronted with permanent economic hardship through no fault of their own. We cannot allow that to occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. 2445, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, with a request that the Committee also give consideration to the concepts provided in H.B. 2446.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director