



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543 0011 • Fax: 808.528 0922

LATE TESTIMONY

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 16, 2016

H.B. 2445, H.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. 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.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2445 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 7:58:27 PM

HB2445

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
barbara uwekoolani	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Earlier this year I unfortunately had to take a medical retirement. Otherwise I would be in the same predicament many others are finding themselves in. Many members are leaving, transferring to other facilities, or retiring early. What this means for Maui County is we have an unstable system developing. Shortages in staffing will mean an increase in New graduates at an unusually high number. This bill will work to stabilize the workforce and reduce turnover. Mahalo, Barbara Uwekoolani, RN, BSN

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2445 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:08:28 AM

HB2445

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bradley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE TESTIMONY

Charles R Kroner, Jr
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(H) 808-871-6007
(C) 808-269-5973

March 15, 2016

RE: HB 2446 HD2, – Support
HB 2445 HD1, – Support
HB 2606 HD2, – Support

I strongly support all the legislation that allows the Maui nurses & other healthcare workers to an early retirement with dignity. There are quite a few of us that are within a few years of retiring, after dedicating our lives & careers to the health & welfare of Maui residents & visitors. Many were born at MMMC & promptly started working there after graduating high school & Maui Community College of Nursing. Anyone with 15 years of service or more should be given special consideration, and not treated as collateral damage as our state hospital system is abolished on Maui.

I do have an offer to RIF to another island that would help me receive my final year of service, but I find that alternative to have several challenges. I would have to find a suitable renter for our home that I can entrust the care of our 2 cats, then find a rental off island that will accomodate our 3 large German Shepherds. The stress & expense of moving is overwhelming. The domino effect of other workers being displaced is very troubling too. Your assistance with generous separation incentives & early retirement with no penalty will go a long way to avoid the fallout from the privatization of healthcare in the Maui Region.

Enabling Maui Region of HHSC early retirement &/or separation benefits will help HC&S workers with their search for suitable work as their jobs are being abolished as well. To avoid leaving the island for their remaining state service, several employees from MMMC may take lesser paying jobs in the County of Maui. Early Retirement without penalties will stop that limited job source from depleting as well. Federal tuition aide for HC&S workers to be educated, opens doors for the next generation to fill our healthcare jobs on Maui.

Feel free to contact me so we could discuss how vital it is to pass these bills which are a result of Act 103. I stand by the testimony I submitted for the 2/9/16 & 3/1/16 hearings as well.

Mahalo nui loa,
RN

Chuck Kroner,

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2445 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:17:59 AM

HB2445

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Nakashima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support future ERS benefits for public employees who are terminated from public employment due to the privatization of their positions.

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Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:47:18 AM

HB2445

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwen Kondo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB2445

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Hayden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HB2445

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jojo Kawana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HGEA members should not be penalized due their positions being privatized. It is wrong to penalize HGEA members who committed their lives to civil service and the Legislature need to honor the benefits promised to employees when they were hired. Josette "Jojo" Kawana Unit 9: President/Director

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HB2445

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelly zimmerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 11:07:25 AM

HB2445

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lovelle Koike	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 2:10:16 AM

HB2445

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: I believe that many of the employees of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) accepted positions at compensation below market rates for the benefits they expected to receive including pension income. Had they known at the time of hire that the hospitals in the Maui Region would be privatized before they qualified for retirement, I suspect that these employees would not have accepted employment with the HHSC. The fair and just resolution for their monetary sacrifices as public servants would be to provide these employees with future retirement benefits commensurate with their prior contributions as well as the contributions made by the employers on behalf of these employees. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I am hopeful that you will support this compassionate measure for the health care workers in the Maui Region of the HHSC.

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March 15, 2016

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HB 2445 HD1, – Support
HB 2606 HD2, – Support

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Mahalo nui loa,
RN

Rose Kroner,

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HB2445

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Soon Hye Edgerton	Individual	Support	No

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HB2445

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tin Shing Chao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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