

JOSH GREEN, M. D.
GOVERNOR

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WILBERT S. HOLCK
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OFFICE OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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Statement of
WILBERT S. HOLCK
Chief Negotiator

Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
And the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

February 15, 2024
9:35 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SB 2897, RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE RENEWALS

Chairs Keohokalole and Aquino, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Moriwaki, and members of the committee:

The Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB) appreciates the intent of SB 2897, which requires each public employer to pay for an employer's employees' professional license renewal fees. However, we must respectfully oppose this measure.

OCB believes that payments for professional license fee renewals is a negotiable cost item subject to the collective bargaining process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/15/2024
Time: 09:35 AM
Location: CR 229 & Videoconference
Committee: Senate Labor and
Technology
Senate Commerce and Consumer
Protection

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2897 RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE RENEWALS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires each public employer to pay for the employer's employees' professional license renewal fees.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) provides comments regarding SB 2897. The Department appreciates efforts to support the recruitment and retention of professional employees statewide by reducing barriers for professions that require a professional license.

If the bill passes, the Department will request that funding and staffing appropriations be included in the bill. Currently, the Department does not have staff dedicated to tracking, reimbursing, or collecting professional licensing fees.

As an alternative, the Department recommends all fees be waived or paid by the appropriate licensing agency rather than by the employer.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Labor and Technology

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 15, 2024

S.B. 2897 — RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FEE RENEWAL

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO wishes to provide comments on S.B. 2897 which requires each public employer to pay for the employer's employees' professional license renewal fee.

As the state's largest public sector union, we represent many of the professionally licensed employees impacted by the passage of this measure. Currently, it is the employer's choice to pay for any necessary professional license renewal fees for an employee. Unfortunately, many employers choose to not pay for their employee's renewal fees, which has caused financial hardships for many public employees. By requiring each public employer to pay for necessary license renewal fees, it will appropriately shift the cost burden from the employee to the employer. It will also enable each public employer to attract and retain qualified employees to provide services that are essential to the public.

Although we appreciate the Legislative intent of this bill, we came to an agreement in the 2023 Legislative Session with the State Department of Human Resources and Development that Professional License Fees are a negotiable item and subject to collective bargaining. Therefore, we look forward to the possibility of perusing this item when our HGEA contracts open in 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to S.B. 2897.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

TO: Members of the Committees on Commerce and Consumer Affairs
and Labor and Technology

FROM: Natalie Iwasa, CPA, CFE
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9:35 a.m. Thursday, February 15, 2024

SUBJECT: SB2897, Professional Fees to be Paid for by Employer - **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Aquino and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide testimony on SB2897, which would mandate that employers pay the professional license renewal fees of their employees.

This should not be mandated. Businesses should be allowed to use payment of professional licenses and related renewals as a benefit rather than have another requirement put upon them by government.

Please vote “**no**” on SB2897.