



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 7, 2024

S.B. 3362 — RELATING TO PUBLIC SERVICE

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes the concept of S.B. 3362 which authorizes the temporary assignment of permanent legislative staff during the interim to executive or judicial branch agencies. Establishes that while on temporary assignment, the temporarily assigned employee is still considered an employee of the Legislature and exempt from civil service.

Our organization raises questions about the purpose and intent of this measure – why would legislative staff be temporarily assigned to the executive or judicial branch when the legislature is not in session? If this is to supplement the executive or judicial branch workforce shortage, then we appreciate this measure's intention. However, this is only a band-aid fix because it would only provide temporary relief for the executive or judicial branch since legislative employees must return to the legislature prior to the start of session. We also fear that this may increase workload for the already overworked state workforce because this may require them to take time away from their normal duties to train legislative employees even though they may only be working for a few months. Instead, the state should adopt policies that is focused on investing in their workforce – providing competitive pay and benefits and reducing the hiring time is crucial to reduce the state's workforce shortage. Additionally, the Legislature is overstepping their authority. The State executive and judicial branch solely has the right and authority to hire, promote, transfer, and assign their employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to S.B. 3362.

Respectfully submitted,

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Executive Director