



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 8, 2008

LATE TESTIMONY

**H.B. 2336 - RELATING TO
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE**

The purpose and intent of H.B. 2336 is to increase the retirement allowance for public safety employees under the state retirement system from 2.5% to 3% for each year of credited service.

While we do not object to increasing the retirement allowance, we note that Act 256, SLH 2007, prohibits any retirement benefit enhancements for three years while there is an unfunded liability. Furthermore, we believe that any increase in retirement allowance should be applied to all employees rather than specific classes of employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to H.B. 2336.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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LATE TESTIMONY

The Twenty Fourth Legislature
House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 2336 Relating to Retirement Allowance

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 1,800 professional and 800 retired fire fighters throughout the State, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on this bill and supports the intent of H.B. No. 2336, which proposes an increase of the retirement allowance for certain public safety positions from 2 ½% to 3% for each year of credited service.

Since the original statutory provision was enacted, there have been dramatic changes in the scope of employment for fire fighters. The responsibilities that HFFA members are tasked with far exceed being on the front line of fire suppression. The requisite training has been increased in order to respond to both natural and man made events. In addition, HFFA members are first responders providing first on-scene medical assistance in addition to a myriad of emergencies

While this legislation may not be attainable at this point due to Act 256-07, we certainly encourage discussion and believe a dialogue to include all bargaining units would best serve all public workers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this measure.