



# HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

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February 5, 2008

TO: Committee on Health  
Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: HGEA/ AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO

RE: **House Bill 3158- Relating to Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Background Checks**

Please find attached our testimony in support of the aforementioned bill.

The hearing for this bill has been scheduled as indicated below:

Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2008  
Time: 8:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street

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The Twenty Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Health  
Committee on Human Services and Housing

Testimony by  
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO  
February 6, 2008

**H.B. 3158 - RELATING TO HAWAII HEALTH  
SYSTEMS CORPORATION BACKGROUND CHECKS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports H.B. 3158 which will allow the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) to conduct criminal background checks on existing employees, prospective employees, current and prospective contractors, volunteers and vendors with the assistance of the Hawaii Criminal Justice Date Center's FBI checks.

Federal regulations currently require HHSC to do pre-employment background checks of employees and not hire anyone found guilty of abuse, neglect or mistreatment of residents. With the shortage of health care workers in Hawaii, many employees have been hired from outside of Hawaii and there is no guaranteed avenue to detect criminal convictions at the present time.

Granting HHSC the ability to do FBI criminal background checks will have a positive effect on assuring the public that their family members at HHSC facilities are safe from abuse or neglect.

We respectfully urge passage of this bill from your committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of H.B. 3158.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director

000147