



# HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

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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. 3247 - RELATING TO THE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

HGEA opposes this measure. While we agree with the need to address retention of police officers, we feel strongly that all employees should be treated equitably in retirement.

We note that police officers, along with other public safety groups, already receive two and half percent retirement allowance versus the two percent received by remaining employees. Police officers also are eligible to retire after 25 years of service without attaining age 55 or higher, as required of the majority of ERS members. We believe these are very substantial distinctions which police officers currently receive.

Furthermore, this bill is in conflict with Act 256, SLH 2007, which prohibits any retirement benefit enhancements for three years while there is an unfunded liability.

A more appropriate means of addressing retention is to re-price the police officer series to a market value level. This increase in salaries would be a fair and equitable means of addressing retention without creating a problem of inequity between police officers and other ERS members.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director



# HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

**H.B. No. 3247      Relating to the Employees' Retirement System.**

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 H.B. 3247, which proposes an increase of the retirement allowance for police officers from 2 ½% to 5% for each year of credited service.

While this legislation is specifically prohibited by Act 256-07, we certainly appreciate engaging in this dialogue and suggest that further discussion be undertaken to review all the variations of the retirement allowances and include all public sector employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**LATE TESTIMONY**