

LINDA LINGLE  
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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**House Committee on Finance**

**SB 3076, Relating to Epidemiologists**

**Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.  
Director of Health**

**March 28, 2008, 3:15 p.m.**

- 1 **Department's Position:** The Department strongly supports this Administration bill.
- 2 **Fiscal Implications:** None
- 3 **Purpose and Justification:** This measure would allow the Department to establish and fill
- 4 epidemiologist positions, without regard to chapters 76 and 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The current
- 5 civil service epidemiological specialist position series is not sufficient for recruiting and retaining staff
- 6 with the technical expertise and multidisciplinary skills necessary to build and maintain the
- 7 Department's capacity for public health surveillance and response. Epidemiologists function at a higher
- 8 level than epidemiological specialists, designing studies to address recurring public health problems
- 9 unique to our environment, collaborating with University colleagues to conduct applied research,
- 10 designing and evaluating health surveillance systems, and synthesizing the results of surveillance,
- 11 investigations, and new scientific developments for use by public health decision-makers.

12 Our citizens need highly qualified, experienced epidemiologists to protect the State from new

13 and re-emerging diseases and to interrupt outbreaks rapidly, to minimize their impact on our people and

14 economic environment.

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

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The Twenty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by  
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO  
February 21, 2008

**S.B. 3076 – RELATING  
TO EPIDEMIOLOGISTS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO, opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 3076. This measure, as drafted, would permit the Department of Health to establish permanent or temporary exempt epidemiologist who would not be subject to Chapter 76, HRS.

Exempting employees from Chapter 76, HRS, creates a second class of employees in our collective bargaining units. This is a problem because exempt bargaining unit employees who encounter unfair management practices may be dismissed or disciplined without cause and do not have access to due process or appeal. There are currently 2,193 positions in state government that are exempt due to statutory provisions similar to S.B. 3076. This large number of positions exempt from civil service is excessive and the majority of these positions should, in fact, be included in civil service. We strongly disagree with the creation of additional positions exempt from Chapter 76, HRS (Civil Service).

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to S.B. 3076.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nora A. Nomura', is written over the typed name.

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director

