



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME LOCAL 152, AFL-CIO

888 MILILANI STREET, SUITE 601 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2991



Randy Perreira *Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0011 Fax: 808 528-0922

Nora A. Nomura *Deputy Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0003 Fax: 808 528-0922

Derek M. Mizuno *Deputy Executive Director*
Tel: 808 543-0055 Fax: 808 523-6879

The Twenty Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO
February 25, 2008

S.B. 3080 - RELATING TO HAWAII
HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION
BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports S.B. 3080. This bill proposes to grant the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) the authorization to conduct criminal background checks of prospective employees, current employees, contractors, volunteers and vendors with the assistance of the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center's FBI checks.

Federal regulation requires HHSC to perform pre-employment background checks and prohibits them from hiring any individual who was convicted of abuse, neglect or mistreatment of residents. However, with the shortage of healthcare workers in Hawaii, many employees have been hired from out of state recently and there is no guaranteed avenue to detect criminal convictions currently.

Granting HHSC the authority to do criminal background checks will assure the public that their family members who are residents in HHSC facilities will be safe from abuse, neglect and mistreatment.

We respectfully request you pass S.B. 3080 out from your committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of this bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

