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The Twenty Fourth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO
April 2, 2008

**S.B. 3080, SD 1 (HSCR 1098-08)- RELATING TO
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS CORPORATION
BACKGROUND CHECKS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, Local 152, AFL-CIO supports this bill. This bill proposes to grant the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation 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 the 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 the HHSC the authority to do criminal background checks will assure the public that their family members who are residents in the HHSC facilities will be safe from abuse, neglect and mistreatment.

We respectfully request you pass this bill 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