



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**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-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Health

LATE

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
February 6, 2009

H.B. 701 – RELATING TO THE  
HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS  
CORPORATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association opposes the purpose and intent of H.B. 701. The bill proposes to allow the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation to substantially reduce or eliminate direct patient care services without notifying the legislature or requiring their approval. In addition, it requires specific actions to be taken by a regional board and the corporation board before any planned substantial reduction or elimination of direct patient care services at an HHSC facility can be implemented.

We believe the existing safeguards requiring legislative approval before services are reduced or eliminated help to preserve the safety net for neighbor island residents who are so dependent upon HHSC hospitals. If the HHSC wants to make adjustments in the level and types of services offered, the HGEA is willing to participate in these discussions along with legislators whose constituents would be affected by such changes.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opposition to H.B. 701.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director