

**SB 1673**



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
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S.B. 1673, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO  
THE HAWAII HEALTH SYSTEMS  
CORPORATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association supports the general purpose and intent of S.B. 1673, S.D. 1. We concur that the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) provides vital health care safety net services to communities throughout the State that cannot be lost. The continued financial challenges faced by HHSC and the State pose a risk to the public health services it offers while also hindering efforts to improve the quality of health care delivered to patients.

It is evident that decisive action is needed to ensure that HHSC remain a viable health care system. We recognize that some type of comprehensive restructuring may be required to achieve this important objective. S.B. 1673, S.D.1, although still a work in progress, offers the opportunity for developing a new organizational structure that will improve operations and achieve greater efficiencies.

H.B. 1673, S.D. 1 still permits any of the regional systems or individual facilities to transition into a new legal entity, including but not limited to, a non-profit corporation, for-profit corporation, municipal facility, public benefit corporation, or any two or more combinations of these options.

However, to preserve the safety net, we believe there must be a system intact to ensure the availability of core health services to all Hawaii residents. If the current HHSC regions choose various modes of operation, there must be continuity of a system to address quality health care.

HGEA is committed to improving the bill as it moves through the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1673, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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