



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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**The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Public Safety**

**Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
January 28, 2010**

H.B. 1912 – RELATING TO SHERIFFS

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1912, which would remove the Office of Sheriff from the Department of Public Safety (PSD), but opposes its transfer to the Department of the Attorney General.

As a law enforcement agency, the Office of Sheriff should not be part of PSD where the primary focus is the state's correctional system. Corrections and law enforcement are completely different types of operations and should not be within the same department. Without the transfer, corrections will continue to dominate the agenda of PSD.

A brief examination of the Official Directory of State Patrol and State Police website reveals that state patrol or state police agencies are separated from the department of corrections. Essentially, the Office of the Sheriff functions as a state police force and deserves to be its own department, or at the very least be administratively attached to an agency only for budget and personnel purposes.

The HGEA believes that removing the Office of the Sheriff from PSD would be beneficial for the employees and the larger community. However, we do not support placing the Office of the Sheriff within the Department of the Attorney General. Some of the same types of problems will occur there in terms of other issues dominating the department's priorities to the detriment of the deputy sheriffs. A better alternative is to create either a separate department for the deputy sheriffs or administratively attach this office to the Department of the Attorney General for budget and personnel purposes only.



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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1912, with the suggested amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nora A. Nomura", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director