

TESTIMONY

SB2175



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
February 18, 2010**

**S.B. 2175 – RELATING TO THE
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND**

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO is offering comments on S.B. 2059, which would add an eleventh trustee to the EUTF board representing county employers. The counties contribute a substantial amount to the fund. The health and well-being of county employees and retirees depend upon the benefit decisions made by the board of trustees. As proposed, one of the employer trustees would be appointed by the Hawaii Council of Mayors to represent the City and County of Honolulu and the neighbor island counties.

While we agree the counties should be represented on the EUTF board, this matter would be better addressed through comprehensive legislation contained in S.B. 2849.

It changes not only the composition of the EUTF board, but how health benefits are actually provided to beneficiaries. There are serious problems with the current structure and operation of the EUTF that warrant comprehensive reform right now.

Consequently, we respectfully request that S.B. 2175 be deferred so consideration can be given to S.B. 2849 to resolve these and other important issues related to the EUTF. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2175.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director