

SB2327



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 1, 2010

TESTIMONY TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION & HOUSING AND LABOR
For Hearing on Tuesday, February 2, 2010
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 224

BY

MARIE C. LADERTA, DIRECTOR

Senate Bill No. 2327, Relating to Civil Service

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

TO CHAIRPERSONS NORMAN SAKAMOTO, DWIGHT TAKAMINE, AND MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEES:

The stated purpose of S.B. No. 2327 is to ensure that the civil service benefits of Department of Education (DOE) civil service employees are the same as those provided to civil service employees of other executive branch agencies pursuant to Chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes. However, S.B. No. 2327 in effect seeks to reauthorize and make permanent Act 221, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2005, which ended on June 30, 2009. The Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) **strongly opposes** S.B. No. 2327 for the following reasons:

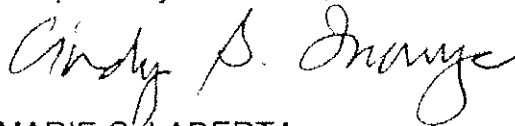
1. Act 51, SLH 2004, granted the DOE the full authority and responsibility to establish their own civil service system separate and apart from the civil service system administered by DHRD to accomplish the autonomy, flexibility, and self-governance sought by the DOE. The DOE differs from the DHRD-administered civil service system and has unique staffing needs; therefore, the DOE should be striving for full compliance with Act 51, SLH 2004.

2. Like the DOE, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation (HHSC) is part of the Executive Branch, and yet, HHSC has promulgated its own set of administrative rules that took effect on July 1, 1996. Since then, HHSC has maintained its own separate civil service system that is self-governing from the DHRD's system. S.B. No. 2327 will provide the DOE with additional civil service rights and benefits that are not afforded to HHSC.
3. S.B. No. 2327 will place a heavy burden on DHRD's significantly-reduced staff and resources. Consequently, should S.B. No. 2327 become law, DHRD cannot concurrently address or support the ongoing needs of the DOE civil service system without negatively affecting the delivery of services to Executive Branch departments and programs.

For the reasons provided above, we respectfully ask that the Legislature defer S.B. No. 2327 and instead consider the passage of S.B. No. 2705 and its companion H.B. No. 2552, Relating to Education Governance. These bills include provisions that would allow the DOE civil service employees to have the same benefits as other executive branch agency civil service employees when the DOE joins the executive branch as a cabinet level agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,


for MARIE C. LADERTA



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 Education and Housing
Committee on Labor

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 2, 2010

S.B. 2327 – RELATING TO
CIVIL SERVICE

The Hawaii Government Employees' Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2327 – Relating Civil Service. Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2004, called for the transition of certain functions and resources from various state agencies to the Department of Education (DOE). Act 51 also allowed the DOE to establish a separate personnel system that would encompass existing DOE employees, as well as those who transferred in from other state agencies.

It has always been our position that the rights and benefits of employees who become a part of a DOE personnel system as the result of Act 51 should be maintained and not diminished. However, the DOE has not fully developed its own personnel system. This proposed legislation accomplishes that objective for DOE civil service employees.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in **support of S.B. 2327.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director

sakamoto2 - Erin

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Testimony for EDH/LBR 2/2/2010 2:45:00 PM SB2327

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
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Comments: