



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
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Committee on Labor and Public Employment
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Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 1168 **Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund**

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO and also an active-duty fire captain with the Honolulu Fire Department. On behalf of the 1,800 active and 1,000 retired professional fire fighters throughout the State, the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association strongly supports H.B. No. 1168.

H.B. No. 1168 improves the operations and accountability of EUTF and the HFFA believes it addresses the concerns of the unions while maintaining the EUTF for the purpose of administering health insurance for all active and retired public employees. The composition and the method of appointment to the board of trustees are self directed by both the unions and employers which provides for more accountability. The fiduciary responsibility of the trustees is clearly articulated and must in the best interest of the beneficiaries. The bill also acknowledges that exclusive bargaining representatives may negotiate specific contribution and the plan design will be determined by a sub-board of trustees or pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement. These amendments to Chapter 87A will provide the opportunity for earnest participation of both the unions and employers.

The Hawaii Fire Fighters Association urges the Committee to support H.B. No. 1168.