



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

LATE

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The Twenty-Seventh Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
January 20, 2012

H.B. 1356 – RELATING TO  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1356, which amends the Uniform Information and Practices Act by limiting the disclosure of personal information and specific salaries for public employees.

While we understand and agree with the need for government accountability and transparency, and also acknowledge tax payers want to know how and where their taxes are being spent, publishing employees' names, actual salaries, and education and training background does not adequately capture the State's expenditures. Rather, it demoralizes the workforce. Employees are entitled to a measure of privacy, and should be afforded basic dignity and respect in performing their jobs. Being a government employee does not necessitate one to be subject to the degradation, embarrassment and anxiety that a full disclosure may cause. Government accountability will still be maintained if employees' job titles and salary ranges are public information, while their names, personal information, and specific dollar-amount salaries are stricken from disclosure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1356.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



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**House LAB Committee  
Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita**

**Friday 1/20/12 at 10:05AM in Room 309  
HB 1356 – Relating to Public Employees**

**TESTIMONY**

**Nikki Love, Executive Director, Common Cause Hawaii**

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Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Committee Members:

**Common Cause Hawaii opposes HB 1356**, which makes major changes to the law regarding public disclosure of information about public employees.

We are concerned about this proposal to remove names, compensation, and various other information regarding public employees from public disclosure.

Given that the public pays for the salaries of public workers, the public should be able to access this information.

Furthermore, access to this information is necessary for the public to determine whether there are any issues of nepotism, corruption, or conflicts of interest in our government.

We believe that more transparency is needed in government, not less. In the era of the Internet, the public has come to expect that information be available and accessible.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**yamashita2 ----Aulii**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 5:23 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** ilind@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1356 on 1/20/2012 10:05:00 AM

**LATE**

Testimony for LAB 1/20/2012 10:05:00 AM HB1356

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Ian Lind  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ilind@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ilind@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 1/20/2012

**Comments:**

The statute as currently written strikes a balance between the need for accountability and the privacy interests of public employees. It provides for disclosure of salary ranges of those employees in a bargaining unit, and specific salaries for other appointees and employees.

The provision dates back to the recommendations of a special committee appointed by then Gov. Waihee that reviewed the law, held statewide public hearings, assessed what was being done in other jurisdictions, and crafted this balancing act.

This bill would be a giant step in the wrong direction.

Please count me as strongly opposed to any changes in this provision regarding public employees.

yamashita2 ----Aulii

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 6:55 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** precis@lava.net  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1356 on 1/20/2012 10:05:00 AM

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Testimony for LAB 1/20/2012 10:05:00 AM HB1356

Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: R. Elton Johnson, III  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [precis@lava.net](mailto:precis@lava.net)  
Submitted on: 1/20/2012

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 1356. I am opposed to this bill.

Information about public employees should remain accessible to the public, to those who pay their salaries. The information disclosed is not of the type that makes possible identity theft, and I am not aware of any cases of identity theft associated with these disclosures.

We need to preserve transparency in our local government.

R. Elton Johnson, III

**yamashita2 ----Aulii**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 10:19 AM  
**To:** LABtestimony  
**Cc:** ncoelho@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1356 on 1/20/2012 10:05:00 AM  
**Attachments:** Testimony.docx

Testimony for LAB 1/20/2012 10:05:00 AM HB1356

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Conference room: 309  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Nakita Coelho-Villiarimo  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [ncoelho@hawaii.edu](mailto:ncoelho@hawaii.edu)  
Submitted on: 1/20/2012

Comments:  
I strongly support HB1356