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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives

Committee on Labor and Public Employment

LATE

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 24, 2012

H.B. 1691 – RELATING TO LABOR

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1691, which bases the minimum wage on the federal poverty level for a family of two persons for Hawaii, beginning January 1, 2013.

We support the proposal in concept. Raising the state minimum wage will be an investment in our economy. The current minimum hourly wage rate of \$7.25, assuming an employee works full time, provides an annual income of just \$15,080 per year, before taxes. There is no debate the cost of living in Hawaii is high, especially the cost of shelter and food. The proposed increase will put dollars into the pockets of low-wage workers, who most certainly will spend those additional earnings on goods and services in our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 1691.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama E. Desha
Deputy Executive Director