



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Thursday, March 29, 2012

9:00 a.m.

HB 1848, HD2, SD1, Relating to Collective Bargaining

Dear Chariman Ige and Committee Members:

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly supports HB 1848, HD2, SD1 to allow negotiations over employer health benefit contributions which will be subject to impasse procedures. This will allow unencumbered negotiations on health care contributions. This bill enhances the ability to balance the employee compensation between salary and benefits that will advance the specific needs of the bargaining unit members and their employer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristeen Hanselman
Associate Executive Director

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HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 29, 2012

H.B. 1848, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 1848, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 which clarifies that negotiations relating to contributions to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) shall be subject to the impasse procedure as delineated in Ch. 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) and makes other technical, conforming amendments.

Ch. 89, HRS lacks a dispute resolution over the contributions to the EUTF. As currently written, if the Employer and the Exclusive Representative cannot agree on the contributions, then the pro-rata share shall be determined by the Legislature, while all other negotiable items can proceed to impasse. The amendments contained in H.B. 1848, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 allow for the dispute over contributions to be inclusively – similarly to any other negotiable item – resolved via the impasse procedure and subsequently by either arbitration or strike, depending on the bargaining unit. Adoption of this language will increase conformity between public-sector and private-sector employee bargaining, as the Exclusive Representatives can fully utilize their dispute resolution mechanisms for all negotiable items.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director