



## HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
January 28, 2011

H.B. 385 – RELATING TO  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the concept of allowing legislative employees to unionize, but opposes the creation a new bargaining unit, as proposed in H.B. 385 - Relating to Collective Bargaining.

When employees are allowed the right to share in the decision-making process affecting their working conditions, they are more responsive and better able to effectively communicate with their supervisor, which increases government efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, HGEA strongly supports granting all employees the right to organize and to collectively bargain wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment, especially those in the public sector.

Chapter 89-6, Hawaii Revised Statues, categorizes bargaining units for all employees throughout the State and Chapter 89-5 provides that the Hawaii Labor Relations Board (HLRB) can determine appropriate bargaining unit placement. It is our belief that legislative employees would fit within the current bargaining unit designations, but we would defer to the HLRB the task of making the bargaining unit determinations for these employees.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 385, with the suggested amendment to utilize existing bargaining units.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director