



888 Mililani Street, Suite 601
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2991

Telephone: 808.543.0000
Facsimile: 808.528.4059

www.hgea.org

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 28, 2011

S.B. 2083, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO HEALTH

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2083, S.D. 1 - Relating to Health. This bill would match the federal Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) appropriation of \$10 million per year, which has been secured through 2019.

However, these federal Medicaid funds cannot be drawn down without a matching state appropriation. The as-yet-to-be-defined state appropriation for FY 2012-13 will enable the Department of Human Services to utilize the available federal DSH allowance allocated to the state.

Hawaii's hospitals, including the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, provide health care services to thousands of uninsured patients each year. DSH payments are of critical importance to our public and private hospitals because it helps to cover the increasing cost of uncompensated care in Hawaii.

We appreciate the opportunity to speak in strong support of S.B. 2083, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Leiomalama E. Desha
Deputy Executive Director