



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
February 28, 2012

S.B. 2671, S.D. 1 – Relating to Collective Bargaining

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 2671, S.D. 1, which allows the Hawaii Labor Relations Board (HLRB) to hire attorneys and paralegals to represent the board in litigation, draft legal documents and provide other legal services. If enacted, we expect that S.B. 2671, S.D. 1 will help the HLRB to address significant case backlogs and therefore provide more timely decisions and achieve its goals and objectives as articulated in Section 89-1, HRS.

The HLRB plays an important part in promoting harmonious and cooperative relations between management and public employees through its administration of the state's collective bargaining law. We also note that there is no fiscal impact by this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2671, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jkealoha@ilwulocal142.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2671 on 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM
Date: Monday, February 27, 2012 10:01:40 AM
Attachments: [2012SB2671.rtf](#)

Testimony for WAM 2/28/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2671

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
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Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:

The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

THE SENATE

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Tuesday, February 28, 2012; 9:00 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2671, SD1
RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2671, SD1, which clarifies the Hawaii Labor Relations Board's authority to hire attorneys and paralegals and authorizes attorneys hired by the Board on a part-time or contract basis to represent the Board in litigation, draft legal documents for the Board, and provide other necessary legal services to the Board.

S.B. 2671, SD1 does not request any appropriation but simply asks for clarification of the Hawaii Labor Relations Board's authority to hire attorneys and paralegals and to use them for legal services required by the Board. Among those services is the drafting of administrative rules to implement laws that are passed by the Legislature. For example, in 2009, the Legislature passed a law requiring union recognition by card check of agricultural workers working for companies with \$5 million or more in revenue. To date, we understand that, although an initial draft of rules has been done, finalizing the rulemaking process has been stalled for lack of staffing needed to rework the draft, vet, and put the rules out for public hearing.

Using funds at its disposal and not requiring any additional funds, HLRB proposes to use the authority granted to it by S.B. 2671, SD1 to contract with attorneys and paralegals to assist the HLRB to accomplish its purposes as set by law.

The ILWU urges passage of S.B. 2671, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for this measure.