

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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February 27, 2012

The Honorable Senator David Y. Ige, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Senate  
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature  
Regular Session 2012  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

Re: SB 2967, SD 1 Relating to Collective Bargaining

The City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Emergency Services Department is submitting these comments in reference to SB 2967, SD 1.

Extensive testimony has been previously submitted regarding SB 2967 which is referenced in the Committee Report from the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor and the companion HB 2627 Committee Report from the House Joint Committee on Labor and Public Employment and Public Safety and Military Affairs.

We would like to note that all Water Safety Officers on Oahu are employed by the City and County of Honolulu. None are employed by the State of Hawaii.

Thank you in advance for you time and favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Ireland".

James H.E. Ireland, M.D.  
Director, Honolulu Emergency Services Department

From: Kalani Vierra (Water Safety Officer)  
P.O. Box 266  
Kōloa, HI 96756

To: Committee On Ways and Means  
Chairman: Senator-David Ige  
**Testimony In Support Of SB 2967**  
February 9, 2012

Dear Senator David Ige,

I strongly support SB 2967, which will create a new Bargaining Unit (14) For Ocean Safety Officers, and Water Safety Officers employed by the State or Counties.

Currently the water safety officers are in HGEA unit #3, along with approximately 15,000 white collar non supervisors. Water safety officers make up about 2% of the HGEA unit #3, which mostly consists of clerical staff.

The water safety officers (beach lifeguards) are required to pass an annual agility test to keep their positions. They must pass a variety of swims, paddle board, and beach runs, under a certain amount of time. They are also subject to a random alcohol/drug screening. Exposed to hazardous conditions, and to the harsh weather.

The lifeguard service is much more professional now than before. There are a higher level of training, and advanced technology in rescue equipment. Hundreds of people are being warned of any potential hazards or even being rescued around the State every day. The lifeguards put their lives on the line to save others, making our beautiful State of Hawai'i a safer destination for our visitors and local residents as well. We feel that they are essential public safety officials just like Fire Fighters and Police Officers.

Please consider passing SB 2967, so the water safety officers have their own bargaining unit. They deserve fair negotiations for hazardous duty wages and using specialized equipment. Help make a New Bargaining Unit a reality and put these public safety officials where they belong, similar to Police Officers and Fire Fighters.

Respectfully,

Kalani Vierra



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

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

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
February 28, 2012

S.B. 2967, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose of S.B. 2967, which creates a new Bargaining Unit 14 for Ocean Safety Officers and Water Safety Officers employed by the State or counties, and the amendments provided in the S.D. 1.

Ocean and Water Safety Officers currently belong to HGEA Bargaining Units (BU) 03 – White Collar Employees – and Unit 04 – White Collar Supervisors. BU 03 is the largest of all thirteen (13) public sector bargaining units and is composed of a broad and heterogeneous membership. The membership size and diversity of the professions representative of BU 03 increases the complexity and ability to address the specialized needs of Ocean and Water Safety Officers in contract negotiations. While BU04 has a smaller membership count, its salary schedule and contract provisions reflect those of BU03. These bargaining units were established in the early 1970's with the passage of Chapter 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and have not been recently amended.

Through a separate bargaining unit, the specialized needs of Ocean and Water Safety Officers, including fitness and equipment requirements, can be directly addressed with the Employer. We believe in the need to improve the salaries, benefits and working conditions and support passage of this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

**Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.**  
Mayor



**Gary K. Heu**  
Managing Director

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**County of Kauai, State of Hawaii**  
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February 27, 2012

Honorable Chair David Ige  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 215  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Senate Bill 2967 SD1 Relating to Collective Bargaining**

Dear Honorable Chair David Ige,

I am writing to you to ask for your support of Senate Bill 2967 SD1 which creates a separate collective bargaining category, Unit 14, for ocean safety officers.

At the present time, these employees fall under Unit 3, nonsupervisory employees in white collar positions. It makes good sense to separate these employees from Unit 3 since their duties and responsibilities are very different from those of the other employees in Unit 3. Our records indicated that in 2011, there were a total of 378 rescues performed by these ocean safety officers on Kauai. As ocean safety officers, they often put themselves at risk when rescuing people at sea and therefore should be categorized separately as is done with police officers and firefighters.

Your favorable consideration and support of SB2967 SD1 would be appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.