



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

LATE TESTIMONY

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The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

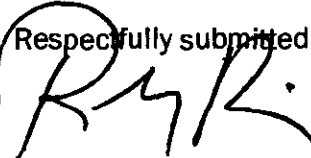
Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 5, 2013

H.B. 541 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO understands the need to address the issue of the base monthly contributions paid by the State and counties for the health benefit plans of retired employees, however we prefer the concept and language in H.B. 1174 which repeals the base monthly contributions in section 87A-33 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Hawaii Supreme Court held that "health benefits for retired state and county employees constitutes 'accrued benefits' pursuant to article XVI Section 2 of the Hawaii Constitution". We believe the State and counties have a social and moral obligation to provide health insurance premium benefits upon retirement at no cost.

HGEA strongly supports the need to address the issue. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director