



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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LATE

The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 27, 2013

S.B. 885, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 885, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 which clarifies that negotiations relating to contributions to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) shall be subject to the impasse procedure as delineated in Ch. 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and makes other technical, conforming amendments. However, we respectfully request that the current defective date be amended to July 1, 2013 or upon approval.

As currently written, Ch. 89, HRS lacks a dispute resolution mechanism to address the Employee and Employer share of the contributions to medical premiums in the EUTF. As written, if the Employer and the Exclusive Representative cannot agree on the contribution amount, then the pro-rata share shall be determined by the Legislature, while all other negotiable items can proceed to impasse. The amendments contained in S.B. 885, S.D. 2 allow for the dispute over contributions to be inclusively – similarly to any other negotiable item – resolved via the impasse procedure and subsequently by either interest arbitration or strike, depending upon the bargaining unit. Adoption of this language increases conformity between public-sector and private-sector employee bargaining, as both parties can fully utilize their dispute resolution mechanisms for all negotiable items, and also allows for consideration of a full benefits and compensation package.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 885, S.D. 2, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,


Randy Perreira
Executive Director