

SB2032

SD1

LATE

TESTIMONY



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Twenty-Seventh Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 12, 2014

**S.B. 2032 SD 1– RELATING TO VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH
CARE PERSONNEL**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of S.B. 2032 SD 1, which amends Hawaii Revised Statute 707-711, Section 1. (f) The person intentionally or knowingly causes bodily injury to any medical services provider who is engaged in the performance of duty. For the purposes of this paragraph, “medical services provider” means emergency medical services personnel, as defined in section 321-222, and physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, certified registered nurse anesthetists, respiratory therapists, laboratory technicians, radiology technicians, and social workers, providing services in a hospital, medical clinic, or federally qualified health center.

Violent behavior has been increasing over the years, whether through the increase of abuse of narcotic drugs and/or prescriptive medications or because of psychological issues. Expanding the definition of medical services provider as well as other settings in which a medical services provider works, provides legal recourse should any assault occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 2032 SD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

for Randy Perreira
Executive Director



Wednesay – February 12, 2014 – 10:00am
Conference Room 016

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

From: George Greene
President & CEO
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**
SB 2032, SD1 — Relating to Violence Against Healthcare Personnel

The Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) is a 116 member organization that includes all of the acute care hospitals in Hawaii, the majority of long term care facilities, all the Medicare-certified home health agencies, all hospice programs, as well as other healthcare organizations including durable medical equipment, air and ground ambulance, blood bank and respiratory therapy. In addition to providing quality care to all of Hawaii's residents, our members contribute significantly to Hawaii's economy by employing nearly 20,000 people statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2032, SD1, which increases penalties for violence against healthcare workers in hospitals, community health centers, and clinics. Healthcare workers are more than four times more likely to be victims of workplace violence than other private sector workers, and account for approximately 60% of all nonfatal workplace assaults occurring in private employment settings. (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, 2007.)

SB 2032, SD1 would make assaults against healthcare workers in hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and medical clinics—currently a misdemeanor—a felony with increased penalties. The legal protections currently afforded to healthcare workers in emergency departments should be extended to workers in hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and medical clinics, given the increased risk of serious assaults occurring in these healthcare settings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2032, SD1.