



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

LATE TESTIMONY

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

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 16, 2016

H.B. 2446, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO
SEPARATION BENEFITS

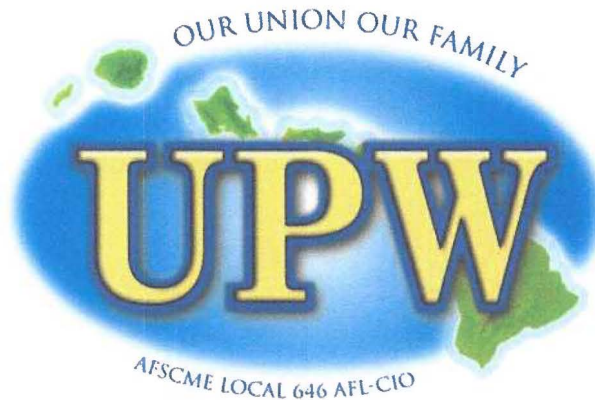
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2446, H.D. 2. Under this bill, employees whose positions are privatized by an action of state or county government will become eligible for a voluntary severance payment or a special retirement benefit.

This legislation is similar to the separation incentive program that previously existed in Hawaii Revised Statutes. As drafted, H.B. 2446, H.D. 2 offers employees two basic options: a severance payment or special retirement benefits. Within the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Maui Region privatization there are employees at different life stages and this bill addresses that complexity. Employees with only a few years of creditable service with the HHSC may opt for a severance payment, which can be applied to continued health insurance coverage through the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund. Or, for those who have more years of service, but need additional years before they can retire, there is a special retirement benefit to meet that important need. Without such assistance, employees may face economic hardship that will be permanent through no fault of their own. We cannot allow that to occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2446, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2016

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
The Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Wednesday, March 16, 2016
TIME OF HEARING: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Conference Room 016

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2446, HD2 RELATING TO SEPARATION BENEFITS

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers (UPW),
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, and AFL-CIO. The UPW is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 12,000 public employees, which include blue collar non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

HB2446, HD2 Relating to Separation Benefits authorizes public employees facing position abolishment, reduction-in-force, or workforce restructuring to opt to receive either voluntary severance benefits or a special retirement benefit in lieu of exercising any reduction-in-force rights.

The UPW strongly supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2446 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:09:01 AM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bradley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE TESTIMONY

Charles R Kroner, Jr
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(H) 808-871-6007
(C) 808-269-5973

March 15, 2016

RE: HB 2446 HD2, – Support
HB 2445 HD1, – Support
HB 2606 HD2, – Support

I strongly support all the legislation that allows the Maui nurses & other healthcare workers to an early retirement with dignity. There are quite a few of us that are within a few years of retiring, after dedicating our lives & careers to the health & welfare of Maui residents & visitors. Many were born at MMMC & promptly started working there after graduating high school & Maui Community College of Nursing. Anyone with 15 years of service or more should be given special consideration, and not treated as collateral damage as our state hospital system is abolished on Maui.

I do have an offer to RIF to another island that would help me receive my final year of service, but I find that alternative to have several challenges. I would have to find a suitable renter for our home that I can entrust the care of our 2 cats, then find a rental off island that will accomodate our 3 large German Shepherds. The stress & expense of moving is overwhelming. The domino effect of other workers being displaced is very troubling too. Your assistance with generous separation incentives & early retirement with no penalty will go a long way to avoid the fallout from the privatization of healthcare in the Maui Region.

Enabling Maui Region of HHSC early retirement &/or separation benefits will help HC&S workers with their search for suitable work as their jobs are being abolished as well. To avoid leaving the island for their remaining state service, several employees from MMMC may take lesser paying jobs in the County of Maui. Early Retirement without penalties will stop that limited job source from depleting as well. Federal tuition aide for HC&S workers to be educated, opens doors for the next generation to fill our healthcare jobs on Maui.

Feel free to contact me so we could discuss how vital it is to pass these bills which are a result of Act 103. I stand by the testimony I submitted for the 2/9/16 & 3/1/16 hearings as well.

Mahalo nui loa,
RN

Chuck Kroner,

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2446 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:19:20 AM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Nakashima	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this bill that allows for employees to retire without a reduced retirement benefit under certain conditions.

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Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:48:35 AM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gwen Kondo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2446 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:24:53 PM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Hayden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2446 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 7:12:55 PM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jojo Kawana	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of HB2446. It is wrong to penalize HGEA members for their positions being privatized. The Legislature needs to keep their promises when ACT 103 was passed in order to help the employees whose positions were privatized. Josette "Jojo" Kawana Unit 09, President/Director

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Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:17:08 PM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelly zimmerman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 11:09:01 AM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lovelle Koike	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 2:05:01 AM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor: In my opinion, it is fair to provide options such as a voluntary severance benefit or a special retirement benefit to employees who elect to separate from service when their positions are identified for abolishment or when they are directly affected by a reduction-in-force or workforce restructuring plan, including privatization. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. I am hopeful that you will support this compassionate measure especially for the health care workers in the Maui Region of the HHSC who are within five years of the employee's qualified retirement age.

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(C) 808-298-6017

March 15, 2016

RE: HB 2446 HD2, – Support
HB 2445 HD1, – Support
HB 2606 HD2, – Support

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Feel free to contact me so we could discuss how vital it is to pass these bills which are a result of Act 103. I stand by the testimony I submitted for the 2/9/16 & 3/1/16 hearings as well.

Mahalo nui loa,
RN

Rose Kroner,

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2446 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 9:58:02 AM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Soon Hye Edgerton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2446 on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 8:00:47 AM

HB2446

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL on Mar 16, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tin Shing Chao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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