



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 1175, SD2
RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL

REPRESENTATIVE MARK NAKASHIMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Hearing Date: March 24, 2015
9:45 a.m.

Room Number: 309

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Potentially significant, but indeterminate at this time.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) and the Hawaii State Hospital
3 (HSH) support SB 1175 SD2.

4 The measure calls for a status report twenty days prior to the beginning of the 2016
5 session and a final report twenty days prior to the start of the 2017 session. The DOH and the
6 HSH fully support this requirement and will submit a written report either as part of the HSH
7 Annual Report or as a standalone report.

8 The DOH and the HSH have taken all of the committee's recommendations very
9 seriously and addressed and substantially completed several. For example,

10 (1) The recommendation to facilitate the transfer of dangerous patients to mainland
11 facilities is complete and is being implemented;

12 (2) HSH will soon roll out an enhanced training program including the development of
13 new and relevant training and education which will address the recommendation
14 concerning training;

15 (3) The recommendations for improving human resources are being addressed;

1 (4) In response to the concerns regarding the hiring of agency staff, HSH has
2 implemented a modified process by which agency staff is interviewed to mirror the
3 process used for civil service staff;

4 (5) In consultation with union representatives on the implementation of a sick leave
5 abuse program and the development of a fair and transparent procedure for
6 assigning overtime, the recommendations regarding this matter are being addressed.

7 The DOH and the HSH would like the committee to be aware that some
8 recommendations in SB 1175 SD2 will require a detailed and specific cost/benefit analysis,
9 specifically the recommendation for the installation of the perimeter fence.

10 Further evidence of the attention that the DOH and the HSH has given to addressing the
11 seriousness of the situation at the hospital can be seen in the prioritization of the Administration
12 appropriation request. This request includes funding for additional security staff and
13 supplemental staffing resources to provide for overtime costs and hiring of agency staff.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

**Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
March 24, 2015**

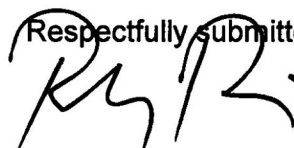
**S.B. 1175, S.D. 2 – RELATING TO THE
HAWAII STATE HOSPITAL.**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO, supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 1175, S.D. 2, which implements specific recommendations of the Senate Special Investigating Committee on Hawaii State Hospital. Clearly, much more needs to be done to make the hospital a safe working environment for staff and patients.

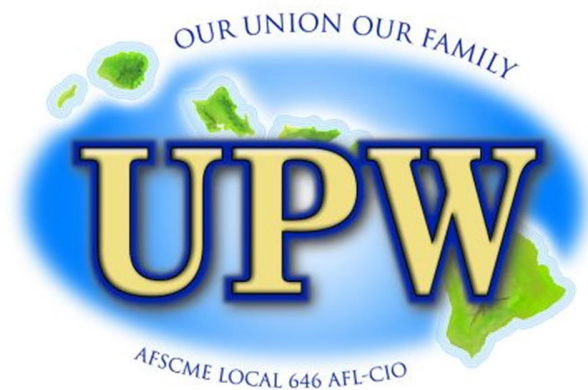
One of the most important actions requested in the bill is to obtain forensic care accreditation or designation for the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH). During the Special Investigative hearings, the Department of Health (DOH) admitted that virtually all of the admissions at HSH are forensic type. Therefore, the entire hospital must operate as such. In addition, the bill requests the DOH and Adult Mental Health Division to explore and develop short-term strategies for the physical improvement and renovations of the existing facility. To correct this problem, the state needs a properly designed forensic facility. Therefore, we support issuing general obligation bonds to finance the planning and design of a state forensic mental health hospital, which is long overdue.

There are other areas of this bill that we support in concept; however, further discussions are needed prior to implementing such changes and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1175, S.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,


**Randy Perreira
Executive Director**



THE HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature
Regular Session of 2015

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

The Honorable Representative Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Representative Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Tuesday, March 24, 2015
TIME OF HEARING: 9:45 a.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1175, SD2 RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE
HOSPITAL

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

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). 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.

The UPW supports SB1175, SD2 which requires the Department of Health and Hawaii State Hospital to consider certain recommendations made by the Senate Special Investigative Committee on the Hawaii State Hospital and submit a written report to the Legislature of its status implementing certain recommendations prior to the regular session of 2016 and 2017.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.