



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 10, 2015

S.B. 163 – RELATING TO COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly opposes the purpose and intent of S.B. 163, which makes changes to the employer voting structure contained in Ch. 89, Hawaii Revised Statutes by authorizing the chair of the state public charter school commission to vote on agreements for bargaining units 05 and 06, and changing the voting structure for bargaining unit 09.

We are pleased to represent approximately 900 educational officers in bargaining unit 06 and approximately 1,700 nurses in bargaining unit 09, statewide. The bargaining unit 09 nurses are employed by the Executive Branch, the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, and the Judiciary; there are no nurses employed by any of the four counties. Changing the voting structure by eliminating the Chief Justice's vote, reducing the Governor's votes, increasing the HHSC's votes, and allowing for the mayor of each county in which the HHSC operates a facility to vote gives an extremely disproportionate advantage to those employers who do not directly employ nurses, and disregards an employer who does. Further, and rightly so, there is no other employer negotiating team within Ch. 89 that allows an individual employer a vote, let alone provides potentially the majority of the votes, in negotiations for a unit in which none of its employees jurisdictionally belong.

Educational officers within unit 06 currently bargain with the Governor, Board of Education and the Superintendent. Although Charter Schools could employ unit 06 employees, the vast majority of the schools have not been compliant with collective bargaining. In order to allow the Charter School Commission a vote with the employer negotiating team, the Charter Schools, as a collective, should first demonstrate a willingness to enforce existing bargaining provisions, instead of willfully bypassing it.

For the reasons outlined above, we respectfully request the Committee defer S.B. 163. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director