



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 25, 2016

S.B. 2394 – RELATING TO INFLUENZA  
IMMUNIZATION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO, would like to provide comments on S.B. 2394, which requires annual influenza vaccinations for health care workers.

While it's acknowledged that health care professionals are looked to for guidance on good health practices, mandating annual influenza vaccinations infringes upon one's personal and philosophical beliefs. The exemptions presented in this bill only allow for a medical condition, religious belief or if there is an insufficient supply of vaccinations. Policies of best health practices within facilities and sick leave already exist to minimize employees from infecting patients and fellow employees should they be ill or contagious. Further, requiring the vaccination as a condition of employment could impact the employer's ability to recruit should a potential applicant believe their beliefs are compromised.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments for S.B. 2394.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



# HAWAI'I ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

February 24, 2016

Committee on Ways and Means  
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 24, 2016. 2:05 PM  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Senate Bill 2394 Testimony in Support

We, the Board of Directors of the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians representing 316 active family physicians in our state strongly support SB2394, requiring annual influenza vaccinations for health care workers. Influenza vaccination is one of the most effective ways to prevent influenza infection and dissemination. As healthcare professionals our primary concern should be the care of our patients and preventing the spread of community acquired infections into our hospitals should be an important goal. No argument based on science can dispute the benefits of vaccination in preventing and decreasing rates of infectious diseases. This is such an important issue it is a national quality initiative. The facility rate of influenza vaccination is a national quality measure for both acute care hospitals and critical access hospitals.

The Board of Directors of the Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians urges you to pass SB2394.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Apoliona, M.D.  
Legislative chair

Kelley Withy, M.D., O.H.S.  
President  
Hawaii Academy of Family Physicians

February 24, 2016

Committee on Ways and Means  
Sen. Jill Tokuda, Chair  
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 24, 2016. 2:05 PM  
Conference Room 211  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Senate Bill 2394 Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Tokuda,

Influenza vaccination is an important element of influenza prevention in our hospitals across the country. It is such an important issue that it is a national quality measure in both acute care hospitals and critical access hospitals. The rate of vaccination of all hospital staff, both employed and contracted, clinical and nonclinical, is such an important quality indicator that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid is requiring influenza vaccination rates nationally for Critical Access Hospitals and the Joint Commission has set a quality goal of 90% healthcare worker influenza vaccination rate in acute care hospitals.

As the medical director of Kula Hospital, a critical access and long term care hospital, I urge you to pass SB2394.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Apoliona, M.D.