



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

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LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016
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Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

S.B. No. 2434 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association (HFFA), Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. The HFFA represents approximately 2,100 active-duty professional fire fighters throughout the State. HFFA supports the intent of S.B. No. 2434, Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund.

S.B. No. 2434 includes changes to Chapter 87A which we believe will improve the delivery and benefit options to public employees. It provides the EUTF Board of Trustees the authority to determine the type and level of benefits by bargaining units pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement.

As noted in our testimony on S.B. No. 2435, HFFA has struggled with ensuring that medical premiums provided through the collective bargaining agreement remains affordable while being unable to participate in the design plan to meet the needs of the membership. This measure provides greater flexibility for both the employer and exclusive representatives during negotiations and arbitrations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.