



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

LATE TESTIMONY

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 21, 2017

**S.C.R. 114 – URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO ADOPT
SENATE RESOLUTION 51, "RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF
FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND PLEDGING TO OPPOSE EFFORTS TO
REDUCE FEDERAL WORKFORCE PAY AND BENEFITS,
ELIMINATE CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS,
UNDERMINE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, AND
INCREASE THE USE OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRACTORS FOR
INHERENTLY GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of S.C.R. 114, which urges the United States Senate to adopt Senate Resolution 51, introduced by Senator Mazie Hirono, "Recognizing the contributions of Federal employees and pledging to oppose efforts to reduce Federal workforce pay and benefits, eliminate civil service employment protections, undermine collective bargaining, and increase the use of non-Federal contractors for inherently governmental activities."

Federal employees, who are responsible for ensuring the continued function of essential government programs and services, now face a more challenging future under the current administration that is not only seeking to cut various department budgets, but also supports the Right To Work movement to dismantle collective bargaining. Combined with the ordered federal hiring freeze already in effect, if the administration's proposed budget were to pass, many crucial federal and state programs may need to be scaled back, if not eliminated. These cutbacks would not only harm federal employees, but it would also negatively impact any person who benefits from the services provided. Therefore, it is imperative that Hawaii stands together in solidarity with Senator Hirono, to support federal employees and ensure collective bargaining and the civil service system remains protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of passing S.C.R. 114.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2017

THE STATE SENATE

Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair

Senator Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Tuesday, March 21, 2017; 9:35 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON SCR 114
URGING THE UNITED STATES SENATE TO ADOPT SENATE RESOLUTION 51**

The ILWU Local 142 supports SCR 114 which urges the United States Senate to adopt senate resolution 51, which recognizes the contribution of federal employees and pledges to oppose efforts to reduce federal workforce pay and benefits, eliminate civil service employment protections, undermine collective bargaining and increase the use of non-federal contractors for inherently governmental activities.

In Hawaii, Chapter 89 HRS does establish a state policy of harmonious and cooperative relations between government and its employees, including employee organizations to develop and maintain a well trained, efficient, and productive workforce. The policy also promotes industrial peace and harmony. The State Constitution also provides the right to collective bargaining for Hawaii's public and private sector workers.

The ILWU Local 142 in its own constitution, under "Declaration of Principles" states:

We, the men and women working under the jurisdiction of ILWU Local 142 Hawaii, in order to build and maintain a strong local organization and provide for the defense of our common interests, promote the general welfare of our members, their families and other wage earners in the community, and uphold the rights and dignity of our labor and its organized expression, have determined that we shall be guided by the following principles:

. . . 9. To assist other unions whenever possible in their resistance to attacks on their wages and working conditions and for the attainment of their demands and to honor legitimate picket lines.

Based on these fundamental and strong labor principles and the first principle which states:

. . . 1. An injury to one is an injury to all.

We support the call to action and development of greater unity sought by HCR 114.

The ILWU Local 142 wishes to stand with our sister, United States Senator Mazie Hirono in strong support of Senate Resolution 51, which will allow the ILWU Local 142 to support another union and its members who are under attack on their wages and their working conditions, from the new federal administration.

The ILWU Local 142 urges passage of SCR 114. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDLTestimony](#)
Cc: Submitted testimony for SCR114 on Mar 21, 2017 09:35AM
Date: Monday, March 20, 2017 7:33:11 PM

SCR114

Submitted on: 3/20/2017

Testimony for JDL on Mar 21, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn L. Khan	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Mahalo to the sponsors who introduced this resolution. It is apparent that they understand the value of federal employees and their contributions to the United States and the importance of collective bargaining as a means to empower the voices of the average employee. I am proud to say that I served as an Air Force civilian employee for over 45 years and can assure everyone that my colleagues and I performed our duties above and beyond expectations, even in times of challenges caused by deployments of the military and evacuations caused by volcano eruptions or bad weather. Obviously, I fully support SCR114 and encourage your passage of it. Mahalo!

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

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
Senator Karl Rhoades, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Hawaii Federation of State Chapters, National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)

Tuesday March 21, 2017, 9:35 a.m.

Support for S.C.R. No. 114 – Urging the Hawaii State Legislature to Support U.S. Senate Bill 51 to Protect the Federal Work Force

My name is Joyce Matsuo and I currently hold the office of First Vice President of my organization called NARFE. NARFE represents active and retired federal and US Postal Service employees in protecting employees' pay and benefits, employees' rights, and retirement benefits. In the State of Hawaii, we have over 2,100 members.

In 2016, in the State of Hawaii, there were over 22,000 federal employees, mostly with the Defense Department agencies, and over 2,300 US Postal Service workers. There are almost 19,000 federal and US Postal Service retirees with experience and knowledge of the impact of budget cuts on the federal workforce, having experienced such budget cuts in the past.

I am a federal retiree with 31 years of federal service, having retired from the Internal Revenue Service. During my years of work, I also held various positions with the National Treasury Employees Union and also represented federal employees in studying and revising our annual Cost of Living Allowance survey methodology in order to receive a more correct COLA payment.

The Hawaii Federation of State Chapters -NARFE supports S.C.R. No. 114 asking our Hawaii State legislators to urge the U.S. Senate to adopt U.S. Senate Resolution 51 introduced by Hawaii Congressional Senator Mazie Hirono in support of our federal workforce by opposing reductions to federal pay and benefits, the elimination of civil service employment protections, the undermining of collective bargaining, and contracting out inherently government activities.

In our state, federal agencies are unable to attract and retain qualified workers to fill positions in Hawaii. Hawaii has one of the highest cost-of-living and many do not want to take jobs in Hawaii. Our local-born workers do not want to take federal jobs because, quite frankly, the federal government has become an unreliable employer. Within the Defense Department agencies, it is not known if the apprenticeship programs at the Pearl Harbor Shipyard will be eliminated. We rely on these programs to maintain a constant level of trained workforce in the event of conflicts with North Korea, China and Russia. But the most vulnerable to budget cuts are the civilian federal agencies. We cannot afford cuts in employment numbers and in federal pay and benefits if we are to keep civilian agency offices like Social Security Administration, Department of Agriculture, HUD, and Fish and Wildlife in Hawaii.

Eliminating employees' rights and undermining collective bargaining which helps to preserve and protect employees' rights is becoming a big consideration factor for those who are contemplating federal jobs. The erosion of employees' rights is evident in the problems still facing the Veterans'

Administration where morale is low and in the Transportation Security Agency. If employees have no recourse for airing systemic problems, there will be very slow improvements in the work place.

Contracting out inherently federal government activities has proven to be more costly than keeping federal employees in these positions. The expertise and historical institutional knowledge suffers tremendously by contracting out these activities. The lack of a qualified and trained workforce will also allow an agency to contract out more of its work or transfer positions to the 48 states resulting in job losses in Hawaii.

While the federal government can be more efficient and cost-effective, it cannot be done by drastic cuts to the federal work force as being proposed by our current U.S. President and Congress. If we want a future for our state, and the nation, there must be rational planning and management of the federal workforce.

We urge the committee to pass S.C.R. No. 114. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.