



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

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The Twenty-Ninth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 4, 2017

S.B. 207, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, PROPOSED H.D. 2 -  
RELATING TO EMPLOYEES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly opposes the purpose and intent of Parts II and III of the proposed House Draft 2 of S.B. 207, S.D. 2, H.D. 1 which authorizes the HHSC Maui Region privatized employees the ability to purchase credited service to the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) and repeals in its entirety, the content of Act 1, Second Special Session, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016, respectively.

On July 20, 2016, with two-thirds support of both chambers, the Legislature overrode Governor Ige's veto of S.B. 2077, which provided employees in the Maui Region of the HHSC the choice of a cash severance payment or modified retirement benefits, making the legislative intent to assist the affected employees absolutely clear.

In order to avoid yet another costly lawsuit and additional delays, both legislative chambers have been thoroughly vetting proposed legislation that would resolve the concern of employees choosing between severance and retirement, as contained in H.B. 233 and 234. Now, at the last possible opportunity, the Ige Administration has floated proposed language that is dramatically antithetical to the dialogue of the past two entire legislative sessions. By no measure has this proposed draft been properly vetted by all stakeholders nor ensured that it will pass legal muster. Further, this proposed language does not comport to prior legislative intent.

The affected employees have been in limbo regarding their employment and retirement benefits for too long and the amendments contained in the proposed draft serves only to exacerbates the confusion and uncertainty, therefore we respectfully request the Committee to defer Parts II and III of the proposed draft. We raise no objections to Part I of the proposed draft which provides a funding mechanism to implement a negotiated severance package.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to the proposed House draft of S.B. 207.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director