



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 30, 2016

H.B. 2247, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – RELATING
TO GOVERNMENT TRAVEL

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 2247, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which authorizes the state and counties to pay the approved travel costs of their officers and employees either directly to a vendor or by cash advance. In many cases, it may not be financially viable for an employee to shoulder the burden of pre-paying for work-related travel and waiting for the Employer to reimburse those costs. In the most egregious cases, employees have waited for six (6) months to be reimbursed, forcing some to carry personal debt that the state does not compensate.

Our membership pays high health care premiums and the vast majority makes a modest salary. This, coupled with Hawaii's high cost of living, leaves a slim margin to pay for expenses. Employees cannot afford to – and should not be required to – loan the State money.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2247, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

for Randy Perreira
Executive Director