



**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 Judiciary and Labor  
Committee on Government Operations

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 17, 2016

H.B. 2247, H.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, which requires 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 – 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

3/15/16

Bradley Shields

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Testimony in support of HB 2247**

Aloha Senate committee on Judiciary and Labor

I am a proud rank a file member of HGEA working for the State of Hawaii (HIOSH)

As HIOSH Safety Inspectors we are frequently sent to the neighbor islands. We have no staff on several islands, including Kauai and Maui. We incur up-front fees on our credit cards for items including:

Hotel Room

Shuttles

Baggage

Rental Car (for mainland training trips)

We often stay on the neighbor islands for four nights, resulting in hundreds of dollars put on our credit cards.

This puts a financial strain on me and my fellow inspectors in that we are carrying large balances on our credit cards and often waiting months for reimbursement by the State.

At times we are sent on another inspection trip to the neighbor islands before we've been reimbursed for the previous trip.

Because we are not wealthy this really places an unfair burden on us and our threadbare credit cards.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 2247

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Shields

[REDACTED]



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**HB2247**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

Testimony for JDL/GVO on Mar 17, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 414

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gwen Kondo          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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I strongly support employees being paid upfront for travel related expenses.

In my case my ex husband frequently traveled for the county. He would pay for it and later get reimbursed. Problem is because he was later reimbursed, I (his spouse) did not know when he was reimbursed. He pocketed the money, unbeknownst to me and in that fashion stole money from the family. He filed for divorced and got away with all the reimbursements although the travel was paid out of the family budget. I also worked full time by the way so I ended up paying for the governments travel expenses without the family account being reimbursed.

Big problem

J Haswell

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**HB2247**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

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|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jim Hayden          | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: In my time at the City and County of Honolulu I've waited over 6 months to be reimbursed for travel, and know of other cases where it took nearly a year. No responsible private company would treat their employees in this manner. It is simply shameful.

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**HB2247**

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

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| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Karen Sherman       | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: I support this measure, as it is an undue burden on government employees to have pay for approved travel related costs. The current per diem advance provided employees rarely if ever covers the actual out of pocket expense related to approve travel. This measure is a step towards rectifying this burden place upon our government employees.

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**HB2247**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

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| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
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| Kristin             | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Roberta Chun](#)  
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**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 11:35:57 AM

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[HB 2247, HD1](#)

[\(HSCR871-16\)](#)

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RELATING TO GOVERNMENTAL TRAVEL.

Requires the State and counties to pay the approved travel costs of their officers and employees directly to vendors or by cash advance to the officer or employee, unless otherwise provided in a collective bargaining agreement. (HB2247 HD1)

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran:

Currently government employees can be expected to pay upfront transportation costs including airfare, up to 45-days before travel. Round trip airfare to neighbor islands average \$160, the West coast \$600, the Midwest \$900, and to the East coast \$1100. The average credit card company imposes billing cycles at 21 days.

Employees are expected to keep abreast of current institutional knowledge which is often only offered on the mainland or neighbor islands.

Employer reimbursement after travel places an undue burden on the employee on top of giving up personal time to attend training and conferences off-island but is denying equal opportunity to stay current in their job.

The Employer must have sanctions for not repaying any employee in a timely manner so as not to create any disadvantage for any employee of civil service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 2247.

Sincerely,

Roberta Chun

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**HB2247**

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| Tak Ming Randal Tiu | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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