## HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION



AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
Senate
Committee on Labor and Technology
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Testimony by Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 9, 2024

## S.B.3313 - Relating to the Department of Law Enforcement

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO opposes the purpose and intent of S.B.3313, which appropriates funds to increase the salary schedules of deputy sheriffs within the Department of Law Enforcement.

In accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 89-9 (a), "The employer and exclusive representative shall meet at reasonable times, including meetings sufficiently in advance of the February 1 impasse date under section 89-11, and **shall negotiate in good faith with respect to wages**, hours, the amounts of contributions by the State and respective counties to the Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund to the extent allowed in subsection (e), and other terms and conditions of employment which are subject to collective bargaining and which are to be embodied in a written agreement as specified in section 89-10, but such obligation does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or make a concession." Therefore, the Legislature is not the appropriate body to determine changes to the salary schedules. This authority rest between the exclusive representative and the Office of Collective Bargaining.

We have engaged with the Department of Human Resources Development about the repricing of sheriffs last year and <u>unfortunately, they were not in agreement at that time</u>. This week we will meet with the State Chief Negotiator regarding the repricing of sheriffs. To be clear, we whole-heartedly support the repricing of sheriffs and understand that it will help the Department of Law Enforcement recruit and retain qualified officers. Although we appreciate the legislative intent of this measure, we request that this be filed because the Legislature is not the proper venue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of S.B.3313.

espectfully submitted.

Randy Perreira

Executive Director