



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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February 1, 2021

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Ige:

In light of the continuing surge of COVID-19 cases across our state, the Hawaii Government Employees Association on behalf of all state employees strongly urges that all executive branch employees be permitted to take up to two (2) hours administrative time off to receive a COVID-19 vaccination once the vaccine is made available to their assigned tier. This should apply to both the first and second Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations.

As of this letter, the State of Hawaii is the only major employer to require that employees take personal leave for the vaccination. The Judiciary, Legislature, Department of Education, City and County of Honolulu as well as private entities are allowing work time for the vaccination. At a time when the public health policy should be to get as many individuals as possible to be vaccinated to accelerate achieving herd immunity in our community, it is counterintuitive to demand that employees apply for and take personal leave for this public health purpose.

State employees have been on the front lines in so many cases continuing to provide direct public service during the pandemic. It is insulting to hear that front-line employees at the Departments of Public Safety and Human Services have been instructed to take personal leave for the vaccine, as directed by the Department of Human Resources Development. It seems only fair and just that these employees, who have been reporting to work every day and risk exposure, be treated with dignity as have so many other private and public employees.

Your prompt consideration in providing fair and equitable treatment for the executive branch is appreciated for the benefit of our entire community.

Sincerely,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director