



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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March 20, 2015

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
Hawaii State Capitol
415 So. Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Baker:

I am deeply aggravated and highly offended by your lack of decorum, constant and rude interruptions, and abrasive and condescending comments to multiple testifiers during the joint hearing before the Senate Committees on Health and Commerce & Consumer Protection yesterday morning. While we can agree to disagree on policy issues based on merit, your patronizing behavior toward testifiers is strictly unacceptable. The way you conducted yourself was shameful.

Public hearings are an opportunity for the general public to weigh in on legislation and are a fundamental part of our democratic process. Your shameless grandstanding lacks basic courtesy and respect, and is not tolerated in any forum, let alone at the State Capitol. These blatantly rude actions are unbecoming of a Senator and are a disservice to the public, whom you serve.

Being in elected office for 22 years does not grant you impunity and far too many have tolerated your bullying for too long. I remind you with no uncertainty: the State Legislature is the People's House. While you may currently enjoy the privilege of occupying a seat, you do not own it – it does not belong to you.

Show some respect to the people who put you there, show some integrity to the legislative process, and show some class to the seat you occupy.

The people of Hawai'i expect more from you – and we deserve so much better.

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

cc: The Senate