



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
Linda L. Smith
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
Friday, February 13, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
Room 309, State Capitol

H.B. 1718 RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

H.B. 1718 proposes to reduce the State's projected expenditures by specifying that employer contributions to the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund for Medicare Part B premium reimbursements only apply to employees retiring prior to December 31, 2009.

The Administration is appreciative of this committee's initiative in hearing this cost containment measure, and recommends that it be passed out of this committee for further discussion and consideration. Due to the latest Council on Revenues projections, the State is estimated to face a \$1.76 billion budget shortfall by the end of fiscal year 2010-2011 if nothing is done to address the situation.

Given that this measure is intended to reduce state expenditures, the Administration believes H.B. 1718 should be considered alongside any and all measures aimed at reducing the cost of government. Although the Administration recognizes that this measure may be unpopular, it is our responsibility to consider all available options that will lead to a balanced budget.

The Department of Budget and Finance estimates that this measure will generate a savings of \$530,000 in fiscal year 2009-2010 and \$1,800,000 in fiscal year 2010-2011.

TESTIMONY BY GEORGINA K. KAWAMURA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1718

February 13, 2009

RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS

House Bill No. 1718 proposes to assist in reducing the State's projected expenditures by specifying that Medicare Part B premium reimbursements through the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) applies only to employees who retire prior to December 31, 2009.

We support moving this bill forward to foster continued discussions. During these difficult times and considering the grave fiscal condition we are facing, all options must be kept open. While it is recognized that this bill may be unpopular, we will need to make difficult decisions to address our budget shortfall and ensure the fiscal health of our State.

It is estimated that this bill will generate savings of \$530,000 in FY 2010 and \$1,800,000 in FY 2011.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



MARIE C. LADERTA
DIRECTOR

CINDY S. INOUE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT
235 S. BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-2437

February 12, 2009

TESTIMONY TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
For Hearing on Friday, February 13, 2009
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 309

BY

MARIE C. LADERTA, DIRECTOR

**House Bill No. 1718
Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits**

TO CHAIRPERSON KARL RHOADS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The purpose of H. B. No. 1718 is to remove the requirement that the State and the counties reimburse employees who retire on or after 12/31/09 for medicare part B premiums through the employer-union trust fund.

The Department of Human Resources Development supports this measure as one of many options available for consideration in addressing the current budget shortfall.

The present and immediately foreseeable condition of our State's economy has been well-documented in recent months. If no action is taken, the State faces a substantial budget shortfall. To address this shortfall it is imperative that we consider any and all options, even if not popular, that can contain costs and help balance the State's budget. This bill is such a cost containment measure and we strongly recommend that it be kept alive for further discussion and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. Inoue
for MARIE C. LADERTA
Director

TESTIMONY BY JIM WILLIAMS
ADMINISTRATOR, HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST
FUND, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL 1718

8:30 A.M., February 13, 2009

RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS

Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Williams, and I am Administrator of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (also known as the EUTF). Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony reporting that the Board of Trustees voted to take no position on House Bill 1718.

The EUTF provides health and life insurance benefits to approximately 92,000 public employees and retirees (55,000 actives and 37,000 retirees). EUTF is governed by a ten-member Board of Trustees.

This bill ends reimbursement of retired employees for Medicare Part B premiums for employees who retire after December 31, 2009.

At its meeting on February 10, 2009, the EUTF Board of Trustees voted to take no position on this bill at this time and to monitor its progress. The Board currently is in the process of evaluating all available options to determine the benefit plans and corresponding rates to be offered to employees and retirees effective July 1, 2009. The Board is mindful of its statutory obligation to provide health and other benefit plans "at a cost affordable to both the public employers and the public employees." The Board also

is cognizant of the upcoming Council on Revenues revised projections due in early March. The Board reserves its right to take a position on this bill at a later date.

Thank you for this opportunity to present this testimony. I will be pleased to answer any questions from members of the Committee.

HAWAII COUNCIL OF MAYORS



Testimony of

Hawaii Council of Mayors
Bernard Carvalho, Jr., Mayor of Kauai
Mufi Hannemann, Mayor of Honolulu
Billy Kenoi, Mayor of Hawaii
Charmaine Tavares, Mayor of Maui

Before the
House Committee on Labor and Public Employment

February 13, 2009

House Bill 1718: Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits

The Hawaii Council of Mayors is very grateful to the House of Representatives, particularly the members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment, for having the courage to confront the formidable economic and fiscal challenges facing our people. You have the difficult and unenviable task of crafting a budget during a time of great uncertainty, as do we, and we share your desire to balance frugality and prudence with fairness and compassion.

House Bill 1718 would eliminate the Medicare Part B reimbursement for retirees who retire after December 31, 2009. We mayors believe that a significant number of experienced employees eligible to retire would retire before the effective date of this bill in order to preserve this benefit. For the City and County of Honolulu, as one example, about 1,045 employees are eligible to retire without penalty, of which 360 are veteran police officers, fire fighters, and other first-responders, and 27 are engineers and construction inspectors in difficult-to-fill positions. This is a predicament shared by all county governments.

The exodus of these experienced employees would be immediate, far-reaching, and long-term. The loss, coming during a difficult fiscal time for the counties, would make our situation all the more difficult.

In view of these circumstances, the Hawaii Council of Mayors opposes this measure.

Mahalo.



Mayor Billy Kenoi
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720



Mayor Mufi Hannemann
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr.
County of Kauai
444 Rice Street
Lihue, Hawaii 96766



Mayor Charmaine Tavares
County of Maui
200 South High Street, 9th Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawaii

February 11, 2009

POLICE DEPARTMENT
349 Kapiolani Street • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3998
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8865

Representative Karl Rhoads
Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: House Bill 1718, Relating To Employer-Union Health Benefits

Dear Representative Rhoads:

The Hawai'i Police Department strongly opposes the passage of House Bill No. 1718, Relating to Public Employer-Union Health Trust Fund that specifies that the requirement that the State and the counties reimburse retired employees for medicare part B premiums through the employer-union trust fund applies only to the employees who retire prior to 12/31/09

The Hawai'i Police Department like other departments throughout the state over the course of the past five years have been struggling to fill vacant Police Officer positions and are only recently recovering due to an aggressive and costly recruitment campaign. During the most recent labor negotiations between the State of Hawai'i and the State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO), it was recognized that the salaries paid to police officers throughout the state were inadequate for the demands placed upon these men and women. Thus, the salaries were increased across the board, which aided greatly in both recruitment of new officers and retention of seasoned veterans.

This measure seeks to undo all that was accomplished during these past difficult years, by forcing veteran police officers who we sought to retain in the department to prematurely retire from service to preserve their retirement benefits. This will undoubtedly result in all of the police departments becoming abruptly and devastatingly understaffed, compromising both the safety of police officers and the community. The message being delivered to the police officers throughout the state by the Legislature in passing this measure would be, that the sacrifices they have made in the past and will be making in the future goes unappreciated or unrecognized.

Our department has at least thirty-two (32) police officers that are at this moment eligible to retire prior to the December 31, 2009 effective date of this legislation. Due to the lengthy process involved in screening potential police officer candidates and the extensive training police recruits must undergo (a combination of about 18 months), it will take our department at least

Representative Karl Rhoads
Chairperson and Committee Members
Page 2

Re: House Bill 1718, Relating To Employer-Union Health Benefits

three to four years to recover from these retirements. This is provided that we are even able to recruit police officer candidates, given the fact that this legislation seeks to remove a benefit that would be considered an employment incentive.

In addition, passage of this legislation will also undoubtedly impact our department's civilian support staffing, as those employees currently eligible to retire would also prematurely leave the service to preserve their benefits. Although on a much smaller scale in terms of numbers, this will adversely affect the services these valuable employees provide to not only the department, but also the community.

In terms of costs savings by passage of this measure, the legislature needs to consider the fiscal impacts this measure will have as employees retire, due to payments for vacation and overtime credits. Additionally, the high cost associated with the recruitment and training of new employees that will need to be hired.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to reject this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to provide comments relating to House Bill 1718.

Sincerely,


HARRY S. KUBOJIRI
POLICE CHIEF



Randy Perreira
President

HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

320 Ward Avenue, Suite 209 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Telephone: (808) 597-1441

Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii State AFL-CIO
February 13, 2009

H.B. 1718 - RELATING TO EMPLOYER-
UNION HEALTH BENEFITS

H.B. 1719 - RELATING TO PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES

H.B. 1725 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII
EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH
BENEFITS TRUST FUND

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO **STRONGLY OPPOSES** H.B. 1718, H.B. 1719, and H.B. 1725.

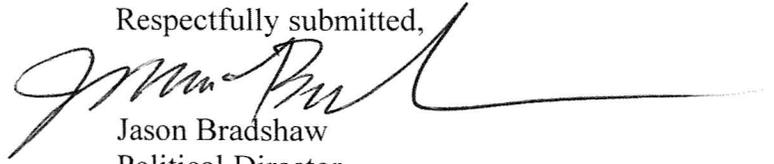
The current economic conditions are downright terrifying. Everyday, Americans are waking up to discouraging news and wondering when it will be their turn to lose their jobs. Nationwide, unemployment is at 7.6 percent, however, that number is likely to be much higher today. In addition, those that are employed have had their working hours reduced, resulting in very difficult financial situations. Many are being foreclosed on, or are already living on the streets. Many are having a very difficult time taking care of their children or their parents and see no relief in sight. With the economy the way it is, Hawaii must do all it can to improve the situation.

Therefore, Hawaii must protect as many benefits as possible, especially when people are struggling to make ends meet. Furthermore, many have worked for the state or county for decades, relying on many of these benefits when they retire, or while working. They have earned these benefits, and now is not the time to take them away. We must ensure during these difficult times that people have the proper health care and can sleep soundly at night knowing their benefits are safe. Let's not add additional stress, to an already stressful time.

I ask that you think about the livelihood of those facing difficult times and oppose these horrible bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Bradshaw", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jason Bradshaw
Political Director

From: Justin Wong [wongj060@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 2:29 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB1718

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: HB1718, Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits

Representative Rhoads and members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment, the Hawaii State Teachers - Retired (HSTA-R), consisting of 4,500 retired teachers statewide, opposes HB1718.

The reason retirees in the EUTF receive reimbursement for their Medicare Part B premiums is that the state has made a commitment to present and future government retirees that they would receive free medical benefits upon retirement. When government employees retire, they begin to receive this free coverage and the EUTF medical plans cover approximately 80 percent of their medical expenses.

When retirees reach the age of 65, they qualify for Medicare coverage. They qualify for free Medicare Part A coverage, but have the option of taking or declining Medicare Part B coverage. If retirees chose to take Part B coverage, they pay for it. The premiums for that coverage are deducted from their Social Security checks. If Medicare eligible retirees were to decline Part B coverage, the State would have to continue to pay in the same way for that type of medical expense. When a retiree takes both Medicare Part A and B, the State saves a great deal of money. The reason for this is that Medicare pays first and the EUTF pays the remainder. The EUTF's cost drops from about 80% to about 20% of the eligible charge.

With this large savings in mind, the State wanted to encourage retirees to take Medicare Part B, so it decided to reimburse the premiums for Medicare Part B. Even with that reimbursement, the State saves a great deal of money. Realizing this savings by the State, legislation was passed denying medical coverage to retirees who decline Medicare Part B coverage.

We strongly believe, that denying future government retirees the reimbursement for their Medicare Part B premiums, violates the promise of free medical coverage upon retirement and discriminates against retirees eligible for Medicare. What kind of message would passage of this bill send to the thousands of present and future employees of the State and counties?

Justin Wong, President
Hawaii State Teachers Association - Retired

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 13, 2009

H.B. 1725 – RELATING TO THE
HAWAII EMPLOYER – UNION
HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST
FUND

Good morning Chair Rhoads and Members. My name is Frances Kagawa, HGEA Retirees Unit President. We represent over 9,000 retiree members statewide who strongly oppose passage of H.B. 1106, 1718, 1719, 1725, 1723, 1715, 1726 and 1727.

Before retiring, I was a public employee at UH and the Department of Parks & Recreation. Like most other retiree and active employees, I took a government job because of health and retirement benefits. I knew I wouldn't get rich working for the public sector but stayed knowing that when I retired in 1987 I wouldn't worry about medical, drug, dental and vision plans.

I take five different medications daily to stay well. I live alone on a fixed income and with rising costs in the utility and gas prices, if these bills pass it will become a choice of paying for food or medications. There are 3,167 statewide retirees 80 years of age and over in the Retirees Unit who will be in the same or more serious predicament then I am since their pensions are much smaller.

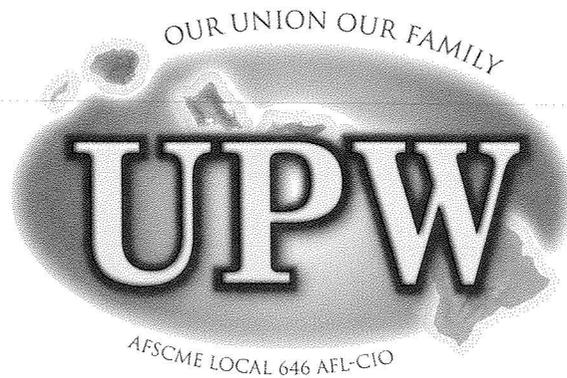
Retirees also support current and perspective employees who will negatively be affected by these bills. These active employees decided to work in government to have the same benefits that I have during their retirement. Please oppose these bills that affect all public servants and retirees.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in opposition of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Frances Kagawa



The House of Representatives
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2009

Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
PLACE: House Conference Room 309
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

**TESTIMONY OF THE UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS, AFSCME, LOCAL 646,
AFL-CIO ON H.B. 1718 RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS**

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua, and I am the state director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW currently represents approximately 8,700 blue collar, non-supervisory employees and 2,800 institutional, health, and correctional workers in the State of Hawaii and the various counties. We also represent approximately 3,000 retired members currently receiving benefits under chapter 87A. We are opposed to House Bill No. 1718 which amends Section 87A-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), by rendering employees who retire after December 31, 2009 ineligible for health benefit plan supplements to medicare under part B. As indicated in section 1 the stated motivation for this measure is to assist in reducing the state's "projected expenditures in this time of dire economic crisis."

HEADQUARTERS - 1426 North School Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-1914 ♦ Phone: (808) 847-2631
HAWAII - 362 East Lanikaula Street ♦ Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4336 ♦ Phone: (808) 961-3424
KAUAI - 4211 Rice Street ♦ Lihue, Hawaii 96766-1325 ♦ Phone: (808) 245-2412
MAUI - 841 Kolu Street ♦ Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1436 ♦ Phone: (808) 244-0815
1-866-454-4166 (Toll Free, Molokai/Lanai only)

As a general rule in a period of economic recession of this nature we believe federal and state governments should be the primary source of fiscal stimulus and reform to our financial and banking institutions. We favor the approach adopted by the Obama administration which expands health care coverage and aims to reduce the cost of providing health care through meaningful reform. This is not the time to reduce employee or retiree eligibility for medicare part B supplements.

As you know, Part B of the medicare program is a voluntary supplemental health insurance program for individuals 65 years of age or over (and the disabled) which covers physician fees and other medical services (other than hospital services or related post hospital services covered in Part A of medicare). 42 U.S.C. §§ 1395 j-1395 w. An enrollee in Part B of medicare is only reimbursed 80% of what constitutes a "reasonable charge" for services rendered by doctors, outpatient care, and other such services. The increase in premiums for enrollees in the recent past led to the adoption of Section 87A-23, HRS. The statute provides an important supplement to ensure that the actual cost of medicare part B remains "reasonable" for our senior citizens.

As noted above only those who are age 65 or over (and disabled) are eligible for medicare part B. Equal treatment should be afforded to all persons similarly situated. Disqualifying individuals based on when they retire is arbitrary and capricious because it bears no relationship to the intended purpose of medicare part B which is to cover senior citizens after they reach their retirement age. Accordingly, we urge you not to adopt this approach to the economic recession or to create what is inherently discriminatory.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA
Executive Director
Tel: 808.543.0011
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NORA A. NOMURA
Deputy Executive Director
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Deputy Executive Director
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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State House of Representatives
Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 13, 2009

**H.B. 1718 – RELATING TO
EMPLOYER – UNION HEALTH
BENEFITS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association opposes H.B. 1718. This bill would require that the State and the counties reimburse retired employees for Medicare Part B premiums through the EUTF only if they retire prior to December 31, 2009. At age 65, government retirees are required to enroll in Medicare Part B. Medicare then becomes the primary carrier for those who qualify and the State's plan becomes secondary. The employers' cost for the secondary plan is less than the plan for the retirees under 65 years of age.

Many current employees were promised as a condition of employment free health insurance upon their retirement. Moreover, current employees sacrificed wage increases in return for retiree health benefits. Public employees who have dedicated their careers to serving and improving their communities deserve the retirement benefits they have rightfully earned and deserve.

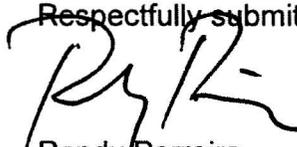
This bill will create a disparity in benefits for employees who retire before and after the effective date, which is unfair, and by deleting the reimbursement, it will create a financial hardship on many retirees who are already struggling. Another consequence of H.B. 1718 is the real possibility of eligible employees retiring *en masse* to protect their retirement health benefits. This will cause many departments to lose some of their most experienced and valuable employees, especially those in highly specialized areas.

Once these employees retire, it will be extremely difficult to fill these positions, compromising the effectiveness of programs and creating additional workload for those remaining. It will also make recruiting and retaining new employees much harder. Benefits that attract and retain highly skilled employees to the public sector help build good government and good public policy.

Hawaii State House of Representatives, Committee on Labor and Public Employment
Re: H.B. 1718 – Relating to Employer – Union Health Benefits
February 13, 2009
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Randy Perreira', written over the printed name below.

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



1200 Ala Kapuna Street λ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 λ Fax: (808) 839-7106 λ Web: www.hsta.org

Teaching Today for Hawaii's Tomorrow

Roger K. Takabayashi
President

Wil Okabe
Vice President

Karolyn Mossman
Secretary-Treasurer

Mike McCartney
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

RE: HB 1718 – RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS

February 13, 2009

ROGER TAKABAYASHI, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association opposes HB 1718, which overturns current law that requires the State and the counties reimburse retired employees for Medicare part B premiums through the employer-union trust fund. If enacted, HB 1718 would require employees to retire before 12/31/09 or lose reimbursement of Medicare part B premiums, which cover medical services like doctors' services, outpatient care, and other medical services.

State and other public employees are required to enroll in Medicare part B upon reaching the age of 65. The premiums for Medicare part B are currently reimbursed through their respective employer-union trust funds. This bill is problematic in that it will no longer require that employer-union trust funds be used to pay for public employee retirees' Medicare part B premiums, yet still require public employees to enroll in Medicare part B.

If enacted, this measure would likely result in eligible employees retiring en masse by the end of 2009 to preserve this benefit. The consequence of this would be a shortage of qualified employees in many areas, including our public schools, which are already experiencing a shortage of teachers.

HSTA members understand the need to balance the state's budget but think that this bill places an unfair burden on all state workers, including teachers, who will be retiring after December 31, 2009.

We strongly urge the committee not to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

yamashita1- Kathy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 12:17 PM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: thirr33@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1106 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1106

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Arvid Tadao Youngquist
Organization: The Mestizo Association ('82)
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: thirr33@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/10/2009

Comments:
House Labor and Public Employment (LAB)
Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Kyle Yamashita
Right Honorable Members of the House
LAB Committee

This is a testimony in opposition to:

HB 1106
HB 1718
HB 1719
HB 1725

This is purported as some "modest" efforts to help meet the fiscal crisis of the State of Hawaii.

However, all these bills are going to be perceived as yet another "King Ben Bill" after 9/11 and with the crisis visited upon the Nation mid-2008 (bail outs & economic stimulus packages), all measures appears to be on the table.

Unless the administration and the Capitol is willing to sacrifice not only their own pay-raises together with high-end "legathy" CIP and other spending in their respective district (i.e. Turtle Bay Resort, Molokai Ranch Resort, even Highways and Railways, the public sector workforce new hires, retirees, their beneficiaries and dependents should not be responsible for shouldering the heaviest fiscal burden. If one does not fight for one's own very own employees, who would one truly fight for?

Some of the proposals here at the Capitol have already led to my colleagues putting in their retirement applications before the maximum age for retirement is changed to 65, and the contributions, and coverage for prescriptions, dental and vision in the EUTF is nullified by fiat. A mass retirement payment for these new retirees will actually further drive south the Hawaii State Government budget.

Many of yourselves have taken care of elders on a fixed income, or are already a Kupuna. Do you think that these 4 bills are pono in regards to the Keiki and the Kupuna, not to mention all public sector employees?

Please consider defeating these four bills. Failing that, please consider affixing a defective effective date so that in 2013, or when the economy levels off, provisions can be repealed. Once a Union or any entity gives up any of the benefits of its membership, it hardly ever gets to recoup them in later years, even in times of plenty. Witness what happend to the Detroit automobile workforce that sacrificed benefits & pay, only to be exposed to CEO and management reward themselves with a bonus and a Golden Parachute.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in opposition to these four bills on your agenda.

"Peace be with you."
(1 of 16,588 local voices)

Concerned Citizens

Submitting Written Opposition to HB 1718

	First Name	Last Name	Affiliation/Position
1	Crystal	Sakai	County of Maui
2	Roxanne	Yu	County of Maui
3	Avelina	Cabais	Planning Dept., Maui
4	Tremaine	Balberdi	Planning Dept., Maui
5	Nina-Lehua	Kawano	Planning Dept., Maui
6	Marti	Buckner	Water Resources Planner, Maui
7	Arnold	Imaye	Dept. of Water Supply, Maui
8	Jeffery	Dack	Planning Dept., Maui
9	Jo Ann	Schindler	
10	Tui	Anderson	Dept. of Water Supply, Maui
11	Jennifer	Shishido	State Employee, HGEA
12	Cheryl	Matthews	Division of Vocational Rehab.
13	Joanne	Agnes	
14	Meghan	Statts	
15	Edie	Watanabe	
16	Elden	Masusako	
17	Suzette	Esmeralda	
18	Susan	Dowsett	
19	Fredericka	Aikau	
20	Juliana	Woo	University of Hawaii
21	Lauri	Konishi	Dept. of Edu, Social Worker
22	Guy	Danley	County of Maui
23	La'akea	Chang	County of Maui
24	Judy	Egger	
25	Antonie	Wurster	
26	Cindy	Kagoshima	County of Maui
27	Simone	Bosco	Dept. of Planning, Maui
28	Kaluna	Wong-Staszkw	Dept. of Edu, HGEA
29	Justin	Hughey	King Kamehameha III School
30	Pat	Tompkins	City & County, HGEA Unit 13
31	Gregory	Houghtaling	Firefighter, Hawaii
32	Merle	Kishida	Hawaii State Judiciary
33	Mary	Crispi	Hawaii Public Employee
34	Taylor	Maddisson	Public Employee
35	Cheryl	Rapoza	Honolulu Police Dept.
36	James	Kino	
37	Connie	Funari	Public Employee
38	Kristen	Woolever	Dept. of Edu, Social Worker
39	Audra	Sellers	Maui Police Dept.
40	Kapena	Wilson	Kauai Police Dept.
41	Joanne	Shibuya	Teacher, Kawanakoa Middle
42	Christian	Wong	Captian, Hawaii Fire Dept.
43	Caron	Wilberts	Dept. of Edu, Clerk Typist
44	Allison	Ishikawa	Maui Police Dept.

45	Keith	Moniz	Maui Police Dept.
46	Susan	Nakagawa	Public Service
47	Paulie	Schick	
48	Lee	Kravitz	Public Employee
49	Holly	DeMello	
50	Rose	Zastrow	Public Employee
51	Stacie	Sato-Sugimoto	
52	Diane	Nakashima	University of Hawaii
53	Yvonne	Ching	Judiciary
54	Erica	Hashimoto	Public Employee
55	Ron	Steben	
56	Carl	Bolding	Dept. of Edu. HGEA
57	Troy	Stupplebeen	County of Maui
58	Harry	Sprinkel	

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

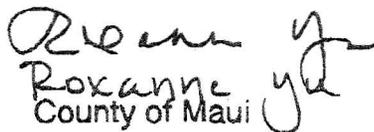
Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Roxanne Yeh
County of Maui

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

Everybody in the world is feeling the impact of economy bubble that had burst and causes lots of business to crumble and ramble down. We have always thought that the State and the County will be immune to this kind of situation but because our Country had gone so deep that it's so hard to climb up. There are no magic or easy answers. These bills will do nothing but counter the intent of the existing bills that made our State and County unique as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people, who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around. Where is the spirit of Aloha in this bill?

I have foregone higher salaries because I believe in civil service and trusted the **"promise"** that I would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making the State and County employees the scapegoat of our financial and economic crises and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

Also, to turn around now and renege the promises made at hire is unethical. I, therefore, do not support these bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Avelina Cabajis
Land Use and Building Plans Examiner,
Planning Department
County of Maui

yamashita1- Kathy

From: Tremaine Balberdi [Tremaine.Balberdi@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:48 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ, and who serve your communities, and will certainly think twice about future elections.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawaii. I, therefore, wholeheartedly, do NOT support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Tremaine Balberdi
Secretary to Boards and Commissions
County of Maui
Planning Department
250 South High Street

Wailuku, Hawaii 96793
808-270-7253

----- County of Maui.
IT Security measures will reject attachments larger than 12 MB, and will block or quarantine high-risk file types in attachments.

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Nina-Lehua Kawano
County of Maui
Planning Department

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. Therefore, I do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marti Buckner
Water Resources Planner
County of Maui

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Arnold Y. Imae, Planner
Water Resources & Planning Division
Department of Water Supply
County of Maui

yamashita1- Kathy

From: jdack1@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 6:12 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT COMM. HEARING 2-13-09, 8:30 A.M., HBs 1718, 1719 & 1725

Hello,

My name is Jeff Dack, and I live in Wailuku. I am testifying today a private member of the public. However, I am also a civil servant working for the County of Maui's Planning Department and I am a member of HGEA. I and other members of my family also contribute to the community through volunteering, frequenting local businesses, and paying taxes.

Our family is struggling to keep up with expenses. I don't think it is fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. I work hard and one of my projects will certainly bring hundreds of thousands or even over one million extra dollars directly into the Maui County budget each year with no added service expenses if it's adopted by the County Council.

Public service is important to me and all of us. It's very disillusioning to see important employee benefits for me and my family threatened, such as the variety of health care and retirement "take-backs" to be heard by the Labor and Public Employment Committee in the near future. Please disapprove these benefit reductions.

I urge you and the House to find other ways to save or raise money, such I am working to do for Maui County.

Thank you,

Jeffrey Dack
283-1334

yamashita1- Kathy

From: rhoads3-Christine on behalf of Rep. Karl Rhoads
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:24 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: FW: Please Vote No on HB1106, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1726, and HB1727

From: Jo Ann Schindler [mailto:joann.schindler@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 1:23 AM
To: Rep. Karl Rhoads
Subject: Please Vote No on HB1106, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1726, and HB1727

Chair Karl Rhoads, House of Representative's Committee on Labor & Public Employment:

I would like to express my concern about the "take-aways" proposed in the following bills: HB1106, HB1715, HB1718, HB1719, HB1723, HB1725, HB1726, and HB1727. These bills will negatively impact State and County employees and retirees, notably those who are newly retired or nearing retirement after a lifetime of work and planning for their later years.

Speaker Calvin Say's desire to address the State's financial situation is commendable. However, I believe that these bills place an unfair share of the burden on government employees who, like their neighbors, have been affected by the national and local economic downturn. We have just learned the news about the \$2.95 billion devaluation of the ERS portfolio in 2008. Many have also suffered declines in their personal retirement and other savings accounts. Moreover, previous unfair raids on ERS funds have further impacted the long-range performance and health of the employees' retirement fund:

<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2007/Jul/24/In/hawaii707240336.html>

Speaker Say's proposals – at best well-intentioned attempts to put more options on the table – are frightening additions to an already disturbing mix. It is counterproductive to jeopardize the health plans of aging workers and retirees whose conditions of hire included specific retirement benefits.

I have been saddened by news coverage of multinational, national, and local companies that have closed their doors, resulting in financial disaster for their employees and pensioners. However, I do not believe that the solution to this sad state of affairs is to "share the pain" by placing an additional burden on government employees whose pension fund has already been unfairly tapped.

Please help preserve the existing medical and financial safety net for our government employees and retirees. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jo Ann Schindler

yamashita1- Kathy

From: Tui Anderson [Tui.Anderson@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:38 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: House Bills 1715, 1718, 1719,1723, 1725, 1726 and 1727

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bills 1715, 1718, 1719,1723, 1725, 1726 and 1727

I realize we are in tough economic times, however slashing governmental employee benefits is not the solution. Many employees can receive higher pay in the private sector, the benefits offered to county and state employees are some of the reasons we have chosen to work for the public. Living in Hawaii is challenging enough and we all make sacrifices to stay here. If these bills are passed we will lose many valuable employees whom dedicate their lives to the betterment of the community.

Quality employees are hard enough to find, why make it less attractive for us to stay?

I urge you to not pass these bills, think about how the community as a whole will be affected by this.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Tui Anderson
Water Conservation Specialist
Department of Water Supply
County of Maui

County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments
larger than 12 MB, and will block or quarantine
high-risk file types in attachments.

TO: House Labor and Public Employment Committee

Hearing Date & Time: 2/13/09, 8:30 a.m.

Bill No.: HB 1718, Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits

From: Jennifer Shishido, State employee and member of HGEA

Testimony in Opposition

I am opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

1. This bill would severely affect state operations:
 - a. Many state employees who are eligible to retire but would be willing to work a few additional years would retire before 7/1/09. This would create a nightmare situation where mandated services or operations would not be carried out. Many state offices are already having employees do multiple functions at the expense of other functions, creating backlogs and gaps in services and legally required documentation.
 - b. Many state offices already have difficulty hiring and retaining employees because of the low pay. Qualified applicants who choose to come to work for the State do so because of the benefits. When the state cut back on the medical benefits for retirees a few years ago, the applications for positions fell – sometimes to having no applicants. Cutting benefits, without increasing the salary would result in either less applicants or less qualified applicants for state positions. Either way would increase costs – either in training or in overtime pay for the existing staff. This would be penny wise but pound foolish.

2. This bill is unfair:

It retroactively punishes workers who came to work for the state and sacrificed salary for benefits over the years. Salaries were not enough to invest in other retirement investments so the typical state employee came to rely on the state retirement package, which included free medical benefits, which includes not having to pay for the Medicare portion.

If the state can't keep its promises, then no one can trust the state to do anything.

Please hold this bill. Thank you.

February 11, 2009

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
And to the Committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives
The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, 2009
State of Hawaii

Cheryl Matthews
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
(808) 989-2186 or cmatthew@hawaii.edu

RE: Committee hearing on Friday, February 13 at 8:30 a.m. in Conference Room 309

IN OPPOSITION OF HB 1718

My name is Cheryl Matthews and I have committed myself to public service. I am alarmed to see that the legislators are seeking to permanently end a benefit promised to many public employees that have chosen to serve their community. The ending of a reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums will add to the already stressed medical crises facing residents in our state and nation. Our retired citizens deserve this support; have been promised this support when they began their careers as public servants; now this benefit is being threatened to be permanently removed due to a poor vision of the very part of the legislature to not enact proper regulatory measures of the health care insurance industry within the state. Nor has the legislature had the persistent vision to diversify our state's economic base away from tourism since statehood. In fact, our legislature has authorized more money into the tourism industry in the past five years than necessary and now you ask for the retired public servant to go without a benefit because of the current financial crises?

When the legislature provides for sound assurances that the medical insurance industry has been held accountable for their enormous profits, only then should the legislature seek to remove certain guarantees that have been provided to the public servant. Since the legislature has not provided the necessary regulatory parameters and these sound assurances, the medical insurance industry has been allowed to make enormous profits while the general population continues to afford less.

This proposal is ill-conceived and should not be allowed to pass through this committee. I urge you to protect the rights and benefits of our retired public servants and vote NO on HB 1718.

Mahalo nui loa,

Cheryl Matthews

yamashita1- Kathy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 12:45 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: jagnes@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: JOANNE AGNES
Organization: Individual
Address: 5400 LIKINI ST #402 HONOLULU, HI 96818
Phone: 808-387-5093
E-mail: jagnes@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/11/2009

Comments:

In this time of economic crisis, this is not the best time to make any changes or amendments on employee's benefits, more so on employee's retirement benefits.

In addition, I believe this bill is very premature.

However, if changes/amendments are needed to reduce State's projected expenditures, I would be more inclined to support a bill that would only affect the benefits of new employees.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: Kila [kilastatts@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 6:37 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony on HB 1718

Dear Honorable Representatives:

I am opposed to HB 1718. I have worked for the state for the last 14 years and even though I do not get paid alot of money, I knew that I could count on having a retirement package that would help me live in Hawaii when I retire.

I don't believe that it is right for the House to try to balance the budget at the expense of state workers. Please look at other ways to balance the budget that doesn't penalize state workers, who work very hard to provide a public service to all of Hawaii's people. In our Department, we have cut spending about 30% and have been creative about creating new revenue streams for our Division. Times are tough for everyone and I think you all need to share the burden of the budget on all hawaii's residents, not just state workers.

Thank you for your time to read my testimony and I hope that you make the right decision.

Meghan Statts

February 10, 2009

Representative Karl Rhodes, Chair
Representative Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair
House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Dear Representatives Rhodes, Yamashita and members of the Labor and Public Employment Committee,

I am writing in opposition of HB 1718, HB 1719 and HB 1725 specifically proposed changes to retirement and medical benefits for public employees.

I've been employed with the State as a social worker for 30 years. Although I'm eligible for retirement, I had intentions of working for a few more years because I enjoy my job and have gained much experience and knowledge that I share with colleagues and families. HB 1718 and HB1719 target the experienced, seasoned employees who can still offer years of services and many of us will opt to retire before July 2009 in fear of losing the benefits that we thought we were working towards all these years. If HB 1719 were passed, I would be forced to retire on 6/1/09 because I cannot predict if I would be able to work to age 65. Why would I want to continue employment with the State if there is possibility that I must pay \$5,460 a year in medical premiums should circumstances force me to retire before I reach 65?

HB 1725 would require the employee to assume the total cost of premiums for drug, vision and dental benefits and this is in addition to the medical premiums, which is proposed to increase in another House bill. I'm certain this sudden increase in premiums will probably result in one of the largest pool of underinsured families, as employees would not be able to afford to absorb the cost of the benefits. Another real scenario would result in employees dropping their family plan and applying for QUEST to get coverage for their children.

Although Representative Say has stated he wanted to avoid lay offs of public employees these bills are in reality forced attrition and leave us with a difficult decision to retire to keep intact benefits or finding other jobs with better benefits. If everyone must "share in the pain" as Representative Say is quoted then the more equitable approach would be a furlough where every public employee is subject to essentially a pay cut.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,
Edie Watanabe
284 Aina Pua Place
Kapaa, HI 96746

yamashita1- Kathy

From: Kito Masusako [Kito.Masusako@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 9:16 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: RE: testing

Dear Ms. Kato,

I am referring to any and all bills that adversely affect my retirement and medical benefits:

1. HB 1108
2. HB 1718
3. HB 1719
4. HB 1720
5. HB 1721
6. HB 1722
7. HB 1723
8. HB 1725
9. HB 1727

Thank you,
Elden K. Masusako

>>> LABtestimony <labtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov> 2/10/2009 7:50 AM >>>

Dear Mr. Masusako,

Thank you for your testimony. The House Labor Committee has several hearings scheduled in the next week. Please let us know which House Bill you are referring to so that your testimonial can be properly addressed.

Kathy Kato
Vice Chair Clerk

-----Original Message-----

From: Kito Masusako [mailto:Kito.Masusako@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 2:18 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: testing

Twenty nine years ago I left a much more lucrative career in the automotive industry and started my career in County government. My County salary was less than half of what I earned as an automotive technician and potential business owner. The one and only reason for my career change, downgrade in pay and giving up on becoming a business owner was to provide future security for my new family and myself. My family and I have made many sacrifices in the past twenty nine years due to the career change, justifying the sacrifices by the benefits that were to come at the end of my career with the County. I have been counting on and planning my retirement according to what was negotiated for in good faith by our union, and promised to me by you elected officials.

How can any of you in good conscience, decide to take so much of my earned and promised benefits and future well-being away from me a year from my retirement?! Am I supposed to start a new career at sixty-five years old to supplement my income so that my wife and I can have a well-earned and respectable retirement as we have planned for the past thirty years. Why is it that we rank and file civil service employees are always the first to be singled out whenever the State administration and/or legislature fails to manage the State's finances properly. If you were to add up all the percentages of pay raises we have received in the past thirty years, it would hardly add up the thirty-six percent you recently voted for yourselves, not to mention the raise the governor received, and all during a failing economy.

Every time our contract has been negotiated, the State seems to have been in a "particularly difficult time", and the rank and file ends up with an all of three or four percent raise over two years.

If these proposed "penalties" on the rank and file are passed into law, you would be no different than corporation CEO's shamelessly and arrogantly accepting ridiculous bonuses and incentive packages after poor and failed performances. It seems the easy way out to address incompetence and short-sightedness in financial management is by reneging on or taking benefits and pay away from those already on the low end of the pay scale, or raising taxes. In other words, making others pay for your shortcomings and mismanagement. Is our present financial situation more the fault of you legislative money handlers and our administration or is it more the fault of the State and County rank and file and the general public?

It is true what Mr. Calvin Say said, that everyone should "share in some pain." It's obvious that he doesn't mean himself, members of the legislature and administration who have unconscionably benefitted during this hard time. It's easy to make the "hard" choices when it doesn't affect you and yours directly. He and some others seem to be posturing and grandstanding for obvious future political ambitions. It's one thing to sometimes be disrespected by public opinion, which is somewhat expected and tolerated, but to be disrespected and insulted by our own legislators, governor and employers is unforgivable, especially when it's for future personal gain for some. Is Mr. Say trying for favorable public opinions for himself at the expense of State and County workers? Are employees in the private sector being required to make similar sacrifices, as they stand to benefit from our sacrifices? You legislators and our governor had your chance to "share in some pain" and set a very good example by refusing your pay raises, at least till a future time.....but we all know how you voted..... and actually expected it. Your excuses for accepting your raises were so lame and transparent that they were quite embarrassing. You all will do whatever you all will do and for whatever reasons,hopefully your true consciences and an understanding of PONO, if you have one, will be your guides.

County of Maui.

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County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments larger than 12 MB, and will block or quarantine high-risk file types in attachments.

yamashita1- Kathy

From: Suzette Esmeralda [Suzette.Esmeralda@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 4:09 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1718 & HB 1719

I am against these bills. Most public employees have been loyal to their jobs because of the retirement benefits - especially the medical. Given the cost of medical these days, it wouldn't be worth retiring until you reach the retirement age as you will be paying quite a bit out of pocket just for medical.

I am also against this bill because there are those, such as my brother-in-law, who is a public employee with only a few years till he is eligible to retire, who NEEDS the medical for my sister. My sister was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis a few years ago and has since then had to quit her job unable to work. She relies on her husband and requires good medical coverage. Consideration needs to be given for situations such as these. Also, public employees who have been working for the State and County for most of their lives don't deserve to have anything taken away from them.

thank you,
SE

yamashita1- Kathy

From: Sue Dowsett [sdowsett@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:09 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB1718;Oppose

Hearing date: 02-13-09/0830
Conf rm 309

I am a long time public employee who took this job 26 years ago because of the long term stability and benefits available; especially upon retirement. I love what I do and have endured years of extraordinary stress as a police officer. The work we do is hard, stressful and affects our home life. Any efforts to take away and reduce our benefits is not right. I was given oral and written assurances of the benefits available to me. Reducing those benefits violates that "implied contract" upon being hired.

I have willingly performed this job because I believe in it and felt that long term it would help support my family. Our medical benefits are very precious to us. I could have taken another job but, the primary benefits which attracted me to this job were the medical coverage--now and upon retirement.

I implore you to look at other ways to reduce the budget except through and on the backs of the public workers who are already doing more with less.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Susan Dowsett
Kailua, Oahu
261-1841

yamashita1- Kathy

From: RickiAikau@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 8:41 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: testing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Per email testimony is in regards to

HB 1106 HB 1726

HB 1718 HB 1727

HB 1719

HB 1723

HB 1725

Aloha!

I am Fredericka Aikau, an employee with HSPLS. I am a Library Assistant. I am objecting to, and voting "NO", to the proposed changes to our benefits. We work so very hard, with very little pay. The main reason we do so is the medical benefits, as well as the retirement package. You must not take these away from us, or - for what do we work such a strenuous, physically and mentally, job? We are proud to offer public service, but must pay our bills. To avoid an increase in homelessness, as well as health related problems, it is imperative that none of these proposals are taken seriously, and are stricken immediately.

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!

HB 1718
Relating to Public Employees

My name is Juliana Woo and I work for the University of Hawaii. I am also a homeowner and taxpayer and my family and I spend money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other services.

While I understand the need to balance the budget, I believe it's wrong to attempt to do so by extending the full retirement age from 55 to 65 by suspending state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee-beneficiaries who retire after 7/1/09, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age.

Passage of this bill will create a workforce of individuals who are working beyond their projected retirement date because they have to work, not because they want to work because frankly, who can afford to pay the full cost of the health benefits for a minimum of 3 years?

The consequences on the work product as well as the morale of the workplace need to be considered. Passage of this bill also penalizes the dedicated, loyal and conscientious workforce. This cohort chose public service, knowing that their pay may not have been as high as in the private sector but that with careful financial planning and the retirement benefit package, could continue to live comfortably in their retirement.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 1719 and look for other ways to balance the budget in a more equitable manner.

Thank you.

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair
House Labor & Public Employment Committee

Friday, February 13, 2009
Conference Room 309
8:30 am

In opposition to:

HB 1718, EUTF; Medicare Part B Premiums
HB 1719, EUTF; Retirement Prior to Medicare Age; Suspend Coverage
HB 1725, Public Employee's Health Benefits Plan; Exclusion of
Prescription Drug Coverage

Dear Representatives Rhoads and Yamashita,

I am a social worker with the Department of Education, and I am very concerned about proposed legislation that would take away benefits for public employees. HB 1718 would reimburse retired employees for Medicare Part B premiums only for employees retiring prior to 12/31/09. HB 1719 suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee-beneficiaries who retire after 07/01/09, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. HB 1725 prohibits the health benefits plan of the EUTF from providing prescription drug coverage and would require employee-beneficiaries to pay for prescription drug benefits in its entirety.

I realize that these are difficult economic times, and that the legislature is faced with the challenging job of reducing the State's projected expenditures. However, doing so at the expense of the hard-working middle class is a short sighted answer with repercussions that will be deep and long-lasting. Many of us are having a hard enough time making ends meet as it is. Requiring public employees and retirees to pay more for medical and drug coverage is an additional cost that many simply cannot afford. Please also consider how the current benefits attract committed public employees, which also saves money on employee turnover expenses.

I urge the committee to vote in opposition to HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lauri Konishi

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Guy M. Danley
County of Maui

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
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Trust Fund

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In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

La'akea Chang
County of Maui

Lois Tambalo

From: Rep. Kyle Yamashita
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 2:15 PM
To: Lois Tambalo
Cc: yamashita3-Chelsea
Subject: FW: Against Cutting Benefits/Pay for Public Employees

From: judylegger@aol.com [mailto:judylegger@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2009 11:32 AM
To: Rep. Kyle Yamashita
Subject: Against Cutting Benefits/Pay for Public Employees

I am against House Bills 1715, 1718, 1719, ~~1720~~, ~~1721~~, ~~1722~~, 1723, 1725, and 1727, all of which reduce benefits for government employees in Hawaii.

Cutting public employee and retiree benefits will not solve the state's budget crisis and it is unfair to target public employees.

Reduce expenses first by requiring pay cuts of those at the top. They can most afford it (you included). Then look at putting in place voluntary furloughs of 1 day per month. You may be surprised at how many people would be willing to take a day off without pay in order to help others and reduce budget deficits.

Pass legislation to legalize gambling. Other states have made money doing so. Las Vegas is the most popular destination of people living in Hawaii. Let's keep some of that gambling money here. And don't use the excuse that it would take 2 years to implement. Put some energy into accomplishing something for a change.

Judy Egger
Makawao, HI

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: ANTONIE WURSTER [AVWALOHA4321@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 6:49 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Opposition to HB 1718, HB 1719, and HB 1725

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Kindly consider a broader and more comprehensive approach to the rising cost of health care than the harsh take away bills, HB 1718, HN 1719 and HB 1725.

- HB 1718 targets retirees, who would need to pay a substantial part of their Social Security payments for Medicare Part B if the State discontinues reimbursement of the cost, currently over \$1,000 per year. Do you think it wise to load that cost onto public employee retirees when all other costs are rising? Do you believe that all will find Part B affordable?
- HB 1719, by discontinuing State contributions for health benefits for those public employees retiring after July 1, 2009, may result in the loss of the most experienced, as they leave public service to protect their benefits. Is this a wise move?
- Is it wise to halt prescription drug coverage when drugs prevent more serious conditions that would require expensive hospitalization?

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kagoshima
County of Maui

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

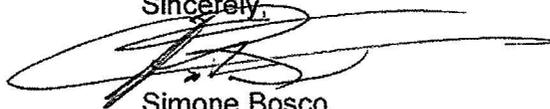
SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

I am not in support of the above referenced bills. These bills appear to be in deep conflict with the long term commitments which the members of the Hawaii Employer-Union and Public Employees have made to serve the State and Counties of Hawaii. They will undoubtedly hurt many employees and alternatively the interests of the governments which they currently serve.

Public employees have foregone many other opportunities to remain dedicated to serving their State and/or Counties. Many have based their long term employment and life plans upon the benefits which civil service has promised them, particularly retirement benefits. They trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well-managed and attractive retirement system. To propose stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is not only unconscionable, but will deeply affect the reliability and trust which many loyal civil servants have demonstrated throughout many decades.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Bosco', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Simone Bosco
Staff Planner
Planning Department
County of Maui

February 11, 2009

Aloha,

My name is Kaluna Wong-Staszko. I work for the Department of Education and have been an HGEA member for 14 years.

I am writing to ask you to oppose the following bills: HB 1718, 1719 and 1725.

These days we are all being asked to do more **with** less. Now we are being asked to do more **for** less. Representative Calvin Say is targeting public employees and having us bear the burden of the State's budget deficit. It is especially unfair, to those who are near retirement, to pass HB 1718 and 1719 at this point in time. It does not give them sufficient time to look into alternate options for their retirement years. Here are some ways the public will be negatively impacted by these bills:

- Mass exit of employees who will retire before July 1, 2009.
- State will lose many valuable employees in top critical positions.
- The state will not be able to effectively and efficiently serve the public.
- Morale will decrease, therefore affecting the quality of work in addition to the quantity.
- The State will not be able to offer a competitive salary and benefits package to successfully recruit highly qualified and effective employees in and outside the state of Hawai'i.
- We already have an overflow of social service cases. How many people could Dept. of Human Services potentially lose as a result of these bills passing? Would the remaining staff be able to handle the remainder of the caseloads?
- People will be sick more often and for longer periods because we can't afford to pay 100% of our drug coverage.

The public will ultimately suffer in the end. You need to ask yourselves if the State will honestly be able to effectively and efficiently serve the public. The long term effects could severely jeopardize the state as a whole and be more costly in the end. All of Rep. Say's bills take from us. There needs to be more balance.

Like everyone else, I do not want to have to give anything up. However, something has to give and there is no way around it. I personally, would rather agree to a pay freeze and a one day a month furlough, possibly two days a month, than to take across the board pay cuts and reduced benefits.

We are at a point and time where every citizen in this state needs to really dig down deep, be creative and think outside the box. **This is a statewide crisis, not a public employee crisis.** Everyone needs to make a contribution. Many people complain that State employees are lazy and take advantage of the system. That's not a good enough excuse because all offices, public and private have lazy, overpaid employees. I can agree to the

pay freeze and furlough. However, it would have to be a complete buy in from all unions or it won't work. There will be public employees that will disagree and claim that their positions are "essential". My response to that is: the roof over my head that protects and shelters me, the food that strengthens and nourishes my body and the clothes that keep me warm are essential to me as well. There are many people standing in the unemployment line that would be happy to have a job. Public service does not make you rich in your pocket book. It makes you rich in your heart knowing that you perform to the best of your ability everyday in providing a service to others and making our community a safe place to live. I quote President Barack Obama in his inauguration speech:

"For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the firefighter's courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent's willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate."

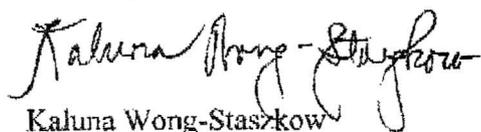
There is no one simple easy solution. Yet there is something that everyone can do, even if it's little. Every effort adds up. Why not challenge every citizen, business, organization and family in our state? Take our crisis and challenge ourselves to turn it into a positive. Go on a statewide campaign to encourage everyone to join in the effort to cut back where we can. Encourage businesses to offer specials and discounts for doing their part in conserving. Some businesses are already doing it. Times and Foodland reward their customers 5 cents for every recycled bag that customers bring in to bag their groceries. State offices with individual room air conditioning units should replace their air conditioners with energy saver units. In addition, instead of running those units for a full day, those offices with windows that can open could run their A/C units from 10:30am to 2:30pm, the warmest part of the day (subject to certain conditions). The rest of the day, they can open their windows. I admit that this suggestion may not be very popular amongst the majority. Many will complain about the inconvenience it will cause. However, a number of Dept. of Education Offices as well as a large number of classrooms operate and function daily without A/C and there are no immediate plans to furnish those offices and classrooms with A/C. What do you say to those people? My office is one of them. We have all learned to dress comfortably. Women have learned to keep a sweater, jacket or blazer at work to wear over camisole top on a warm day when a situation arises that calls for us to be out in the field or to go into a professional meeting, etc. Many offices have fish tanks and other electronic accessories that are not mandatory for running an office. Those items should be unplugged and taken home. This will help to cut down on the State's electric bill. Every classroom and grade level could incorporate conservation of resources, energy, money, etc. into their curriculum. The DOE could encourage their schools, teachers, students and families to join in the cause to conserve through contests by offering incentives and recognition of some sort. For businesses, private and public, the state could offer incentives by taking out a one page add in the newspaper advertising businesses that are offering discounts and specials for individuals and businesses whose electric bill shows a decrease of a specified number of

units of electricity for something like three consecutive months. Getting the private sector to join the campaign doesn't save the state money on their electric bill. What it does do is show support for the rest of our fellow citizens by joining in the effort to use our resources wisely. It sets a positive example for our children and lets them know that we are taking steps to take care of them and future generations to come. We can take this as an opportunity to show the rest of our country and the world what the aloha spirit is all about.

The solutions I have offered are not the only solutions and are not guaranteed to completely solve our State's deficit. Yet, I'm sure if we all try hard enough, we can think of many more. We have a lot more to gain in the long run by coming together for a common cause than just solving our deficit.

Now I challenge all of you to do what's right because it's the right thing to do and in the best interest of our state and citizens.

Sincerely,


Kaluna Wong-Stephens

From: hughey2000@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:01 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1718

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HB 1718 - RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS

FROM: Justin Hughey
421 Ilikahi St
Lahaina HI 96761

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment

Friday, Feb. 13, 2009

Conference Room 309

8:30 a.m.

My name is Justin Hughey and I am a teacher at King Kamehameha III School and I strongly oppose HB 1718. There is a state that requires all public employees to join medicare, part b, upon reaching the age of 65. The Employer should reimburse the employee and not EUTF. It gets further complicated if retirees are under VEBA, do we have to go to the EUTF to reimburse our members who obtain the age of 65? I know we have to balance the budget but what I am warning you about is that a teaching career in Hawaii is a full time career that does not pay a living wage. The more benefits you take away the less likely you are to fill a vacant position. The DOE spends over 20 million dollars a year to train and recruit teachers to come to Hawaii. The majority leave in the first three years. This is because Hawaii sounds great but then they realize they can not pay the rent for an apartment without a spouse or another job. The DOE will no longer have the money to be training and recruiting teachers to come to Hawaii. I foresee major job vacancies. We are on the cusp of the second republican great depression. The teachers who can move home and be closer to their family's will. Before cutting our benefits, think of your kids not having teachers.

Mahalo.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 4:11 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: tompkinse001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1106 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony 02 13 09

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1106

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pat Tompkins
Organization: Individual
Address: 87-152 Liopolo Street Waianae, HI 96792
Phone: 808.292.3281
E-mail: tompkinse001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

This letter is in opposition to House Bills 1106, 1718, 1719 and 1725.

My name is Pat Tompkins. I have been a City & County, HGEA Unit 13 employee since 1993. I will be 59 years old next month. I thought I was going to join my husband, who will be 62 next month, in retirement in 3 years. Now I'm not so sure either of us will be able to retire in the foreseeable future.

When I joined the public sector workforce in 1993, certain promises were made regarding the benefits that would be available to me and my husband when I retired.

I believed then and continue to believe now, that A PROMISE MADE IS A PROMISE KEPT.

Besides a desire to serve my community, what convinced me to accept employment with the City at a much lower rate of pay than I had earned previously in the private sector, were the retirement benefits. I don't use most of the medical insurance coverage now, as an active employee, because my husband has a much better, cheaper benefit through his employer who also pays the cost of most of my coverage. But we needed the retirement benefits because he wouldn't have medical insurance when he retired.

I've worked hard, served my community, and now, after almost 16 years, certain members of this Legislature have proposed changing the retirement conditions and rules for current employees as well as retirees.

HOW DARE THEY!

I made a life decision 16 years ago to join government service based on an employment agreement that contained certain rights and benefits that applied both during the term of my active employment as well as when I retired.

These bills, and others that will be heard next Tuesday, are bad news for public employees and they are bad news for the public in general.

Please consider the following points:

HB 1106 proposes to allow furloughs. Each day of furlough is really a 5% pay cut for those furloughed. 5% that will no longer be flowing into the economic pipeline here in Hawaii. Groceries won't be bought, clothing sales won't be made, savings accounts will not increase. Likewise, State revenue from income, GET, gas as well as other taxes will decrease, increasing lost revenues for the State and local governments. Furloughs will start a domino effect that will necessitate additional budget cuts. Public worker spending is the last secure source of revenue for our local businesses and tax base. Public workers don't expect to get raises in our next contracts to help offset the increased costs we're already experiencing. But please don't reduce the effective value public worker wages further with the imposition of furloughs.

HB 1718 proposes to halt reimbursement of Medicare Part B for those who retire after 12/31/09. The ERS/EUTF requires covered retirees to carry Medicare Part B. This helps lower the premiums to the EUTF and Employers for the secondary health insurance coverage provided by the EUTF to those who are also covered by Medicare that becomes the primary insurer when the retiree turns 65. Currently the monthly premium for Part B is \$96.40/mo. and usually increases each year. The non-reimbursement of Medicare Part B premiums would result in a net reduction of a public worker retiree's income.

HB 1719 proposes to halt medical insurance premiums for any current public employee who retires after 07/01/09 and has not reached the age of Medicare eligibility, currently 65. This would force affected retirees to either pay the full cost of medical insurance coverage which would be available through the EUTF, currently estimated to be in excess of \$1,000/mo for a family policy, for up to 10 years. This could reduce the individual's retirement income for that 10 year period by \$120,000 or more. For many, that \$1,000/mo. payment would reduce their monthly retirement benefit by more than one-half. The result would be that most would have net incomes below the poverty level.

HB 1725 proposes to halt prescription drug coverage under the EUTF for a period from 07/01/09 through 06/30/15. Why have medical coverage if you don't have drug coverage? Lack of prescription drug coverage will result in both active employees and retirees being unable to afford to fill the prescriptions their doctors felt were necessary to treat either chronic or episodic conditions. Many maintenance drugs for chronic conditions, such as high blood pressure or cholesterol, cost hundreds of dollars a month. Paying for those drugs out of pocket for actives and net retirement income for retirees would push more individuals into poverty. Still others may become permanently disabled or actually die because of the lack of affordable prescription drugs.

Is increasing the number of people in poverty, who end up declaring bankruptcy for health related reasons, or who die because they are unable to afford medical treatment really what is intended as a result of these bills? Do people on welfare really deserve better coverage than the public workers who manage their care or provide their treatment have available to themselves? I'm sure it isn't. Yet that is what would happen if these bills are passed. It is sad to think that someone could work for government or be retired after many years of service and also be in poverty. That would truly be an injustice.

The stated intent of all of these Bills being heard in the next few days is to reduce the State's bottom line right now. However, these bills do that at the sole expense and on the backs of public workers.

What is being avoided is requiring the Governor and members of the Legislature from having to look long and hard at all programs to see which are absolutely needed and which are not. All

of you must decide where limited dollars should be spent. What is not being said is that these bill avoid that responsibility by making public workers look like the bad guys, leading the public to think that these cuts will actually solve problems with the bottom line. They won't.

Here are a few places to look to lower the bottom line for the long run:

Enact a real freeze on hiring. Hundreds of jobs have been advertised and many filled since the alleged freeze was put in place.

Review the core mission of each department and make sure each agency within that department is providing services that achieve that core mission. Eliminate the programs and services that don't.

Keep public dollars keeping public workers employed instead of privatizing services. When services are privatized, there are no controls over the amounts paid for wages, where items get purchased and cost overruns. Everyone knows the way to get a government contract is to low-ball the bid and then get whatever you can in change orders. That mentality and practice has to stop.

If contracting out must occur because there are not sufficient staff or expertise within government, then make sure cost controls are in place and enacted.

Streamline the contracting process for health and human services. It takes far too long to execute contracts and pay our service providers. This ends up costing government added dollars in increased costs because the non-profit organization's bids and unit rates must include costs for lines of credit to pay expenses in advance of reimbursement of costs.

Eliminate, to the extent possible, non-bid contracting. When there isn't any price to which to compare the cost of a contract, there is a lot of opportunity for overcharging.

Eliminate, to the extent possible, the appointments of individuals who do not meet minimum qualifications to a position. There are hundreds who have been hired by the current administrations, both State and local, on either emergency or 1 year contracts that have been renewed over and over again. Worse yet, some of those hired in this manner have now had their positions "converted" to either limited term or civil service. That has to stop. Positions should be posted in the prescribed manner and a fair and open competition should take place with the most qualified, not the best connected, being chosen for employment.

In closing, public workers know economic times are tough. We're working harder and smarter and we will continue to do our share to help strengthen our home state. But we are not willing to be made the scapegoats for all that ails Hawaii. No one person or entity created this situation. Likewise, no one person or entity will be able to get us out of it. We stand ready to support our elected officials but only if they support us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat Tompkins
Waianae, Hawaii

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: deets@u.washington.edu
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 3:05 AM
To: LABtestimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

FROM; Gregory Steven Houghtaling, Firefighter, Hawaii FD Honokaa/C shift

TO; Committee on Labor and Public Employment

For the hearing on 2/13/2009 @ 0830ish in conference rm 309.

And for measures HB1718, HB1719, & HB1725

Although I am relatively new to the HFD (hire date 7/16/07) and Hawaii in general I have been a paid union FF for 23 years on the mainland.

We pay 12.5% of our salary to our retirement. This is far more than most Firefighters(FF's) pay into their state retirement. If you our Lawmakers want to make for a short fall of cash why not raise our taxes (equal % for all in the form of payroll/state income tax)? Are you all taking your own retiree health benifits away? Or your currently working members drug prescription benifits?

This attack on our benifit pakage is nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to undermine a contract we (public employees and employers) have agreed upon outside of contract negotiations.

If you do your homework I believe you will find that the Fire Dept. employees are less expensive to insure than other public employees (Washington state found this to be true and the City of Everett paid the Firefighters some of the savings to be on their self insured health insurance)in general.

We emergency service workers do and see things that nobody should have to. We risk much and are paid little. When was the last time you had to tell a father that yes indeed the two burnt/dead children under the blanket with their mother and her boyfriend are his.

Instead of taking away benifits for the retiree why not ask all public employees to take equal and temporary reductions in benifits?

Mahalo for your time and consideration in this mater and if you have any questions or coments for me please feel free to contact me at any time.

Greg Houghtaling
C# 360 509 2049/H# 808 966 5015
15-1817 Laamia st(14th), Keaau, Hi, 96749 deets@u.washington.edu

PS please ignore the below stuff its my wifes email address I share.

Denise L. Houghtaling RN, MSN, FNP-C
Doctoral Student

University of Washington
School of Nursing
Health Sciences Bldg. T427
Seattle, Washington.

**"Remember the greatest bridge between hope and despair is a good nights sleep"

***"It is not the years you live in your life but the life you live in your years"

BILL: H.B. NO. 1718, Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
BEFORE: House Committee On Labor And Public Employment
DATE: February 13, 2009
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 309
TESTIFIER: Merle H. Kishida, Hawai'i State Judiciary

Chair Rhoads and Members of the committee,

My name is Merle Kishida and I have been a Hawai'i State Judiciary employee since 1991. I strongly oppose this bill.

I am currently working as an Estate and Guardianship Clerk, but I may very well be your next newspaper delivery person. This bill provides that the State shall reimburse retired employees for Medicare Part B premiums only for those employees who retire prior to December 31, 2009. If this bill passes, I will be forced to choose between retiring this year and forfeiting much needed income to pay my bills, or continuing to work past the December 31, 2009 deadline and losing the crucial Medicare B benefits that I have worked so hard to obtain.

As a divorced woman in my 60s, I'll have a difficult time finding another job. I'll have to take jobs that nobody else wants. In fact, I am seriously considering taking on a paper route. My co-workers laughed when I told them about this idea, but I am dead serious.

This is not a dilemma I envisioned facing at this stage of my life, especially as a state employee. Although I understand the need to make shared sacrifices in these tough economic times, I think a better balance can be struck between fiscal responsibility and the elimination of important retirement benefits.

78-7019 Mana Opelu Ln
Holualoa, HI 96725
324-4052/937-3767
mcrispi@hotmail.com

Committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives, State of Hawaii

Chairman Karl Rhoads & Committee Members:

Concerning HB1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits – OPPOSED
Concerning HB1719 Relating to Public Employees – OPPOSED

I am a Hawaii public employee for more than a quarter century, dedicated to furthering the education and public welfare of the residents of Hawaii. I have weathered several recessions and remained a public servant during boom times when I might have earned more in the private sector, because I believe that what I do is important to the members of our communities. I accepted the salary delay several years ago that cut my annual pay for the year by one paycheck. I accepted being forced into the EUTF when I had cheaper health insurance through my labor union.

I am nearing retirement age, and see all of the bills currently before your committee designed to curtail retirement benefits as poor reward for many years of dedicated service. Employees look forward to retirement from the date they are hired, anticipating that their health benefits will continue as promised, and their Medicare premiums paid, as they have been for decades.

If HB1719 should pass and retirees are forced to pay their medical premiums from age 62 to age 65 (or older for younger employees), many will be forced to continue working or retire without medical coverage, or spend a third or more of their State retirement for medical insurance. Assuming that a single retiree has to pay his/her insurance, you will be reducing the retirement pay by \$3600 per year or more. For a couple it could equal more than half of their state retirement. This will ultimately cost the State because retirees will not have discretionary income to spend; Medicaid costs could increase because of retirees who try to do without medical coverage and have a catastrophic illness, reduced contributions to charitable organizations such as the Food Bank and United Way who depend upon us to help the less fortunate, and in loss of good employees who choose to abandon or avoid government jobs for better pay and benefits.

A factor to consider: if the average 62-year-old employee has 25 years of service, he/she is at or near the top of the pay schedule. Can the State afford to keep senior employees working past 62? If each step of the HGEA salary schedule is an increase of \$160 per month and there are 11 steps, letting senior workers retire early without penalty could save more than your current proposals, because the State could recruit new employees at lower wages, 'creating' jobs to help the economy. Now is the time to do it, because in good economic times the starting salary of a State employee is not competitive with the private sector. And think of the good will and positive publicity that you would create!

This recession will pass sooner or later, but the changes you are proposing will not. You will force more of the population into reduced circumstances that will echo throughout the State's economy. Please look for win/win solutions – they exist.

Mahalo,

Mary Crispi

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Taylor Maddisson [tamaddisson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 9:50 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Taylor Maddisson.

As a public employee for 6 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker

Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725

HB 1106 is supposed to 'protect the rights of public employees' in the event of a furlough.

Speaker Say has said that a furlough would cause the "least amount of disruption to public service." I pose this question to the Speaker: What about the disruption to us as residents of this state?

A reduction in our salaries is hugely disruptive at a time when we are the sole breadwinners. How can we afford a reduction to our salaries when we are some of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy? We also strongly disagree with Section 4 of HB 1106. The Governor does not have the

authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

HB 1719 is also of concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe

retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of service and reduces medical

benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public

service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us

can be broken mid-stream. This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to force people into early retirement. Plans my sister had made to ensure that her child graduated from college before she retires are suddenly up in the air. She now has to make the choice - get out now so that she can afford to stay healthy during

her retirement, or stay even longer to provide for my family during these tough economic

times and risk losing her current level of care during her retirement. She has worked for the city for **38 years**. Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's not irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will lose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on HB 1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawai'i.

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to long and healthy lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

To: LABtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Cheryl Rapoza, Sr. Clerk Typist
Telecommunications Systems Section
Honolulu Police Department

Date: February 11, 2009

Subject: Labor & Public Employment Committee
Hearing, Friday Feb. 13, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
HB 1106 Relating to Public Employment
HB 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
HB 1719 Relating to Public Employees
HB 1725 Relating to Hawaii Employees-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund
Hearing, Tuesday Feb. 17, 2009, 8:30 a.m.
HB 1723 Relating to Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust
HB 1725 Relating to Retirement
HB 1726 Relating to Hawaii Employees-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund
HB 1727 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

I urge the Labor & Public Employment Committee members to oppose the above bills. It is a reality that the economy is in a poor state, both nationwide and worldwide. In Hawaii, we have one of the highest cost of living. When I started with the City almost 4 years ago, I accepted employment knowing the pay was much lower than what I was getting in the private sector, but knew the long term benefits as a government worker would outweigh the lower wages.

Because there is no control over the private sector where it comes to cutting staff members and benefits to save on costs, the burden falls on the public employees and the local government system. To have public employees bear the burden due to finances of the State of Hawaii is an unfair practice.

Personally, my husband, retired, and I will no longer be able to afford our home; we'll have to forego medications and make more cuts here and there. We may even have to drop the medical insurance altogether. We would have to choose between our home, our health, and our food. We have enough financial problems trying to stay afloat in Hawaii's ever increasing fees and costs and now we have bill proposals to "add to the fuel". It's frightening to think that your decision determines our livelihoods and the quality of our lives.

It will be chaos if the bills are not opposed. If the bills pass, it would affect thousands of lives. We would all have to make choices of whether to pay for our homes, for medical insurance, and other living necessities. It will lead to more people losing their homes, more people living on the beach, less police, firefighters, and paramedics to act as first responders which would then trickle its effect down to Hawaii's community as a whole.

An alternative to the above bills would be to possibly raise taxes so that all Hawaii consumers would bear the burden.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: James Kino [James.Kino@co.maui.hi.us]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:19 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Public Testimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

February 10, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union
Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees House Bill 1725 Relating
to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

James L. Kino
Fire Department, County of Maui

----- County of Maui.

IT Security measures will reject attachments larger than 12 MB, and will block or quarantine high-risk file types in attachments.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: ffunari@netscape.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 7:36 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1715, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1723, HB 1726, and HB 1727

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Chair Rhoads and members of the Committee on Labor and Public Employment:

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to the measures you are attempting to pass in our State Legislature. The proposed bills you are considering relate to Public Employees, our Retirement, our Health Fund, and our Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund, etc. I am a widow, with huge responsibilities to pay a mortgage and the outrageous utility bills (electricity, water) every month. I am surviving by the will of God and a dependable job, and I am counting on receiving the related benefits I have been working towards for over 23 years. I want to retire when I am ready, and to still be able to keep paying the mortgage and the bills, to see a doctor when the need arises, and not because you are telling me I must retire now to receive any benefits.

The steps that you and our nationally elected officials are taking to bring the financial crisis under control are aimed not at rewarding those who have been loyal and hard working and keeping up with their finances, paying their mortgages and taxes and insurances thus keeping the economy rolling, but only to penalize us. Please, let's take a stand for the silent majority for once and help the hard-working people you have in these beautiful islands in the State of Hawaii.

Another opposition comes to mind: By forcing our police officers and firemen and corrections officers, etc. to consider early retirements now will have a huge detrimental effect on public safety issues. Are you prepared for this?

Connie Funari
(808) 244-6307

Netscape. Just the Net You Need.

Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice-Chair
House Labor & Public Employment Committee

Friday, February 13, 2009
Conference Room 309
8:30 am

In opposition to:

HB 1718, EUTF; Medicare Part B Premiums
HB 1719, EUTF; Retirement Prior to Medicare Age; Suspend Coverage
HB 1725, Public Employee's Health Benefits Plan; Exclusion of
Prescription Drug Coverage

Dear Representatives Rhoads and Yamashita,

I am a social worker with the Department of Education, and I am very concerned about proposed legislation that would take away benefits for public employees. HB 1718 would reimburse retired employees for Medicare Part B premiums only for employees retiring prior to 12/31/09. HB 1719 suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employee-beneficiaries who retire after 07/01/09, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. HB 1725 prohibits the health benefits plan of the EUTF from providing prescription drug coverage and would require employee-beneficiaries to pay for prescription drug benefits in its entirety.

I too am concerned about the difficult economic times upon us and I realize the legislature is faced with the challenging job of reducing the State's projected expenditures. However, it is my hope that the legislature be creative in considering various options to address this crisis and seriously consider the potentially grave expense to state business if the health care support of our state work force is to be affected.

This approach to addressing the budget crisis may be shortsighted and have repercussions that will be deep and long-lasting. The affect on our workforce and future retirees may bear out the most serious of implications for dedicated employees in the long run. Health care benefit is one of the most important benefits.

Many already have a difficult time making health care ends meet. Requiring public employees and retirees to pay more for medical and drug coverage is an additional cost that many simply cannot afford. Indeed, the health care crisis industry will likely already result in all individuals having to pay more for their care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
Sincerely, Kristen Woolever, MSW

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

2

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1719, Related to Public Employees.

I have been a public employee/sworn police officer with the Maui Police Department since May of 2002. I am highly concerned about the recent proposed bills including but not limited to the following:

HB 1536 RELATING TO SALERIES
HB 1106 RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT
HB 1718 RELATING TO EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS
HB1719 RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
HB 1725 RELATING TO HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFIT TRUST FUND

I understand the House of Representatives have a hearing set for Friday, February 13, 2009 in Honolulu.

House Speaker Calvin SAY is trying to produce solutions to introduce bills that will "share in the pain" for the economy. But I find it disturbing that his ideas are to slash the retirement and medical benefits for state and county workers. It seems as though we as public servants are being penalized. Cutting public employee and retiree benefits will not solve the state's budget crisis, and that it's unfair to target public employees.

Knowing that the proposed bills will adversely affect all those state and county workers who do not retire by July 2009, that is only the beginning. Should the proposed bills pass, the catastrophic repercussions will not be limited to the workers, but their family, coworkers, the communities and ultimately the state.

Imagine take those that are eligible for retirement now, that have stayed beyond twenty five (25) years of service, they will be forced to retire. Their leadership and knowledge will be gone, leaving the space to be filled with the newly promoted. Now that leaves the patrol division short handed thus creating excessive overtime expenditures and safety conditions. Who else suffers, families since the officer will be required to do overtime, hold over and call backs. Then what happens to the community? The community is already struggling with the economic crisis and unemployment. Because of that we experience more calls for service, more thefts, crimes against property, assaults and domestic abuse. What if the force is so depleted due to the mass exodus of those forced to retired, and there is no one to respond. Now put that on a medical emergency, heart attack, stroke, car accident. What happens if our parks and division personnel are cut so

that the parks are unsafe for our children? Imagine no lifeguards at pools and beach fronts.

On a personal note, I served twelve (12) years in the Hawaii Air National Guard, defending our Country and State. I was taught to believe that one person really can make a difference. I then chose a career in service with the Police Department because of the benefits, stability and my desire to continue community service. Please don't let them take away our benefits that we earned. We make this state and county a safer place while putting our lives on the line each and everyday. Are you saying that our lives are not worth the benefits that we were promised?

As our elected official I hope that you take my/our concerns seriously and OPPOSE these bills! I know there is no easy answer, but I/We do know that if these bills pass, there will be catastrophic repercussions felt by all.

My family and I thank you for your time and hopeful consideration.

Audra Sellers

OFFICER AUDRA SELLERS
MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT
55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HI 96793
PH: 808-244-6303
FAX: 808-244-6308
CELL: 808-268-4777

From: ewilson [ewilson@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 11:21 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: ldecaires@honolulu.gov
Subject: Testimony to HB 1718/1719/1725

NAME: KAPENA WILSON
POSITION/TITLE: POLICE OFFICER
ORGANIZATION: KAUAI POLICE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2009
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 309

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

HOUSE BILLS 1718 / HB 1719 / HB1725

I am writing as a response to the above mentioned house bills as a private citizen. I joined the county police department for numerous personal reasons. One of the major reasons is job security and benefits. I could have stayed in the private sector and make more money, but I followed my heart into the career I am now in. I have made huge sacrifices for the public and my job which I passionately love. Prior to my joining, the older generation that was hired before me, when they retired, their spouses was able to collect their retirement and benefits upon their deaths. It all stopped around the time I got hired. Employees only are allowed the benefits. So, for a low pay job, the benefits are for me only. So, I try my best to stay in shape having been informed that scientific statistics shows that an average police officer only lives another 5 years after he / she retires due to the high stress they go through during the course of their career. Do I want to enjoy my retirement when I get to that time? Sure do! And for the job I do, I deserve it too! Seems like the state wants to match their program with the private sector. Now it is apparent that the state government wants to take away what is rightfully ours, what we work hard for, what no other occupation in this civilian world can imagine possible unto them physically and psychologically. Currently our death benefit is

something like \$20,000. The GI's serving in middle east are paid nearly half million in death benefits. They don't need to work till age 65 like how this state government will soon be forcing us to do. What will \$20,000 do for a family here in Hawaii should an officer or fireman die in the line of duty? Cover funeral expenses only! Sorry children, your father or mother died in the line of duty and your parent is only worth \$20,000! No you cannot collect on his /her retirement or medical either to help you through high school and / or college.

Will there be any exceptions to these house bills for emergency workers personnel? I can't fathom to picture a 65 year old police officer in uniform working the beat having to deal with criminals in their prime age of 20's. The state may see a huge increase in police officers transferring out to the mainland PD's in the near future. Imagine a 63 year old fire man having to haul a fire hose fighting fire. There may be a surge in increase of workers comp claims...an increase in accidents and / or accidental deaths. Can a human in his late 50's to mid 60's match the strength and abilities against one in his 20's - 30's ? Honestly, I can see a worker sitting behind a desk having to work to the age of 65. But emergency personnel put their lives on the line everyday, whether its fighting fires or running down criminals involved with drugs and weapons like firearms and a high tendency of violence, yet the state wants to keep us in uniform till our mid 60's? Emergency workers like it or not comes in contact with people who have infectious diseases and the risks are great. Emergency workers should be spared from these house bills and their pensions, medical, and future should be EXEMPT from these house bills. Emergency workers dedicate their much valuable lives on the front line every day. I think the state should reconsider the writing on these house bills to exempt all emergency workers affected, this includes police officers and firefighters. The Mainland is looking more promising, more money, bigger retirement, cheaper living, same benefits.....

yamashita1- Kathy

From: berg1-Liz on behalf of EDNtestimony
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 4:17 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: FW:

Liz Labby
Committee Clerk
Representative Lyla Berg, 18th District
Phone: (808) 586-6510
Fax: (808) 586-6511
Email: repberg@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: Joanne_Shibuya/KAWANANAKOA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
[mailto:Joanne_Shibuya/KAWANANAKOA/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 3:55 PM
To: EDNtestimony
Subject:

TO: EDNtestimony@hawaii.capitol.gov
FROM: Joanne Shibuya

SUBJECT: HB 1715,1718-23,1725,1727 - RELATING TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

House Committee on Labor & Public Employment
Friday, Feb. 13, 2009
Conference Room 309
8:30 a.m.

My name is Joanne Shibuya and I am a teacher at Kawanakoa Middle School and I strongly oppose HB 1715, 1718-23,1725,1727 which suspends state and county contributions to the EUTF for all state and county employees-beneficiaries who retire after July 1, 2009, regardless of date of hire and years of service, if the employee retires before the employee's Medicare retirement age. It resumes coverage after Medicare retirement age.

Allows employee to retain health coverage through the EUTF by paying the respective state or county share of premiums until Medicare retirement age and increases the amount employee pays while decreasing the employer's contribution while employed.

If these bills should pass, they would encourage state and county employees to retire on June 30, 2009.

In the schools, the state of Hawaii will experience a mass exodus of teachers similar to the year the early retirement package was offered which resulted in many unqualified teachers being hired and many retirees being rehired to fill the vacancies. In the schools, we saw and felt the negative effects of the last exodus. The major impact was having unqualified teachers filling vacant positions. How are we to continue striving for NCLB with unqualified and non-certificated teachers in the classroom?

Teaching is an extremely exhausting career, both mentally and physically. That is why there are very few teachers who teach after 60 years old. They know their limitations and care too much for the welfare of their students to continue at a diminished pace in the classroom. There are always the remarkable exceptions, but at least they have options after 60. We do not all age at the same rate, but these bills would require that

we do.

Another ill effect of these bills would be the state of health for many Hawaii seniors who would not receive health care if they were unable to continue as public employees until 65 years old. These bills would deteriorate the health of our state employees and our seniors and consequently, we would lose the value of a healthy senior population in Hawaii. Ultimately, the public services would experience an increase in demand from seniors between the ages of 60 to 65 resulting in additional state spending.

I understand the need for budget cuts, so why not propose **if needed** that we retain the medical coverage for retirees, but cut the coverage for beneficiaries/spouses. State employees should not be penalized for retiring before 65 years of age and for working for the state government.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Joanne K. Shibuya

yamashita2 - Kristen

From: Christian Wong [mercuri@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 10:59 PM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: 2009 RETIREMENT & HEALTH BENEFIT LEGISLATIVE BILLS

Christian Wong
Captain
Hawaii Fire Department

COMMITTEE ON LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Rep. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

Friday, February 13, 2009
8:30AM

Measures:
HB1718
HB1719
HB1725

Committee is requesting 3 copies for paper submissions. No specified number of copies requested for email submissions.

Testimony

I am a firefighter. On December 18, 1995, you and I entered into an agreement. I agreed to serve, and you agreed to take care of me and my family. Since that day many things have happened.

Each day, I pack my bag and drive to work, to spend 24 hours away from my family and friends while in the service of our community. For over thirteen years I have done so, because you agreed to pay the majority of my medical insurance premiums.

I have aided your loved ones, in the dead of the night, providing them with comfort and care to the best of my abilities because you agreed to make sure that if I am ever sick, you would provide me with medicine.

I have eaten heat and soot and shit from my superiors, because you agreed to make sure my teeth would be fixed if they ever broke.

I have seen horrible sights. Pools of blood, broken bodies, a woman's brain splattered across an entire stream bed. I have seen drowning victims, stroke victims, people whose lives were taken, people who took their own lives. All their faces are with me, they will always be with me; these faces are now a part of me. Lifeless, contorted, faces screaming out in silent agony. But each day, I pack my bag and go to work, because you agreed to make sure my eyes would be cared for so they can see my son's smile.

I have faced the beast, stared into its soul. I have seen hell on earth. I have been burned, I have been brave. I have been scared. I have fought fire until my body would no longer function. I have run into burning buildings, I have had my lungs filled with toxic gases. I have breathed in diesel fumes and watched as my brother firefighters succumbed to cancer. I have seen their children develop cancer. I am afraid of cancer. But each day I pack my bag and go to work, because you agreed to make sure I would have medical insurance so my body would be taken care of when my service was done.

When you drive our roads, what do you see? Do you see trees? Do you see the ocean? I see graves. 47 mile marker, drunk man drove his motorcycle into a guard rail. 44 mile marker, car cut in half, driver completely crushed. 23 mile marker, girl died in head on collision. I still can hear her screaming while I'm trying to get her blood pressure. But each day I pack my bag and go to work, because you agreed to release me from this horror film after 25 years.

What do you think it's like to leave your wife in the morning knowing you won't see her until the following morning? What do you think it's like knowing that you may not come home? How do you think my wife feels knowing I may not come home? What is it like to spend 1/3 of your life away from your children? What is it like when they beg you to stay and spend the day with them with tears running down their cheeks? But each day, I pack my bag and go to work, because you agreed that I would get to spend all my time with them when all this is done.

I am a firefighter. You and I have an agreement. I'll be damned if I let you break it.

**Testimony for the House of Representatives Committee on Labor & Public
Employment Notice of Hearing Friday February 13, 2009 8:30 am Conference room
309 State Capital. Fax#586-6331**

From:

**Caron M. Wilberts
Department of Education Clerk Typist**

Please accept testimony on the following Bills:

HB1106: In favor of this Bill. Please protect the rights of your public workers. Referring to SB 372 that refers to state workers as, "whose base salaries often are already quite low". For those that are on the lower echelon of the pay scales, our benefits are all that we have. Most of us cannot afford a home, car or even the simple pleasure of going on a trip. But, we have our benefits, without our benefits we literally will have nothing. We have traded not being paid anywhere close to living wage but know that if we get sick we have our medical. If we need medication we can get that, or if we require dental or vision care we do have access to that. We your constituents who voted for you and would like to vote for you again, have faith in you that you will do the right thing and protect the rights of your public workers. We are not the problem.

HB 1725: Not in favor of this Bill. Prescription Drug Coverage is literally a life and death issue for hundreds and possibly even thousands of your public workers. This is not an issue that can be bartered away. People's lives are at stake here, and really think of what you are doing. By taking away the prescription drug coverage from the state workers, people will die. I am not saying that to create drama, this will be a fact. Because we are paid such low wages, people will not be able to afford the drugs that they literally need to live. Think about it, by taking away this most essential need you will literally have contributed to the demise of these state workers, whose only crime was to work hard for the state that they love and grew up in. Please do the right thing so that future generations of state workers can look up to you as their elected officials and that you will be able to serve us in years to come.

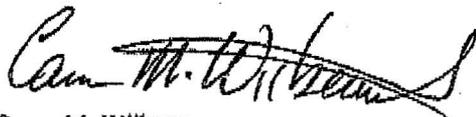
HB 1536: In favor of this Bill. Our higher paid officials that we have elected need to set this example. If the state workers are willing not to have a pay increase in these hard times then our much higher paid elected officials most certainly need to do the same thing. It's just the right & moral thing to do.

HB 1718: Not in favor of this Bill. Every single retiree that I have spoken to said that the part B reimbursements really helps. They are having such a hard time making ends meet. Please do not take this away.

HB 1719: Not in favor of this Bill: As a state worker you may work your whole adult life for the state. Once you have worked for all the years that are required one should be allowed to retire and enjoy what is left of their lives. Instead on punishing the state workers you as our elected officials should be looking for other avenues to better the lives of these workers who do work so hard. So you all are expecting someone who has worked for the state 25 years or more and say retires at age 55 to go without Health Insurance until they reach Medicare age, and they will probably have to because they will not be able to afford your "Carrier" that will provide the premium. Myself and everyone I know would be in that situation, so why retire. All you would be doing is just working so you can have medical, and that is no way to approach your job. Our jobs are so hard as it is already.

Please members of the Committee on Labor & Public Employment do the right and just thing by protecting the right of your public workers. We literally are the backbone of the state. We serve the public who demands a lot of services and we do it to the best of our ability. All we have are our benefits, please do not take those away from us, for many it is a life and death situation.

I would like to ask all the members of this committee to have the insight and leadership to bring Hawaii into the 21st century on how we deal with fiscal matters in looking into generating new revenue for the state so this situation of trying to break the public workers never happens again. There have been discussions on having a state lottery and it is about time. We could call it the "Rainbow Lottery", and it would be run by the state. Just think of the money that could be generated for the state. I'm personally not in favor of gambling but it is high time that we have the lottery to help pay for all those services that the public demands. The state also needs to put a stop to people coming right off the plane and applying for services, that also has to come to an end. Punishing your hardworking state workers is not the answer. We work for low wages and provide all the services that the public demands, please do not take away what little we have. Thank you for your time.



Caron M. Wilberts
State of Hawaii Clerk Typist

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita,

I am writing regarding the following House Bills that I am greatly OPPOSED to:

Hearing on February 13, 2009
House Bill No. 1718- Related to Retirement Benefits
House Bill No. 1719- Related to Retirement Benefits
House Bill No. 1725- Related to Medical Benefits of Public Employees

Hearing on February 17, 2009
House Bill No. 1723- Relating to Public Employees
House Bill No. 1727- Relating to Medical Benefits of Public Employees

I started my civil service career in 1988 with the Dept. of Labor and Industrial Relations, and currently with the Maui Police Department for the last 8 years. The benefits promised to me and many others at the time of hire are what drew all of us to become civil service employees. You are again removing benefits established under collective bargaining and renegeing on promises made to employees at time of hire.

The passing of these bills will definitely be a devastating blow to all whom already are having difficulty in these economic times. Please look at other fairer alternatives to address the state's revenue problems and not looking at civil service employees to become the scapegoat for the state. Everyone should share in the burden during these tough times.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,



Allison Ishikawa
Pukalani, Maui Resident

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Representative Yamashita,

I am writing regarding the following House Bills that I am greatly opposed to:

Hearing on February 13, 2009

- House Bill No. 1718- Related to Retirement Benefits
- House Bill No. 1719- Related to Retirement Benefits
- House Bill No. 1725- Related to Medical Benefits of Public Employees

Hearing on Tuesday February 17, 2009

- House Bill No. 1723- Relating to Public Employees
- House Bill No. 1727- Relating to Medical Benefits of Public Employees

Born, raised and educated in Hawaii, (Maui) my civil service career began 26 years ago, 16 with the Maui Police Department as a Juvenile Counselor, Maui County Employee of the Year 2005 & 2000. Like many others with difficult jobs, when I first decided to work for the state/county, it was not the pay that drew me to the job but the idea that, like you, I could hopefully help families in need, with some reward being the benefits promised.

The passing of these bills which was introduced by Mr. Calvin Say will definitely be a devastating blow to everyone already having difficulty in these economic times. (Taking away from the middle class AGAIN) Not only will it turn away many quality professional and non professional employees from a civil service positions but many will retire or leave as soon as they can. The Health of our senior citizens will decline, future plans for children of civil service employees will be at jeopardy and government positions will be difficult to fill meaning even more agencies will be eliminated, and without quality employees desperate people who usually look to government agencies won't have any one to turn to, making overall public safety a major concern.

Please look for other ways to balance the budget. Having some public forums on Maui with our Maui Reps should be something you and your constituents should be doing to address some of the state's revenue problems. I realize that there is no clear cut answer but we need to work together on these matters.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,


Keith K. Moriz
February 12, 2009

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Susan Nakagawa [ssnaka@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:11 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY REGARDING HOUSE BILLS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose the following House Bills:

HB 1106 - Furloughing employees
HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09
HB1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09
HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
HB 1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;
HB1715 - Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;
HB 1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;
HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

I am an employee that has worked in public service with the State of Hawaii for 12 years and will continue to do so for the next 10+ years. I have a family that depends on my income and therefore cannot support the House Bills that Speaker Calvin Say has addressed. It will be an extreme hardship for our family to survive if health benefits and wages are touched. Although I don't plan on retiring yet I am very upset about the fact that all the benefits that I thought I would get when I retire will change if these House Bills go through. Years ago I made the decision to leave the private sector and work for the State not because of the pay but mainly for the benefits that the State had to offer. I am sure I am not alone when I say I am not the only one that feels this way. You have thousands of dedicated employees that have put years of service to the State. Why should we be penalized and have our wages and benefits taken away from us. What do we have to look forward to when we retire.

Please look for other solutions to balance the State budget.

Thank you.

Susan S. Nakagawa

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Paulie Schick [paulieschick@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:15 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony for today and Tuesday morning bills

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony Opposing:

HB 1106 - Furloughing employees
HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09
HB1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09
HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF
HB 1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;
HB1715 - Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;
HB 1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;
HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage

I implore you to oppose the above listed house bills. They target the aged who went into public service, at lesser than private sector pay, on the promise of retirement benefits. Now on the eve of retirement, i become 62 on June 14, there are numerous bills threatening to reduce or negate benefits, effective July 1, 2009. Targeting the elders is demeaning our society. Equally is it unfair to the people who have been in public service for 32 years, such as my brother-in-law, but is only 53 years old. He was planning to retire at 55. Now he's faced with the prospect of being a public servant for another 12 more years! In addition, it will burden the ERS when it has lost more funds due to the economic downturn than at any other time. Further, because of no transition or training time to develop replacement staff with specific skill sets, it will cripple our government services to force a mass exodus of retirees who need to do so in order to keep the medical benefits, high three, etc. You should not bail out our economy by taking away hard-earned benefits from public employees.

Thank you.

Paulie Schick
paulieschick@hawaii.rr.com

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Lee N Kravitz [lk.hi@juno.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:32 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: THEFT OF PUBLIC WORKERS HARD EARNED RIGHTS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Lee N. Kravitz. As a public employee for 33 years, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106, 1718, 1719, 1723, 1725, 1726, and 1727 that steal from us in an attempt to balance the State budget at our expense, instead of raising the GET so all of us, residents and visitors alike may properly share in this burden. HB 1106 is supposed to 'protect the rights of public employees' in the event of a furlough. Speaker Say has said that a furlough would cause the "least amount of disruption to public service."

I pose this question to the Speaker: What about the disruption to us as residents of this state?

A reduction in our salaries is hugely disruptive at a time when we find ourselves more and more the sole breadwinners for our entire families. How can we afford a reduction to our salaries when we are some of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy?

We also strongly disagree with Section 4 of HB 1106. The Governor does not have the authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

HB 1719 is also of great concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream.

This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to force people into early retirement. Plans I may have made to ensure that my children graduated from college before I retire are suddenly up in the air. I now have to make the choice - get out now so that I can afford to stay healthy during my retirement, or stay even longer to provide for my family during these tough economic times and risk losing my current level of care during my retirement.

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's not irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will loose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on HB 1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawai'i.

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to long and healthy lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.
Mahalo,
The Kravitz Ohana (Claudia, Kent, Kailey, and Lee).

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: DeMello, Holly M [hdemello@honolulu.gov]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:59 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB 1715, HB 1726, HB 1727, HB 1536, HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: DeMello, Holly M
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2009 4:53 PM
To: 'gov@hawaii.gov'
Subject: economy

Dear Governor Lingle,

I am very concerned about the economy. I have never written to someone in government, much less the governor. I work for the City & County of Honolulu and have been in various positions over the years. My supervisor has just passed out the different legislative bills that are being considered for us.

I object very much to all of it. I am divorced, single, 55 years old and I earn \$13.34 an hour. I will be at this pay rate for the next three years. I am barely making ends meet now and if there are cuts of any kind passed affecting the working poor, the government will have a bigger problem on their hands and that will be more and more homeless people. More and more homeless people will mean more and more mental health services will be needed. Believe me, I have been through both.

I am writing on behalf of all the people like me, who have gone through so many hard times already and are trying to put our lives together again. The blame for the deficit goes directly to our government officials, no one else. None of us have access to any government money and yes, shame on us because we have not demanded stricter stipulations as to how money is spent by the government. Restrictions need to be started for whatever programs, plans or expenses are not needed – not essential. Just like I live without cable, road runner, home phone, car insurance, and any kind of a decent vehicle, so does the government. If you being the governor would only pour our money into educating our children and developing exceptional programs for their mental well being, we would become a wealthy state. It is badly needed. You need to cut the government spending to the bare bones, like so many of us have to with ourselves. If you take any more from us and there is not much to take, we cannot survive.

I invite you or anyone else as a government official to live on \$13.34 an hour and then take away from that. We are already living below poverty. How much further below the poverty level do you want us to go?

I hope you read this and really, really give it thought, because this is from a real person who lives from paycheck to paycheck. You need to listen to us and do what is right. Whatever you have been doing hasn't worked otherwise we wouldn't be in this mess. Come out of your meetings, trips, and office and talk to us so you will really know what is wrong with our state. There are a lot of good people in small places and they have excellent ideas and the expertise to run the state's finances

better than it has been run. If things were run well, we would have a surplus rather than a deficit. You and no one else have to change things. You are in charge and no one else. Just like a household, the state has to get rid of the excessive spending and get down to the bare bones. Go without the big vehicles, luncheons, new furniture, anything to cut the spending; not take away from people who already don't have enough to live on.

And in case you are thinking, why don't I do something more than work for \$13.34 an hour. I am. I go to school half time and I'm aiming for a MFA in writing.

Sincerely,

Holly deMello

From: Rose Zastrow [zastrowrose@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:21 AM
To: LABtestimony

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To my State Legislature, please be advised that your decisions effect everyone within our state. As a state employee I do not live in a bubble, the money that I earn is spent within our communities and I pay taxes just like everyone else. To imply that I am being over paid, or that somehow my salary reduction/furlough can save the state from financial ruin is ridiculous and I resent it.

As a Public Employee I work very hard to provide service to my fellow citizens and your proposed solutions leave people with the impression that we are a drain on society. If you wish to be fair about the solutions then everyone must share equally, that could be done by a small increase in the sales tax or excise tax rather than inciting the general public into thinking we are stealing their money.

All of your proposed bills listed below are unacceptable. Please remember that not only are we tax paying citizens, we are a strong voting power.

**Sincerely,
Rose Zastrow**

HB 1106 - Furloughing employees

HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09

HB1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09

HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF

- AND -

HB 1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;

HB1715 - Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;

HB 1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;

HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: S.Sugimoto [sato.sugimoto@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:28 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamamoto, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Stacie Sato-Sugimoto, as a public employee for over 3 years; I am deeply upset and concerned about the bills introduced by speaker Calvin Say. Specifically HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725, HB 1723, HB 1726, and HB 1727.

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. I sacrificed a larger salary and chose to work for the state because of my desire to help others, and because of the coverage it offered for me and my family. I thought it was a win-win situation where I may not get the nice salary but I had passion for my job, and in return I knew I had good coverage for my family. Now, I feel that we are being punished for being civil servants.

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to long and healthy lives.

As I sat and read through each proposed bill, I started to feel ill, just the thought of how many sacrifices you are asking state workers to make is just appalling. Yes there are concessions that need to be made, but trying to "balance the budget" by taking essentials like healthcare away from your own employees seems very disturbing to me.

I sincerely urge you all to please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees. We are dedicated to our jobs, in my case I'm dedicated to make a difference in the children's lives I touch, however how can I continue to do this making less money, and having less benefits? How will I support my own children?

In Peace,
Stacie Sato-Sugimoto, MA, LMHC, NC

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Diane Nakashima [diane.nakashima@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:28 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Testimony for 02/13/09

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Labor Committee Members,

My name is Diane Nakashima, and I am an education specialist with the University of Hawaii.

I don't believe its fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. We are already working more with less in our areas. I've made a career in public service knowing that my pay may not be as good as the private sector, but felt that I could rely on retirement and health benefits for myself and my family. I think its wrong to take these benefits away from me, especially since I am quickly approaching my twilight years.

Please don't make the public employees the scapegoats for this economic crisis.

Please vote No to HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725.

Respectfully,
Diane Nakashima

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Yvonne.N.Ching@courts.state.hi.us
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:28 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: testimony opposing a variety of bills to be heard on 2/13/09 and 2/17/09

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this testimony this morning. I have been a State employee for over 30 years and plan to retire in a few years. My retirement plans are based on the medical, dental and pharmaceutical benefits that are in place right now as I write this. It would be a grave mistake for the State to reduce those benefits.

Many baby boomers who are state employees will be retiring very soon and already face severe financial losses in our retirement plans through ERS or deferred comp. The added burden of unexpected medical costs due to cuts in benefits or increasing the age for eligibility will further crush our plans.

If you earmark a date for benefits to be reduced, you will see a stampede of employees trying to get grandfathered into the old benefit plans. Can you imagine the impact on departments statewide? The state will face an incredible and irreversible loss of knowledge and experience.

If any changes are made to benefits, it should be applicable to new employees hired after the effective date of the legislation. These new employees would not have based their lifetime financial decisions and plans on the benefits that you are now being asked to take from us.

For the above reasons, I urge you to vote NO on the following bills to be heard on the following dates:

Friday, February 13, 2009

HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09
HB1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09
HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

HB 1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;
HB 1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;
HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

I urge you to act and vote responsibly and be accountable to your constituents and their future.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Ching
ITCD
Judiciary, State of Hawaii
PH. (808) 538-5336
FAX (808) 538-5802

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Erica Hashimoto. As a public employee for 7 ½ months, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB 1106; HB1718; HB1719; HB1725; HB 1723; HB1715; HB 1726; HB 1727

HB 1106 is supposed to 'protect the rights of public employees' in the event of a furlough. Speaker Say has said that a furlough would cause the "least amount of disruption to public service."

I pose this question to the Speaker: What about the disruption to us as residents of this state? A reduction in our salaries is hugely disruptive at a time when we find ourselves more and more the sole breadwinners for our entire families. How can we afford a reduction to our salaries when we are some of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy?

We also strongly disagree with Section 4 of HB 1106. The Governor does not have the authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

HB 1719 is also of concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream.

This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to force people into early retirement. Plans I may have made to ensure that my children graduated from college before I retire are suddenly up in the air. I now have to make the choice - get out now so that I can afford to stay healthy during my retirement, or stay even longer to provide for my family during these tough economic times and risk losing my current level of care during my retirement.

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's not irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will loose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on HB 1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawai'i.

HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to

bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage. This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to long and healthy lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

Please vote “no” on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees.

Erica Hashimoto
Dept. of Health
AMHD-HSH

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Ron Steben [ron_steben@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:09 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: HB1718, HB 1715, HB1719, HB1723,HB1725, HB1726, HB1727

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony this morning. My name is Ronald Steben. As a public employee for 1 year, I am deeply upset by the bills introduced by Speaker Calvin Say. Specifically: HB1718, HB 1715, HB1719, HB1723,HB1725, HB1726, HB1727.

HB 1106 is supposed to 'protect the rights of public employees' in the event of a furlough. Speaker Say has said that a furlough would cause the "least amount of disruption to public service." I pose this question to the Speaker: What about the disruption to us as residents of this state? A reduction in our salaries is hugely disruptive at a time when we find ourselves more and more the sole breadwinners for our entire families. How can we afford a reduction to our salaries when we are some of the last remaining wage earners in this unstable economy?

We also strongly disagree with Section 4 of HB 1106. The Governor does not have the authority to unilaterally furlough state employees.

HB 1719 is also of concern to me. As a civil servant, I chose to work for less pay to be able to contribute to the community. On balance, I believed that I would be able to count on a safe retirement. Speaker Say's bill, which disregards my years of service and reduces medical benefits until the Medicare retirement age, is irresponsible. Instead of supporting public service, Speaker Say is telling us that public employees don't mean much and promises to us can be broken mid-stream.

This bill is a thinly veiled attempt to force people into early retirement. Plans I may have made to ensure that my children graduated from college before I retire are suddenly up in the air. I now have to make the choice - get out now so that I can afford to stay healthy during my retirement, or stay even longer to provide for my family during these tough economic times and risk losing my current level of care during my retirement.

Speaker Say is backing us into a corner, and it's not irresponsible for him to suggest that this economic crisis should be resolved by sacrificing the health and well being of me and my family. Also, by forcing people into retirement before July 1, 2009, we are gambling with the future of state programs. The loss to institutional knowledge and expertise that we could experience is putting our families in Hawai'i at risk. State programs that protect Hawai'i's children, elderly and public will loose a wealth of knowledge that is not easy to recover when state hiring freezes are overburdening our already overburdened workforce. I strongly encourage this committee to vote "no" on HB 1719 and to send a strong message to Speaker Say, that he cannot punish civil servants for their dedication and commitment to the state of Hawai'i. HB 1725 says that from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2015, public employees will have to bear THE ENTIRE burden of prescription drug coverage.

This is literally a bill that is playing with the life and death of public workers. Although the bill is only temporary, we are gambling with six years of prescription medication. With rising chronic diseases that require medication, this bill, coupled with talk of salary cuts and rises in our premiums is like a death sentence for our elderly, sick, or recovering public workers and retirees. It will deter some employees and retirees from accessing medicine that is essential to long and healthy lives. This is a regressive bill when the rest of the nation

is talking about improvements to our health care coverage.

Please vote "no" on all of these bills that take away benefits from public employees

Thank you,
Ronald Steben

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: Carl Bolding [cbolding@k12.hi.us]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 8:13 AM
To: LABtestimony
Subject: Submitting Testimony on the House Bills Listed Below

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HB 1106 - Furloughing employees
HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09
HB1719 - Stop employer contribution for health benefits for those retiring after 7/1/09
HB1725 - Halt prescription drug coverage under EUTF

HB 1723 - Limit employer contribution to 55% and make it non-negotiable;
HB1715 - Increase, for new employees, the age and service time requirement to retire;
HB 1726 - Curtail EUTF payment for life insurance benefits;
HB 1727 - Prohibits provision of dental and vision coverage.

Hi, my name is Carl Bolding. I work for the Department of Education and am a member of HGEA.

I'm also a taxpayer. I spend money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other needs.

I don't believe it's fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. I work hard at my job and things are even harder now since vacancies have been frozen and demands for services have increased. I've made a career in public service knowing that my pay may not be as good as in the private sector but I could rely on retirement and health benefits for myself and my family.

I think it's wrong for representatives to take these benefits away from me.

Please look for other ways to balance the budget. Raising the excise tax would be a fairer way to address the state's revenue problem. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden during these tough times.

Mahalo for you time and assistance.

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
And members
Committee on Labor & Public Employment
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1718 Relating to Employer-Union Health Benefits
House Bill 1719 Relating to Public Employees
House Bill 1725 Relating to the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefit
Trust Fund

The purpose of these bills appears to be an attempt to solve the economic downturn and financial crises the State of Hawaii and respective Counties are facing. These bills will do nothing but counter their intent as they will undoubtedly hurt the very people who are instrumental in turning our financial situation around.

Public employees are truly dedicated and many have foregone higher salaries because they believe in civil service and trusted the "promise" that they would eventually benefit from a well managed and attractive retirement system. To now propose making them the scapegoat of our financial and economic woes and stripping them of their health benefits and their retirement benefits is simply unconscionable.

In passing legislation such as this, there is no question you will cause a massive influx of employees who will choose to retire now in order to preserve and maintain the benefits they have worked so hard to have. You will also certainly lose the trust of the people you employ and who serve your communities.

To turn around now and renege on promises made at hire is simply not how it's done in Hawai'i. I, therefore, do not support the bills listed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Troy K. Stupplebeen
County of Maui

yamashita3-Chelsea

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 7:40 AM
To: LABtestimony
Cc: sprinkelh001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1718 on 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for LAB 2/13/2009 8:30:00 AM HB1718

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Harry Sprinkel
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: sprinkelh001@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/12/2009

Comments:

HB1718 - Halt reimbursement for Medicare part B premiums for employees retiring after 12/31/09. There is a large number of State employees who are commonly referred to as the baby boomers. These employees are all reaching 30 years of loyal employment with the State and for the last 30 years or more have been promised that when they retire that the State will pay for their Medicare part B premiums. They stayed with the State all these years for less pay than they could have earned in the private sector because of the State benefits before and after retirement. To eliminate this benefit now would be renegeing on your promise and deeply effect the amount of income of future retirees.

**Hawaii State Workers and HGEA Members
Same Written Testimony in Opposition to: HB1106, HB1718, HB1719, HB1725**

(See Attached Letter)

	First Name	Last Name
1	Nalani	Fijimoto
2	Linda	Tamane
3	Dionie	Dela Cruz
4	Aaron	Teruya
5	Charles	Santiago, Jr.
6	Kaiulani	Lambert
7	Rick	Lau
8	Lillian	Haijima
9	Lolita	Perlawan
10	Leslie	Teruya
11	Elaine	Tokimasa
12	Alfonsa	Remoket
13	Jolynn	Kapeliela
14	Dawn	Nagahara
15	Nan	Suzuka
16	Kinau	Alka
17	Lelei	Aborda
18	Cynthia	Shimada
19	Ian	Rand
20	Linda	Gomes
21	Faith	Hope
22	Kathleen	Dela Cruz
23	Karla	Achiu
24	Lori-Ann	Lee
25	Cecilia	Gamil
26	Kerian	Onishi
27	Susan	Cummings
28	Tammie	Whitford
29	Imelda	Libao
30	Shirlene	Miyashiro
31	Michelle	Pang
32	Virginia	Tacto
33	Brenda	Viernes
34	Maile	Kakua-Haliniali
35	Rexford	Davis
36	Hannah	Domingo
37	Sharon	Togashi
38	Ernest	Hong
39	Theodore	Wong
40	Valerie	Germano
41	Jane	Nagai
42	Annabelle	Rambaud
43	Randy	Lum
44	Ofelia	Cueua
45	Susan	De Jesus
46	Jarriet	Enrique

HOUSE LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COMMITTEE

Karl Rhoads, Chair

Kyle Yamashita, Vice Chair

My name is Nalani Sugimoto and I work
for the state and am a member of HGEA.

I am also a taxpayer and support local businesses to buy food,
clothing and everyday necessities for myself and my family.

I don't believe that it's fair for the **HOUSE** to be looking at ways
to balance the budget on the backs of public employees. I work
hard at my job and things are even harder now since vacancies
have been frozen and demands for services have increased. I've
made a career in public service knowing that my pay may not be as
good as in the private sector but decided that my retirement and
health benefits for myself and my family were more important than
the pay.

I OPPOSE:

HB 1106

HB 1718

HB 1719

HB 1725

HB 1723

HB1715

HB 1726 & HB 1727 and I am asking you for your support in
opposing these bills too.

Thank you,

Date: February 13, 2009

To: Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Various Concerned Voters

We are taxpayers and active State employees. We spend our hard earned money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other needs to help keep the economy in our state. By approving and implementing these Bills you will be forcing us to use whatever monies we had extra, to pay for the increases and deletions of various medical bills and retirement. So that would mean even LESS monies going into the state economy. Which in turn would cause more companies to close which would lead to even more people being unemployed and claiming unemployment benefits.

We don't believe it's fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget with only public employees. We are long, loyal and hard working employees who have done our best to service the public of the State of Hawaii. We have made a career in public service knowing that our pay may not be as good as in the private sector but we would rely on retirement and health benefits for ourselves and our families.

We think it is wrong for representatives to not only cut and reduce proposed benefits but to also cut and delete benefits that we have worked long and hard for.

Please look for other ways to balance the budget such as raising the excise tax, some form of gambling, ie lottery, would be a fairer way to address the state's revenue problem. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden during these tough times.

(See attached - list of bills with signatures)

**Signatures of State Employees Opposed Passage of These Bills
 HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725**

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009
 Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309**

1. <i>M. Erle G. Schore</i>	26. <i>Pamela Rosa</i>
2. <i>Audrey G. Gito</i>	27. <i>Leticia Jankota</i>
3. <i>Jim D. Saggoy</i>	28. <i>Paula A. Mann-Tehsen</i>
4. <i>Myra M. Gamm</i>	29. <i>Dorothy Burke</i>
5. <i>Elynor dela Yaga</i>	30. <i>Kathy</i>
6. <i>Bennett David</i>	31. <i>Melendrina Corcino</i>
7. <i>Norma J. Shinn</i>	32. <i>Wendy Osorio</i>
8. <i>Kelly Swann</i>	33. <i>Patricia H. Jeters</i>
9. <i>Mary Helen Cathcart</i>	34. <i>Judy</i>
10. <i>Kathleen Kay</i>	35. <i>Chae</i>
11. <i>Jim</i>	36. <i>Jean M. Eubank</i>
12. <i>C. Santa Monica - Young</i>	37. <i>Allen</i>
13. <i>Gemma Herrera</i>	38. <i>John H. Muth</i>
14. <i>Rebecca J. Kall</i>	39. <i>Ann Swate</i>
15. <i>Miriam Reese</i>	40. <i>Clinton A. Denny</i>
16. <i>Travis P. Pender</i>	41. <i>Kathleen Baker</i>
17. <i>Indy Young</i>	42. <i>Dina J. Lee</i>
18. <i>Bobbie High - Jones</i>	43.
19. <i>Yasine M. Kuremire</i>	44.
20. <i>Georgiana Portana</i>	45.
21. <i>Sam C. Baker</i>	46.
22. <i>Donna K. Thattayoh</i>	47.
23. <i>Kathleen March</i>	48.
24. <i>J. Pender</i>	49.
25. <i>Young</i>	50.

**Signatures of State Employees Opposed Passage of These Bills
HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725**

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309**

1.	<i>Nancie J. Voyce</i>	26.
2.	<i>Mauri Higgins</i>	27.
3.	<i>Benjamin</i>	28.
4.	<i>Maryk. Anderson</i>	29.
5.	<i>MA</i>	30.
6.	<i>Lilia C. Martinez</i>	31.
7.	<i>Joyce N. Nustemura</i>	32.
8.	<i>Mary Jane J. Cooper</i>	33.
9.	<i>Shirley</i>	34.
10.	<i>Janet</i>	35.
11.	<i>Pat C. O'Connell</i>	36.
12.	<i>Laymond Kachola</i>	37.
13.	<i>Heidi</i>	38.
14.	<i>Joanne Mitchell</i>	39.
15.	<i>Blair Finley</i>	40.
16.	<i>Perry M. Duroda</i>	41.
17.	<i>Julia Paragan</i>	42.
18.	<i>Debrah Yon Dararjo</i>	43.
19.	<i>Caroline Auman</i>	44.
20.	<i>Bridget Kiroshite</i>	45.
21.	<i>Valerie</i>	46.
22.	<i>Roland H. Huns</i>	47.
23.	<i>Tom</i>	48.
24.	<i>Jane Sekaleska</i>	49.
25.		50.

**Signatures of State Employees Opposed Passage of These Bills
HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725**

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309**

1. <i>Rochina Hymmeswami</i>	26.
2. <i>Gregory J. ...</i>	27.
3. <i>Shirley A. ...</i>	28.
4. <i>Chris ...</i>	29.
5. <i>...</i>	30.
6. <i>Mrs. C. ...</i>	31.
7. <i>...</i>	32.
8. <i>Kate ...</i>	33.
9. <i>...</i>	34.
10. <i>...</i>	35.
11. <i>...</i>	36.
12. <i>...</i>	37.
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14. <i>...</i>	39.
15. <i>...</i>	40.
16. <i>Natasha Puchalski</i>	41.
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22.	47.
23.	48.
24.	49.
25.	50.

Signatures of State Employees Opposed Passage of These Bills
HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725

Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309

1. <i>Ken Nunn</i>	26.
2. <i>Shirley K. Kump</i>	27.
3. <i>Wendell H. Hill</i>	28.
4. <i>Virginia Schitani</i>	29.
5. <i>Chandra Dharma</i>	30.
6.	31.
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23.	48.
24.	49.
25.	50.

Date FEB 12 2009

To: Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Various Concerned Voters

We are taxpayers and active State employees. We spend our hard earned money at local businesses every day to buy food, clothing and other needs to help keep the economy in our state. By approving and implementing these Bills, you will be forcing us to use whatever monies we had extra to pay for the increases and deletions of various medical bills and retirement benefits. So that would mean even LESS monies going into the state economy, which in turn would cause more companies to close which would lead to even more people being unemployed and claiming unemployment benefits.

We don't believe it's fair for the House to be looking at ways to balance the budget with only public employees. We are long, loyal and hard working employees who have done our best to service the public of the State of Hawaii. We have made a career in public service knowing that our pay may not be as good as in the private sector but we would rely on retirement and health benefits for ourselves and our families.

We think it is wrong for representatives to not only cut and reduce proposed benefits but to also cut and delete benefits that we have worked long and hard for.

Please look for other ways to balance the budget such as raising the excise tax, some form of gambling, ie lottery, would be a fairer way to address the state's revenue problem.. Everyone paying a little more will mean sharing the burden during these tough times.

(See attached - list of bills with signatures)

**Signatures of State Employees Opposed Passage of These Bills
HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725**

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309**

1. <i>Xori E. Cabacungan</i>	26. <i>[Signature]</i>
2. <i>Guie Sakamoto</i>	27. <i>Sam Freedman</i>
3. <i>Boneth Chu</i>	28. <i>Kelvin Cashman</i>
4. <i>Wm Trinh</i>	29. <i>John Wang</i>
5. <i>M. Umaka</i>	30. <i>Jim Messina</i>
6. <i>B. M. Hancock</i>	31. <i>[Signature]</i>
7. <i>[Signature]</i>	32. <i>Corles Fukuda</i>
8. <i>Ma. Feliciano</i>	33. <i>Patrick H. Kelly</i>
9. <i>[Signature]</i>	34. <i>Marcy R. Johnson</i>
10. <i>Minda Yacheta</i>	35. <i>Jerry D. Beck</i>
11. <i>Annie Lee</i>	36. <i>Shun K. Okamura</i>
12. <i>Luan Lee</i>	37. <i>Chung J. Jungai</i>
13. <i>[Signature]</i>	38.
14. <i>Tamara Chang</i>	39.
15. <i>[Signature]</i>	40.
16. <i>[Signature]</i>	41.
17. <i>Karina Nestela</i>	42.
18. <i>Charlotte Rego</i>	43.
19. <i>[Signature]</i>	44.
20. <i>Ron Chan</i>	45.
21. <i>Met Arane</i>	46.
22. <i>[Signature]</i>	47.
23. <i>Hilary Lee</i>	48.
24. <i>Donna Tanigawa</i>	49.
25. <i>Valerie Lee</i>	50.

Signatures of State Employees Opposed Passage of These Bills
HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725

Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309

1. <i>Andri Wil. Tise</i>	26.
2. <i>Nalini Ali</i>	27.
3. <i>Per M</i>	28.
4. <i>Selva Kelopodes</i>	29.
5. <i>Paulita Dair</i>	30.
6.	31.
7.	32.
8.	33.
9.	34.
10.	35.
11.	36.
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22.	47.
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24.	49.
25.	50.

Date: February 12, 2009

To: Karl Rhoads
Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Various Concerned Voters

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(See attached - list of bills with signatures)

If you have any questions, you may call me at 221-0840 or via email at suzy.okino@gmail.com.


Suzanne Okino

**Signatures of State Employees Opposed Passage of These Bills
HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725**

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309**

1. <i>Wong Kooknam</i>	26. <i>Eleanor K. ...</i>
2. <i>Sam ...</i>	27. <i>...</i>
3. <i>Judy ...</i>	28.
4. <i>Wendy ...</i>	29.
5. <i>Caroline Okazaki</i>	30.
6. <i>Judy ...</i>	31.
7. <i>...</i>	32.
8. <i>Susana C. Quintana</i>	33.
9. <i>Jan E. ...</i>	34.
10. <i>...</i>	35.
11. <i>Jennifer K. ...</i>	36.
12. <i>...</i>	37.
13. <i>...</i>	38.
14. <i>...</i>	39.
15. <i>...</i>	40.
16. <i>Kathryn ...</i>	41.
17. <i>Kathleen ...</i>	42.
18. <i>Joyce ...</i>	43.
19. <i>Colleen ...</i>	44.
20. <i>Charmaine ...</i>	45.
21. <i>Lori Yee</i>	46.
22. <i>...</i>	47.
23. <i>Mikael ...</i>	48.
24. <i>...</i>	49.
25. <i>...</i>	50.

Date:

KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
To: Committee on Labor & Public Employment

From: Various Concerned Voters

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(See attached - list of bills with signatures) *Any questions, please call me*

at 375 7135

Audrey Akai

AUDREY AKAI

**Signatures of State Employees Opposed Passage of These Bills
HB 1106, HB 1718, HB 1719, HB 1725**

**Hearing Date: Friday, February 13, 2009
Time: 8:30 a.m., Conference Rm 309**

1. Diane J. Hanna	26. [Signature]
2. Audrey Ah	27. [Signature]
3. Sam Sai Hui	28.
4. [Signature]	29.
5. Kristin Freyette	30.
6. [Signature]	31.
7. [Signature]	32.
8. Farley N. Lomax	33.
9. [Signature]	34.
10. [Signature]	35.
11. Amy Okami	36.
12. [Signature]	37.
13. [Signature]	38.
14. [Signature]	39.
15. Sandra Hightower	40.
16. [Signature]	41.
17.	42.
18. [Signature]	43.
19. [Signature]	44.
20. [Signature]	45.
21. [Signature]	46.
22. [Signature]	47.
23. [Signature]	48.
24. Ann Watanabe Pms	49.
25. Celen A. Seligson	50.